

Barton Co. Community of Interest Testimony

Janice Walker <janicew49@hotmail.com>

Mon 12/27/2021 4:31 PM

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

Importance: High

2 attachments (149 KB)

WrittenTestamonyDec2021.docx; BartonPawRushmap.jpg;

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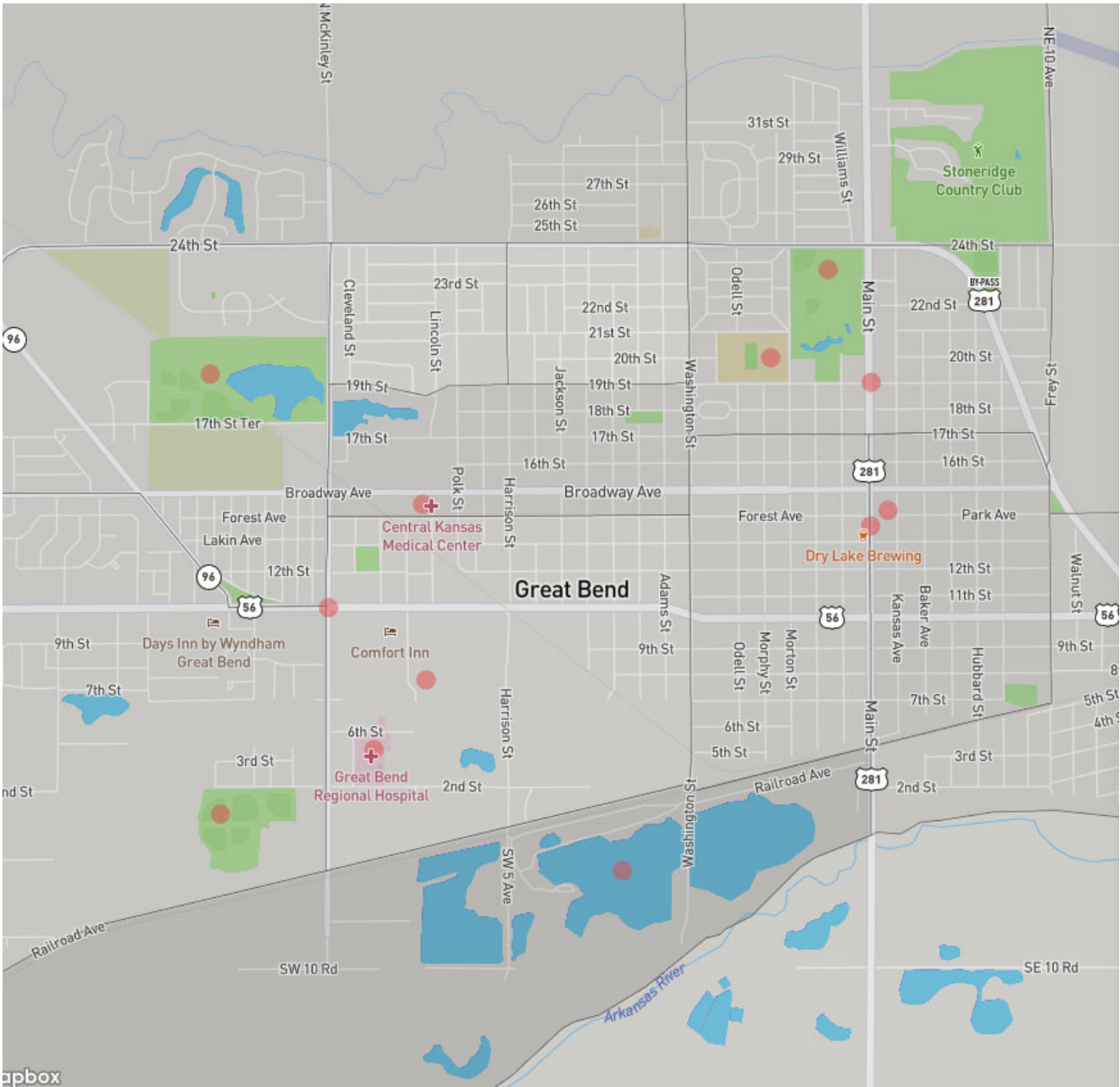
Dear Department members,

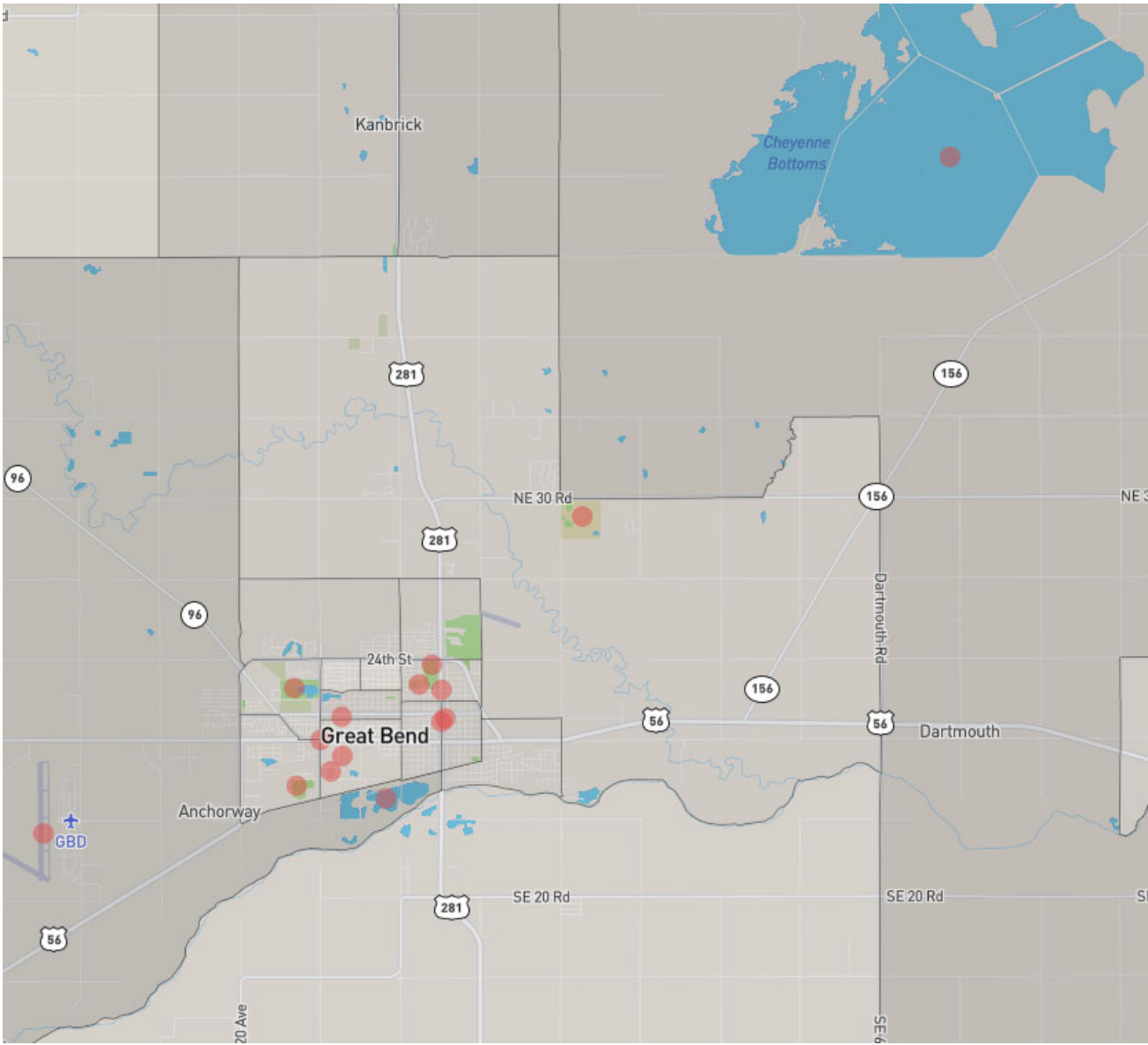
Please, accept my written testimony below and the two attachments regarding local redistricting in Great Bend and Barton County Kansas. The two attachments include: the Redistricting Position of LWVK, and a Tri-county jpg map (Barton, Rush, and Pawnee), if expansion is needed.

Great Bend (GB) communities of Interest.

- Great Bend is in Barton County south of Cheyenne Bottoms wetland.
- People who identify as Hispanic make up 22% of the Great Bend population.
- Major employers: Regional Hospital and Medical Center.
- GB serves as a regional medical services center for surrounding areas: Dentists, primary care, cancer treatment.
- School district USD 428 is also a major employer. Other major employers: Fuller Brush, CUNA (financial planning), disability services (e.g., Sunflower, Rosewood, and ResCare programs).
- Some GB residents work in Larned at the State Hospital (25 miles west). The Essex Company in Hoisington (10 miles north) manufactures wire and cable. The Hoisington hospital, Clara Barton, is expanding to GB with a clinic on McKinley and just south on 10th street (HWY 56 & 156).
- Baseball diamonds are important recreation facilities in GB.
- Policy concerns in the community: cancer rates, Medicaid expansion, low-income housing, poverty rate, SNAP, WIC, TANF, crime rates, etc. (that differentiates this community from surrounding communities).
- Landmarks/important places identified:
 - GB Highschool -- The only HS in GB. May enroll kids from surrounding towns: Ellinwood and Hoisington.
 - Central Kansas Medical Center -- Operated by KS University Health System (KUHS) now.
 - GB Regional Hospital & Medical Park -- Now operated by KUHS. Surrounding area includes clinic and practitioners' offices.
 - Vet's Park -- Site of Party in the Park second Sat. in Aug. Big community event.
 - GB Sports Complex -- Hosts 1, 2, 3A baseball and softball for state tournaments.
 - Water Park and Zoo -- Brit Spaugh Park

In the first and second graphics below, the red dots correspond to the identified landmarks. The second one, is zoomed out to put GB in context of Cheyenne Bottoms, the airport, and Barton Community College.





Respectfully Submitted,
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League of Women Voters (LWV)
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Dec. 27, 2021

To: Kansas Legislative Research Department.

Fr: Janice A. Walker/President of the League of Women Voters of Great Bend/Barton County and state Board Member of the LWVK. janicew49@hotmail.com, 620-617-4568.

Re: Written testimony on Redistricting after giving oral testimony via Zoom on Nov. 23, 2021.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas (LWVK) proposes the following:

1- Have a non-partisan entity exclusively prepare any redistricting plans presented for approval by the Legislature without direction or oversight by legislators or legislative committees. (In 2010 the District Court drew the redistricting map).

2- This entity, an independent special commission, should not plan around incumbents' places of residence, voter registration, election, or other partisan data; or any demographic data other than that provided under federal law by the Census Bureau for redistricting purposes.

3- Present redistricting plans at statewide public hearings immediately after introduction in bill form and prior to consideration by the House and Senate. The plan must be enforceable in court and require the following: substantially equal population, geographic contiguity and effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities, and protection of 'communities of interest.'

4- Adopt redistricting plans for the State House, Senate and Congressional Districts no later than Feb. 28 of the year ending in 2.

My focus in the accompanying email and maps is the Great Bend/Barton County community. The second attachment expands to a Tri-County map for future consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer input for Kansas Redistricting maps since the 2020 Census.

JAW

Great Bend Community of Interest Barton, Pawnee, and Rush counties

