

STATE OF KANSAS

OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
ROOM 424-E
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7376; (785) 296-0103/FAX
David.Haley@senate.ks.gov

DISTRICT
CIVIC CENTER STATION
POST OFFICE BOX 171110
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66117
(913) 321-3210; (913) 321-3110/FAX
SenHaley@aol.com



SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

December 2, 2011

House Speaker Mike O'Neal, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Redistricting
300 SW 10th Avenue, Rm. 370-W
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Meeting of the Joint Committee on Redistricting

Mr. Chairman:

As we know, every ten years Kansas legislators are statutorily required to redraw district maps to reflect changes in our State's population. Prior to these decisions being finalized, the Legislature has historically made efforts to gather input from citizens around the state by hosting a number of 'town hall' style meetings. For at least the last thirty years, the committee has then returned to the Statehouse, reviewed public input and presented the Legislature with their findings. In some cases, the Committee also presented the Legislature with initial map recommendations.

No such meeting has been scheduled this year. Still, it is clearer than ever that Kansans want their voices heard. Hundreds of Kansas residents have expressed their thoughts and concerns about redistricting by attending one of 16 town halls scheduled this summer; writing letters to media; logging on to the redistricting website; or personally contacting their state legislator.

A meeting this month would send a clear message that the Legislature values public concern and that the voters are our top priority in this too often partisan and contentious process.

I urge you to schedule a meeting of the Joint Committee prior to the start of session, when a melee of budgets and new administrative policy proposals could overwhelm other legislative priorities. Delaying only increases the chances of district maps being redrawn hastily, filing deadlines being postponed and public input remaining undistilled.

Thank you. Respectfully Submitted,

Senator David Haley, Member
Joint Committee on Redistricting

cc: Senator Tim Owens, Joint Committee on Redistricting Co-Chair
Senate President Steve Morris
Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley
House Democratic Leader Paul Davis

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY REAPPORTIONMENT
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

STATE CORREC Senate Reapportionment

1-18-12
Attachment 5