

Written Testimony from: Connie Brown Collins (Cornelia Collins)
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Mr. Chair and Members of the Kansas Legislative Redistricting Committees:

My name is Connie Brown Collins. My husband and I have been residents of Wyandotte County for many years, living in the Bethel Welborn community of Kansas City, KS. My husband retired from the U.S. Air Force and later from Unified Government administration where he was Director of the Wyandotte Area Agency on Aging for a many years. He served on several boards, clubs and committees in Wyandotte County and the greater Kansas City area, among them:

- KCK Rotary Club International
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Board President
- Salvation Army Board of Directors
- R.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee
- Northeast Optimist Club
- Tudor Dot Com

Currently, I serve as the founder/organizer of Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County (formerly Concerned Voters of Wyandotte County). We advocate for voter rights, most recently hosting redistricting meetings with the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, and providing informational and mapping sessions with community-minded individuals and organizations since late July. Our participants include:

- Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation
- Cross Border Network
- Joco NAACP
- Justice and Equity Coalition
- Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County
- Women's Equality Coalition
- Women's Intercultural Network
- Grandview Presbyterian Church
- Civic Action Ministry of Oakridge Missionary Baptist Church
- All Souls UU KC Justice Action Group
- Employees of El Centro
- Members of Wyco NAACP
- Members of First Baptist Church of KCK

I am writing to implore the Redistricting Committee(s) to utilize our map development work and adopt the proposed maps for Kansas Senate and House districts. Further, as previously stated, I urge the committees to keep Wyandotte County whole, in the 3rd Congressional District and connected to the core of Johnson County including the two largest municipalities, Overland Park and Olathe.

My neighborhood is close to KCK Community College, grocery shopping and convenience retailers. It is about 10 minutes from the Village West entertainment and retail complex with shopping, dining, and sports recreation areas including the Kansas Speedway, Field of Legends Stadium housing the KC Monarchs baseball team, and Children's Mercy Park soccer stadium, among other attractions. We live in a diverse neighborhood with white-and-blue-collar professionals that identify as African American, white, Latino(x) and Asian on my street, alone. We mostly reside in single-family, well-maintained homes within walking distance to local public schools.

The KS Senate map (*below) keeps communities and neighborhoods together as cohesive units, allows for adequate representation of our multicultural and multiracial residents, and does not split school districts or critical services or systems. We wholeheartedly endorse this map submitted by Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County and the League of Women Voters of Kansas.

The KS House map (*below) also allows for communities to remain cohesive and well-represented without being oddly split and causing residents confusion about who to contact as their state elected officials. Our ardent group consensus supports this map submitted by Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County and the League of Women Voters of Kansas.

The Third Congressional District map (*below) shows Wyandotte County as a whole, contiguous unit with Johnson County, which also remains mostly whole. There are western, southwestern and southern small cities and townships in Johnson County that have been eliminated from CD 3 due to population increases reported in the 2020 Census. These include: Aubry Township, Spring Hill, Spring Hill Townships, DeSoto, Gardner, Gardner Townships, Overland Park 6-18 and Olathe Township 0-07.

Wyandotte and Johnson are contiguous sister counties and integral parts of the greater metropolitan Kansas City area. Wyandotte shares employment, educational, healthcare, transportation and environmental systems and issues with its Johnson County neighbors. As a result, Wyandotte and Johnson Counties should continue in the Third Congressional District due to their shared communities of interest, and their urban and

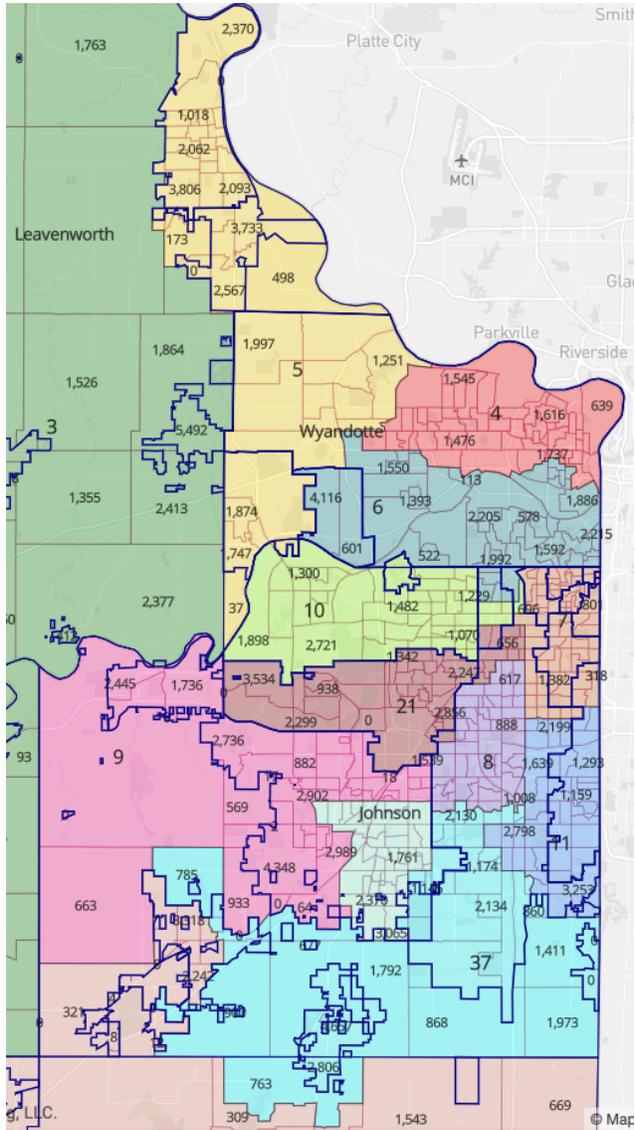
regional overlap which includes population, critical services, infrastructure, demographics and many other attributes and concerns. We enthusiastically approve and recommend the CD 3 map submitted by Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County and the League of Women Voters of Kansas.

Thank you for your time, consideration and attention to this crucial, redistricting process. We urge fair and nonpartisan maps for our Wyandotte and Johnson County districts.

Connie Brown Collins
Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County

*Maps are on immediately following pages

Proposed KS Senate District Map



Proposed Congressional District 3 Map

