

Testimony of Dr. Mildred Edwards
Chief of Staff to Mayor Tyrone Garner
Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

Members of the Redistricting Committee:

I am honored to appear on behalf of Mayor Tyrone Garner and the UG Board of Commissioners. Mayor Garner would be here in person, but he is attending a National Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington D.C. today.

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City and its residents are watching with intense interest as the Kansas Legislature undertakes the chore of redrawing Congressional and Legislative district maps.

Our major concern is that Wyandotte and Johnson Counties be kept together in the 3rd Congressional District as much as possible. Wyandotte and Johnson Counties are an engine of economic growth and innovation for Kansas. It is critical our communities can advocate as one region to attract federal attention and investment.

Wyandotte and Johnson Counties share deep economic and cultural connections which contribute to our growth and success. Our workforce, businesses, local governments, and educational institutions are closely connected. If the two counties which comprise the Kansas City Metro Area were split into separate Congressional districts, it will weaken the representation our citizens deserve in Washington DC.

We ask that as members of the Kansas Legislature, you keep in mind the importance of keeping communities of interest together and avoid the temptation to gerrymander districts for the purpose of political advantage by one party or the other.

The citizens of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties are counting on you to be fair, transparent, and open to public input as you undertake this critical once in a decade process of drawing Congressional and Legislative districts. Those new maps will affect the future of our residents and communities for years to come.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mildred Edwards

Dr. Mildred Edwards

Chief of Staff

Mayor Tyrone Garner

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas