

Sir,

I wish to provide the following testimony regarding the redistricting of Leavenworth into Districts 38, 40, and 41.

We in Leavenworth have previously testified before the Committee that it is the wish of the people of Leavenworth to maintain the integrity of the City in one District as much as possible, with the boundary line for District 41 being located as far south in the city as possible before joining with District 40.

It is apparent with the Freestate_3 maps that our concerns were ignored. The City of Leavenworth has been subjected to gross gerry-mandering. Not only is the City still divided between Districts 40 and 41, but now a finger reaches up from the Southern end of Leavenworth County to include one (1) Precinct from the center of Leavenworth into District 38. Coincidentally, that one Precinct happens to be the Precinct that I as the Chairman of the Leavenworth County Democratic Party and vocal opponent of Representative Proctor happen to live in.

If the slicing of Leavenworth into 3 Districts was driven by population limitations in Districts 40 and 41, then any of many Precincts in the south of District 41 could have been transferred to District 40, and then if necessary, a southern Precinct from District 40 transferred to District 38 so as to balance population numbers. This process would maintain the integrity of the affected areas as well as making the Precincts within the Districts contiguous rather than grabbing one Precinct out of the middle of a District.

I won't go as far as to say that the removal of my Precinct, and only my Precinct, from District 41 is an obvious attempt by Representative Proctor to gerry-mander the map and remove a vocal Democrat from his District, but it is an obvious attempt by somebody to do just that. The gerry-mandering of Leavenworth needs to be stopped, with population numbers adjusted accordingly between Districts 38, 40, and 41 through movement of southern boundaries, not by cherry-picking one Precinct that is a thorn in Representative Proctor's side.

Thank you,

Submitted by:

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