

Resending the "Blocked" Jan. 9, 2022 Written Testimony

Steve Pantos <pantos21@gmail.com>

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

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House & Senate Redistricting Committees

Inbox

Steve Pantos <pantos21@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 9, 11:30 PM (11 hours ago)

to kslegres

January 9, 2022

To: Committee Chairs, Rep. Chris Croft, Sen,Rick Wilborn, and members of the Committee,

I have lived and worked in Topeka, Kansas, on and off, since 1979 when I was a Census Pre-List Field Operations Supervisor for eleven SE Kansas counties and, since I retired after twenty years as a U.S.C.I.S. supervisor/officer, since 2017. It was an honor to serve as the Master of Ceremonies for swearing in naturalized U.S. Citizens at the Atlanta Field Office, my last U.S.C.I.S post .

I am a member of the League of Women Voters, Topeka, Shawnee County and I urge you to follow the recommendations of principles found in the "Report of the Fair Votes Fair Maps Committee" dated November 9, 2021.

Following the Kansas Redistricting Guidelines and Criteria is crucial to ensuring that the "Equal Protection" of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution is afforded to all citizens of Kansas. They include: • the use of the U.S. Census, • numerical equality, • compact and contiguous,* • no purpose or effect of diluting minority voting strength,* • districts built from Census 'voting districts,' • preserve city/county lines to the extent possible, • recognize communities of interest,* and • districts easily identifiable and understandable by voters.*

Current Congressional and Legislative maps were finalized by the courts and now should be altered as necessary to fulfill shifts in population and to make them conform to the criteria and guidelines. Most notably, the Kansas Senate Districts 18, 19, and 20 split the City of Topeka three ways, ignoring the guideline of "compact and contiguous." They qualify as political gerrymanders whose architects have violated their duty to govern impartially, to borrow language from Justice John Paul Stevens. "If a departure from compactness cannot be explained by reference to a neutral factor, such as a river, a highway, a boundary such as a county line, or changes in the district's population, the district should be redrawn." (Chapter II, Political Gerrymandering, Six Amendments, How and Why We Should Change the Constitution (2014), at page 53).

How can the City Topeka (pop. 126,587) have the same concerns as St. Marys (pop. 3,783), Grantville (pop. 201), or Eskridge (pop. 509)? These four "cities" represent four counties, three of which can hardly represent the guideline of "communities of interest."

The criteria "diluting minority voting strength" and "districts easily identifiable and understandable by voters" have been ignored and are even more obvious given the 2020 Census data. The 46,691 (2020 U.S. Census-Shawnee County) Non-White, Asian, Pacific Islanders, Hispanic, American Indian (Some Other Race, Two or more races) "minority" population of Shawnee County overwhelmingly reside in the City of Topeka.

With the approximate number of 73,000 representing each Kansas Senate district, it would seem logical that Topeka would have at least one senator representing three-fourths of the City of Topeka and second Senate District with contiguous, suburban Shawnee County (population 178,909).

Justice John Paul Stevens writes, "... the concept of equal justice under law, so fundamental to our jurisprudence that it is inscribed above the entrance to the Supreme Court, requires the states to govern impartially. As our racial gerrymander cases

demonstrate, the courts are fully capable of recognizing and remedying such a violation." (Six Amendments.... at page 54-55)

It is the state's duty to govern impartially and political gerrymandering in Kansas must not be perpetuated.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this very important responsibility.

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