

Kansas redistricting discussion/communication

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To:Redistricting <Redistricting@KLRD.ks.gov>;

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While I don't pretend to know the answers to the redistricting issue before Kansans, I would be remiss if I did not speak my truth. As a lifelong Kansan, growing up in a rural area, then living most of my life in Manhattan, KS before moving to the Kansas City area, I can speak from my experience. I am Kansas educated, receiving my bachelors from KSU and master's from KU. I pride myself after a 35+ year career in Kansas on remaining engaged in current happenings. I am pleased to see some recent improvements being made in seeking citizen input into redistricting after what I would call a less than stellar start.

In spite of listening to the daily news, reading social media and internet sources I missed entirely learning about the August "hearing" in my county. What I did see after the fact, alarmed me (as I am sure others) about the potential for a "gerrymandering" type of system being used. Wagle's comments certainly didn't help the situation already rife with party affiliation/agendas as a related issue. Those in attendance, at least as judging from the photos posted on various media sites, captured a less than representative looking crowd in attendance.

I am a proud Democrat - but have been a registered Republican at times and often voting for the person in these later years. In spite of party affiliation though, I am most passionate about the need to use facts - including 2020 census data that reveals the gradual changes occurring in Kansas, particularly as it relates to "minority" racial/ethnic identification. Social justice and ensuring a strong democracy are also dear to my heart.

I am also sensitive to how 2020 census can be influenced by the way college students, military, and prisoners have been counted and perhaps adjustments being needed there to capture the best picture of who and where we Kansans are. It seems to me it is of great importance to keep "like populations" such as the greater KC area has together, but I am aware of the concerns this raises. Perhaps the "by community" vs by county has some merit.

Please do everything in your power as representatives of the people to make Kansas a good model of equal representation, being the best guardians possible of Section 2 of the Voters Rights Act.

Susan Davis