

CARLSON -1

To: Missouri House Redistricting Commission
From: Representative Susan Carlson, 64th District

I submit these comments to the Commission in regard to its work to determine constitutionally required districts for the Missouri House of Representatives based upon the most recent Census data.

With the shifts in population, it is clear that the current House districts must change. This is a difficult task, and I want to thank all the Commissioners for agreeing to serve. Your work is very important to ensure that all Missourians are fairly represented in the House.

I was very pleased to see the map proposed by Commissioners Skaggs and Davis at the hearing in Jefferson City last week. Although it is just one of thousands of alternatives that could be drawn, it gives all concerned one concrete proposal to discuss. A proposed map of the whole state makes it more clear that the population movement in Missouri means that the current districts cannot remain as they are. To have a final map with fairly equal population in each district necessitates significantly different districts in many areas. It is hard to consider such changes in the abstract or when just looking at one district and whether it needs more or fewer people within its boundaries. For some, a suggested map makes it easier to see how population changes in one district affect all surrounding districts. All districts may have to change. That reality has not been obvious to everyone. A proposed map may help all those affected see the bigger picture, give you useful comments and grasp the difficult task you Commissioners have. All submissions to you, whether suggested maps, testimony or written submissions, will surely help you to consider all possibilities and reach a constitutionally sound result.

I, of course, looked closely at the Skaggs-Davis proposed map in regard to the district in which I live. On their map, I believe this would be the newly constituted 69th District. While I might have drawn it differently, the 69th district as proposed in that map is compact and contiguous. It also is a geographic area that has a community of interest. It is an older, urban area with many major cultural institutions. The interests in the suggested district are very similar in regard to transportation, education, infrastructure, development and public safety. A state representative for that proposed district would be able to well represent the needs of that district in the state legislature.

Having an early map presented by Commissioners Skaggs and Davis has helped move the debate about a new map from vague discussions focused on moving a line here or there, to more concrete talk of the changes that must be made because of the large population shifts in our state.

I commend all the Commission members for their efforts in this daunting work. It is the most very basic work of our Democracy. Thank you all for your service.

Sincerely, Susan Carlson, Missouri State Representative for the 64th District

ENGLER-1

Mr. Hesser,

I am writing on behalf of Sen. Kevin Engler. I was in attendance on his behalf at the House Reapportionment Committee Hearing on Thursday afternoon. I would like to submit as written testimony Sen. Engler's support of Rep. Linda Black's oral testimony regarding a shift of the boundary of Districts 106 and 107. Sen. Engler is considering a run for his old House seat in District 106 and he agrees with Rep. Black that the boundary should be at Highway O in the northwest of District 106. Let me know if you have any questions

Thank you for your time.

Brian Bunten
Legislative Director
Senator Kevin Engler

Franklen 2

County of CAMDEN State of Missouri

1 Court Circle, Suite 1
Camdenton, Missouri 65020

Presiding Commissioner
Kris Franken

1st District Commissioner
Beverly Thomas

Commission Clerk
Rowland Todd

Office of the
CAMDEN COUNTY COMMISSION
PHONE (573) 346-4440 X-1244
FAX (573) 346-5181

2nd District Commissioner
Thom Gumm

April 28, 2011

To whom it may concern:

Camden County Missouri is respectfully submitting its proposal for the new district lines that would affect the 115th, 116th, and 155th state representative districts in the current redistricting effort. With regard to the state representative districts, we have adhered to the voting district lines (VTD lines), and maintained the required population deviation for each district, and kept all of the communities of interest intact. These districts, as drawn, maximize the representation of the area without pandering to special interests. Further, it will allow for focused representation of the Lake of the Ozarks as a whole, which will help to continue to responsibly develop this great resource.

We are also submitting a proposal for our senatorial district. While the number of the district is unknown (currently we are in the 33rd), we feel that the geography of the old senatorial district did not represent the Lake of the Ozarks area as it should have. We are proposing a senatorial district that encompasses Camden, Morgan, Miller, Benton, Hickory, Dallas, and Laclede counties. We have not split any counties and are well within the population deviation for a senatorial district. We feel that the inclusion of Hickory county, with its new Lucas Oil Speedway, is a good fit with the lake area because of its tourism value. We also feel that Laclede and Dallas counties benefit indirectly from the tourism traffic that is created by Camden and Hickory counties, making them a good fit to the proposed district.

We are also submitting maps for all of the proposed districts referenced in this document.

We hope that you will consider our proposals in making your final decisions for the respective district maps.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kris Franken
Camden County Presiding Commissioner

FRANKEN

County of CAMDEN State of Missouri

1 Court Circle, Suite 1
Camdenton, Missouri 65020

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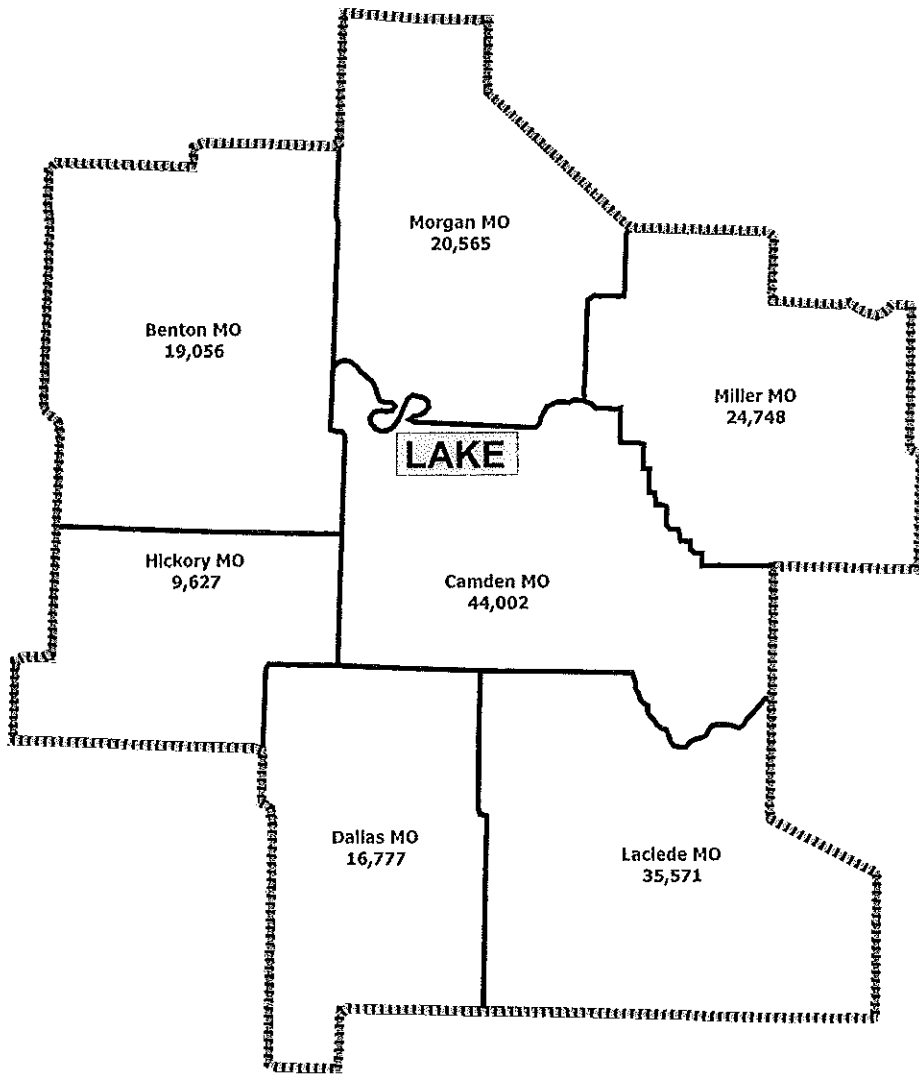
Respectfully Submitted,



Kris Franken
Camden County Presiding Commissioner

FRANCIS02

District: LAKE



Gregsby 1

My point or plea to the committee will be to consider the driving routes for the rural districts. I realize equalizing the population (number of voters) will make a major determiner.

In 2010, I found that driving the **122nd House District** had some extreme conditions to make contact with the voters. The District ranged from Higginsville as the northeast corner. It basically went west from Higginsville across the southern half of Lafayette Co. through Odessa ending West of Bates City. It went up the western side of Lafayette from Bates City to Napoleon but did not include Wellington.

If I drove south from Bates City, I would drive out of the district west on Hwy 50 when I drove to Hwy 7 to go to Pleasant Hill which is the northeastern corner of Cass County. The very rural part of Johnson was included in the district. If you divided Johnson into thirds horizontally, the northern 1/3 of the county which included the 5 northern precincts and the west-most middle Kingsville precinct.

The east-west hwy's included I-70, Hwy 50, Hwy 58, and a little of Hwy 24 between Wellington and Napoleon. North-south routes included Hwy 23 on the East side of the district Hwy 13, and Hwy 7 on the west. From Hwy 50 at the western Johnson County line to just north of Pleasant Hill on Hwy 7, you would be driving out of the district. If you drove to Pleasant Hill on Hwy 58 from the eastern part of the district, most of Hwy 50 was out of the district from Knob Noster, Warrensburg, Centerview, and Holden were all out of the district. Holden and Kingsville are less than 5 miles apart. Much of Kingsville will shop in Holden, the polling place for Kingsville is in Holden, but the Rep candidates are different.

If one drove Hwy 58 from Kingsville to Pleasant Hill, in Cass County, the north side of the road was in the district while the south side was not.

There were multiple newspaper coverage areas in the district. Higginsville, Odessa, & Pleasant Hill papers were in the district but Warrensburg, Holden, Concordia, & Knob Noster were not in the District but needed to be advertised because a portion of the population was geographically serviced by and proximate to those area papers.

There were 10 or more major portions of different school districts included in the the 122nd. Lexington, Concordia, Knob Noster, Warrensburg, and Holden school districts covered significant portions of the area of the district, but the school buildings and facilities were physically outside the district. Higginsville and Odessa districts were mostly in the 122nd district. Pleasant Hill schools were situated in the 122nd district, but everything south of Hwy 58 was outside the district.

Another concern I heard from constituents in Pleasant Hill (Cass) and rural Johnson (including Kingsville) was disenfranchisement. They did not feel they were a portion of the district because the major population was located to the north and northeast corner of the district. While my home is located only 3 miles north of Warrensburg, my rep voting district was with elsewhere. Lafayette County represented about 60% of the population of the 122nd while combining Cass and Johnson was only 40%. It is evident from this scenario that the election of a person from Lafayette is going to be easier than someone from Johnson or Cass.

In summary, there are 3 factors I would request your committee to consider. These are the Highways and country roads that need to be traveled to cover the district boundaries, the school district boundaries to be contained mostly in one district, and the newspaper and media servicing areas of proposed districts.

Just in case I cannot get to the meeting, today, I would appreciate it if you would express my concerns of geographic proximity to be included in your decisions.

We can avoid situations like the classic example involving the Lake of the Ozarks area. In the 1990, Camdenton, Sunrise Beach, and Versailles made up the bulk of a legislative district. The redistricting of 1991 parsed Camdenton into a southern district, Versailles into a district to the north, while leaving Sunrise Beach to be joined with Miller County. This caused the Sunrise Beach area to be somewhat disenfranchised since the rep had to drive out of the district to Camdenton to get to them or out of the district to the north through Eldon and Versailles to get to Sunrise Beach. Either driving route was about 50-60 miles distance mostly out of the legislative district. You are reminded that this is a time before the bridge which now connects the east and west sides of the Lake (Hwy 54 to Hwy 5).

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Gary Grigsby

477 NE Hwy 13
Warrensburg, MO 64093 (home address)

660-864-5777 - cell

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Kirkpatrick 1

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMISSION ON REDISTRICTING
APRIL 28, 2011**

**By Susan Kirkpatrick
Resident of Gravois Mills, Morgan County, Missouri &
President, Morgan County Democratic Club**

I am here today to speak in behalf of the voters of Morgan County, Missouri. While Morgan County votes predominantly Republican, at present we do have four elected county officials who are Democrats, so ours is not one of those counties where one party always prevails.

However, in recent years, it has become harder and harder to field candidates from both parties to run against popular incumbents, or to run for open seats that have been long held by one particular party.

I am concerned at the great number of unopposed Missouri House and Senate races in our state. Over recent election cycles more than 50 percent of the House and Senate seats were unopposed, and in the 2010 election, 61 of the 163 House districts had only one candidate. In my district, which is the 115th, we had only one candidate who ran ~~unopposed~~ unopposed.

Frankly, I am less concerned today about who is elected than that Missourians feel they have a say in what happens.

Without competition there are fewer voters. As an example from Morgan County, State Sen. Mike Kehoe, who ran unopposed in the general election in 2010, garnered only 5,848 votes – from a total of 7,185 voters who voted. Clearly, there is far less interest in an unopposed candidate.

Because there are fewer voters, citizens have less a sense of ownership in the elections. Because they have less a sense of ownership, they have a growing sense of powerlessness, which leads to even less interest in voting.

At the same time, an unopposed candidate has less sense of responsibility to the voters back home, is less likely to represent their wishes, and more likely to listen to special interest groups.

This situation is not good for voters. It is not good for candidates. It is not good for Missouri political system or, ultimately, for our American way of life.

While the redistricting commission cannot cause people to run for office and cannot cause people to come out to vote, districts that are drawn fairly to represent a cross-section of voters and philosophies will make a difference.

Please let me know if I can do anything to help make this happen.

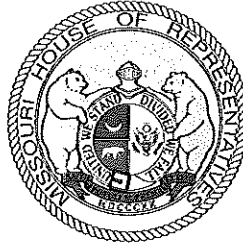
MAY-1

CAPITOL OFFICE

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COMMITTEES

Member:
International Trade & Job Creation
Urban Issues – Ranking Member
Workforce Development
& Workplace Safety

**MISSOURI HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

KARLA MAY

State Representative
District 57

May 5, 2011

MO House Apportionment Commission
Jefferson State Office Building
Room 1310
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Commissioners:

I applaud the commission for having a map to present, that gives representatives a general idea of the boundaries. Understanding that adjustments will be made to this beginning map, I would like to have the opportunity to sit down and discuss the 57th District with the Commission. I am very much interested in presenting more specifics to the commission once we see a map that includes the streets. Since I have to gain approx. nine thousand, I would like to extend my boundary east to the north side of the street of Kingshighway between Brown Ave and Cote Brilliante Ave not crossing to the south side of the street of Kingshighway, also, extending east of Kingshighway to the north side of the street of Penrose between Farlin Ave and Bircher Blvd.

Thank you very much for your expeditious work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karla May".

Karla May
State Representative
District 57

Missouri House of Representatives - Redistricting Commission
Testimony of Representative Kevin McManus (Democrat-46th District)
Thursday, May 5, 2011

Chairman Maxwell & Members of the Commission:

My name is Kevin McManus, and I was elected in November 2010 as a Democrat to the House of Representatives, 46th District. The 46th District currently includes portions of Kansas City, Grandview and Lee's Summit, in Jackson County, Missouri.

I am submitting this written testimony in a response to the Commission's public hearing in Jefferson City on April 28, 2011. If the 46th District is altered as shown on the Skaggs-Davis Map that was presented during the hearing, I am concerned that the new districts would not meet Missouri's constitutional requirements for fair representation. The purpose of this testimony is to describe the current 46th District in light of these constitutional requirements and propose an alternative approach.

CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARD

The 2010 Census estimates the 46th District's population to be 41,466. As a result, the 46th District must lose 4,724 people to equal the target population for House districts after the 2010 reapportionment (the target population is 36,742). The Commission has some flexibility in the final population of the district, as variances up to 10% from the target population have been held constitutional.

The constitutional requirements for drawing legislative districts are clear. Legislative districts must be contiguous and as "compact as may be." In addition, the Commission must draw a district that: "preserves long-standing communities of interest based on social, cultural, ethnic, and economic similarities."

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Given the constitutional standards and need to lose population in the 46th District, the best approach is to:

1. Remove the smallest community of interest – three precincts in Lee's Summit;
2. Add the portion of Grandview currently located in the 45th District, so all of Grandview is in the 46th District; and
3. Retain the remainder of the 46th District as currently drawn with any further reductions taken from precincts along the northern boundary (Precincts 20-01; 25-09, 10, 11, or 22-03) to retain compactness.

As further detailed below, this solution would make the 46th District more compact, would consolidate all of the City of Grandview in the district, and would no longer divide the city of Lee's Summit. Instead, the small portion of Lee's Summit currently in the 46th District could be consolidated into a neighboring district. This solution would reduce the overall

population of the 46th District so it would meet the target population and comply with Missouri's constitutional requirements.

CONSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

I. COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

The current 46th District contains the following 3 communities of interest:

1. South Kansas City corridor between State Line and Prospect Ave (Ward 22);
2. Eastern half of Grandview (Washington Township); and
3. Lee's Summit (Prairie Township).

A map of the current 46th District with these communities identified is attached to this testimony as Exhibit A.¹ These 3 communities of interest are easy to define based on political, socio-economic, cultural, and ethnic similarities. Each of these communities of interest is distinct from the other. However, the communities of South Kansas City and Grandview have more in common with each other than with the community of Lee's Summit, as detailed below.

A. Political: All three communities of interest outlined above are separate political municipalities. However, the largest political subdivision in the 46th District is the Grandview School District, which includes both the South Kansas City Corridor and the City of Grandview. A map of the Grandview School District is attached to this testimony as Exhibit B.

Even though the largest school district in the 46th District is the Grandview School District, roughly half of the City of Grandview is NOT in the 46th District. Grandview and the Grandview School District are currently split between 2 legislative districts, the 45th & 46th Districts. The 46th District also includes relatively small portions of Center and Hickman Mills School Districts along the northern boundary. These 3 school districts and the populations they serve are largely similar when compared with the Lee's Summit School District, which is the 4th and final school district currently located in the 46th district.

Lee's Summit is the fastest growing city in the 46th district and is primarily responsible for the 46th District's rapid growth over the last 10 years. It is one of the fastest growing cities in the state, growing nearly 30% in the last 10 years. The City of Lee's Summit is currently split among 4 legislative districts—the 46th, 47th, 48th and 56th. The 46th District contains only a small part of Lee's Summit—only 3 precincts in Prairie Township. As a result, Lee's Summit is the smallest municipality and smallest community of interest within the 46th District.

B. Socio-economic: As explained above, Grandview and South Kansas City have historically identified themselves together since they share the Grandview School District. In addition, South KC and Grandview residents share social and economic centers in the 46th District. The cities of Kansas City and Grandview are contiguous and not divided by natural

¹ The northeast part of the 46th District also includes small portions of the 20th and 25th Wards, as indicated in Exhibit A. These small portions are located in the City of Kansas City but lie in between Grandview and Lee's Summit. Given their geographic location and alignment within the Grandview School District, they may be interpreted as being part of Grandview's "community of interest" in the 46th District.

boundaries. In many areas, one can walk through a single neighborhood, change cities, and never be aware of it. As a result of the close proximity and easy access, many residents live in South Kansas City and work in Grandview, or vice versa.² For example, Martin City is a community investment district in South Kansas City that contains shops, restaurants and small businesses and may be easily accessed from Grandview via Blue Ridge Boulevard. In addition, there are shopping and business centers located along US Highway 71, Red Bridge Road and State Line Road. The close nexus between South KC and Grandview is evident in The Jackson County Advocate, a popular weekly newspaper that has exclusively covered South Kansas and Grandview for over 55 years.

In contrast, Lee's Summit does not have the same type of socio-economic connection to Grandview and South Kansas City. One reason is geography: Lee's Summit is separated from Grandview and South Kansas City by the largest natural boundary in the area—Longview Lake and the surrounding public park. Another is economic: Lee's Summit has led the state in new residential and commercial development and has created its own social and economic centers so residents can have easy access to shopping without ever leaving the city. Despite this fact, the portion of Lee's Summit currently in the 46th District is almost exclusively residential and nearly all economic development in Lee's Summit is located outside the 46th District.

C. Cultural/Ethnic: The cultural identity of the 46th District is defined in part by its religious diversity. It is impossible to quickly summarize the breadth and depth of religious organizations in the 46th District. However, three examples are helpful, if only for illustrative purposes. St. Thomas More Parish, located at 118th and Holmes, is one of the largest Catholic parishes in the metro area, with thousands of individuals attending the church and many more sending their children to the parochial grade school. Along with its neighbor, Avila University, St. Thomas More has been an important community anchor in the South Kansas City Corridor since its founding in 1964. There are several churches in the northeast part of the district, such as Memorial Mission Baptist Church, that have a long history in Kansas City's African American community. More recently, the International House of Prayer, an evangelical missions organization, has experienced dramatic growth and is currently relocating its headquarters from South Kansas City (45th District) to Grandview (46th District), where it will also build a university-style campus to house and serve its staff and students.

Again, in contrast, the small portion of Lee's Summit in the 46th District is almost entirely residential with the cultural and economic influences being located in Lee's Summit but outside the 46th District.

II. CONTIGUOUS AND "AS COMPACT AS MAY BE"

The Missouri constitution states that district boundaries should be contiguous and "as compact as may be." The boundaries of the 46th District are contiguous with the neighboring districts. However, the overall shape of the 46th District is not "as compact as may be" due to the cut-out of the western half of Grandview and long east-west boundaries stretching from State Line Road (KC) to Pryor Road (Lee's Summit).

² See Testimony of Kathy Maguire, lifelong resident of South Kansas City, Grandview business owner, and former Chair of the Grandview Chamber of Commerce and the Grandview Economic Development Corporation.

REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL FOR THE 46th DISTRICT

Given the constitutional requirements described above, the 46th District could easily be made more compact and preserve its communities of interest by following the approach outlined below. A depiction of this recommended approach is attached as Exhibit C.

#1. Remove the smallest community of interest – Lee’s Summit.

The Commission is required to preserve communities of interest. Since some population must be cut from the 46th district, the Commission should cut the smallest and most distinct community of interest – Lee’s Summit – out of the 46th District. The 46th District only contains 3 precincts in Lee’s Summit, and these precincts differ significantly from those in Grandview and South Kansas City, which are often grouped together for political, socio-economic and cultural reasons, as described above. Lee’s Summit is currently divided into 4 other legislative districts. Lee’s Summit’s residents deserve fair, proportionate representation, and their quickly growing community should no longer be so divided.

#2. Add the portion of Grandview currently located in the 45th District.

The Commission is required to make the 46th District “as compact as may be.” The 46th District could easily be made more compact by adding the western half of Grandview that is currently in the 45th District. By adding the remainder of Grandview and removing extra population from the northeastern boundary in Lee’s Summit (including Wards 20 and 25, if necessary), the 46th District would be essentially a rectangle containing the 2 largest communities of interest, Grandview and Kansas City, as shown on Exhibit C.

#3. Retain the remainder of the 46th District as currently drawn with any further reductions from the northern boundary (Precincts 20-01; 25-09, 10, 11; or 22-03).

By adding the eastern half of Grandview and removing Lee’s Summit, the 46th District will experience a net loss of 1,603 people, resulting in a district of 39,863 people (7.83% variance from the target population of 36,742). To bring the population closer to the target, additional reductions could easily occur from the precincts located to the east of Grandview to retain the compactness of the district. Removing 20-01 (population 1,087) and/or 25-09, 10, 11 (population 1,964) would bring the population within 1-3% variance of the target population and would merely move the north and/or eastern boundary. Another option would be to remove precinct 22-03 (population 1,724).

Regardless of the particular decisions the Commission may make, the general approach outlined above will enable the 46th District to be more compact, include the entire community of interest of Grandview, and enable the smallest community of interest, Lee’s Summit, to be consolidated in a neighboring legislative district. Overall, this will allow the 46th District to meet the target population and Missouri’s constitutional requirements.

CONCERNS WITH SKAGGS-DAVIS MAP & THE 46th DISTRICT

I support the approach outlined above as an alternative to the proposed changes to the 46th District shown in the Skaggs-Davis Map. The Skaggs-Davis Map divides the 46th district in half by running a new, horizontal boundary line through the middle of the 46th district. This

creates two long, narrow districts that stretch eastward through small portions of Kansas City, Grandview, Lee's Summit, Greenwood and unincorporated, rural eastern Jackson County. These two new districts are identified on the Skaggs-Davis Map, and are hereinafter referred to as the "SD-55th" and "SD-56th" districts.

I have serious concerns about whether the SD-55th and SD-56th districts would meet the constitutional requirements described above and provide fair representation for their district residents. If enacted, the "SD-55th" and "SD-56th" districts would:

- (1) Divide and dilute at least 5 different communities of interest;
- (2) Fail any test for compactness; and
- (3) Ignore existing natural boundaries.

First, SD-55th and SD-56th districts would divide and dilute the representation of at least 5 communities of interest: South Kansas City, Grandview, Lee's Summit, Greenwood and unincorporated Jackson County. These communities of interest have vastly different and often competing needs. They are urban, suburban, "exurban" and rural/agricultural. They each deserve fair and proportionate representation, which would not be accomplished with boundaries proposed in the Skaggs-Davis Map.

Second, the SD-55th and SD-56th would fail any test for compactness. In fact, these districts are the least compact of any district along State Line Road in Jackson County. The districts to the north, 40th, 41st and 39th, are each compact, "box-like" districts. In contrast, the SD-55th and SD-56th are drawn as long, narrow squiggly lines, unlike any of these districts. The current 46th district is much more compact and does not need to undergo such radical changes. There is no basis for this apparent disregard for compactness.

Third, the SD-55th and SD-56th would ignore existing natural boundaries. As described above, these two districts would divide multiple communities of interest across a wide range of land, and they do so without regard to the many natural boundaries existing there. The SD-55th and SD-56th boundaries would ignore existing bodies of water, parks, and roads that may provide or deny access to these areas.

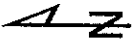
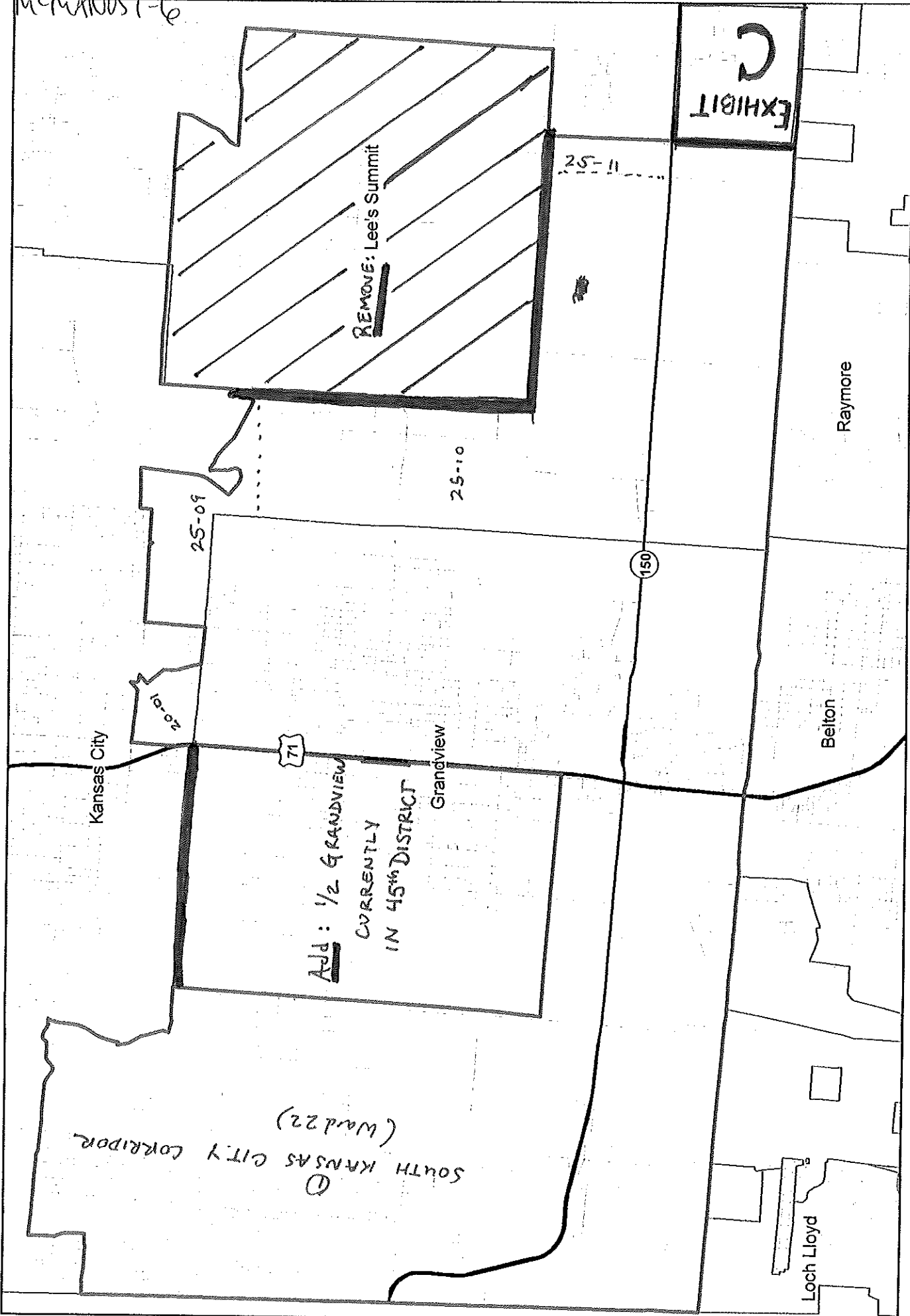
CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, I support an alternative approach to redistricting the 46th District, as depicted on the map attached as Exhibit C. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to continuing the conversation to create a district that best serves the needs and interests of its citizens.

McMANUS 1-6



Missouri House District 46



McMANUS 1-6

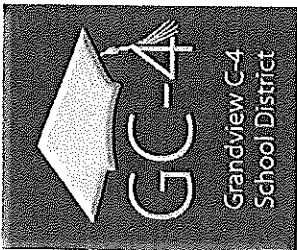
McMANUS 1-7

Grandview C-4 School District

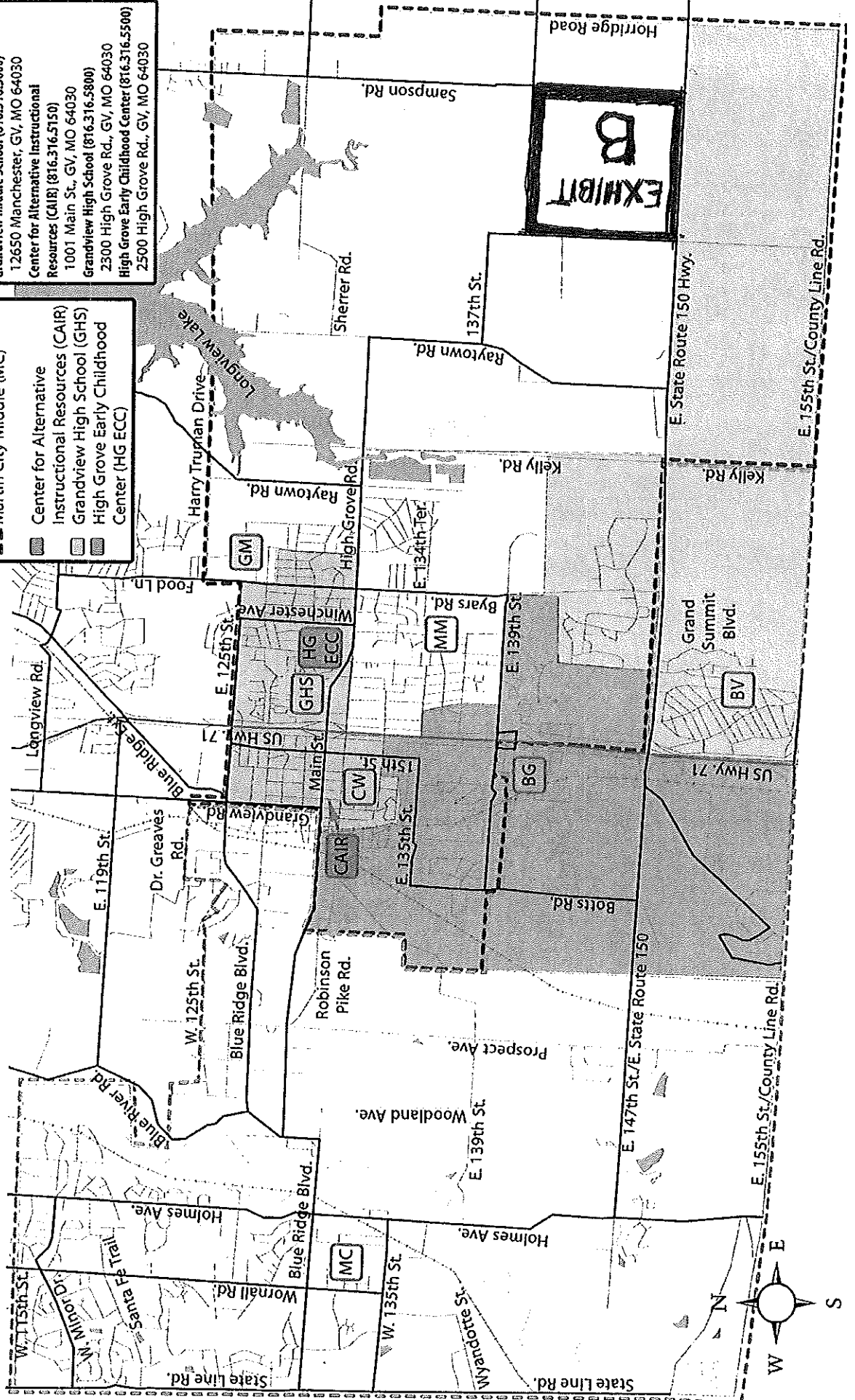
816.316.5000 www.csd4.k12.mo.us

Student Attendance Boundaries

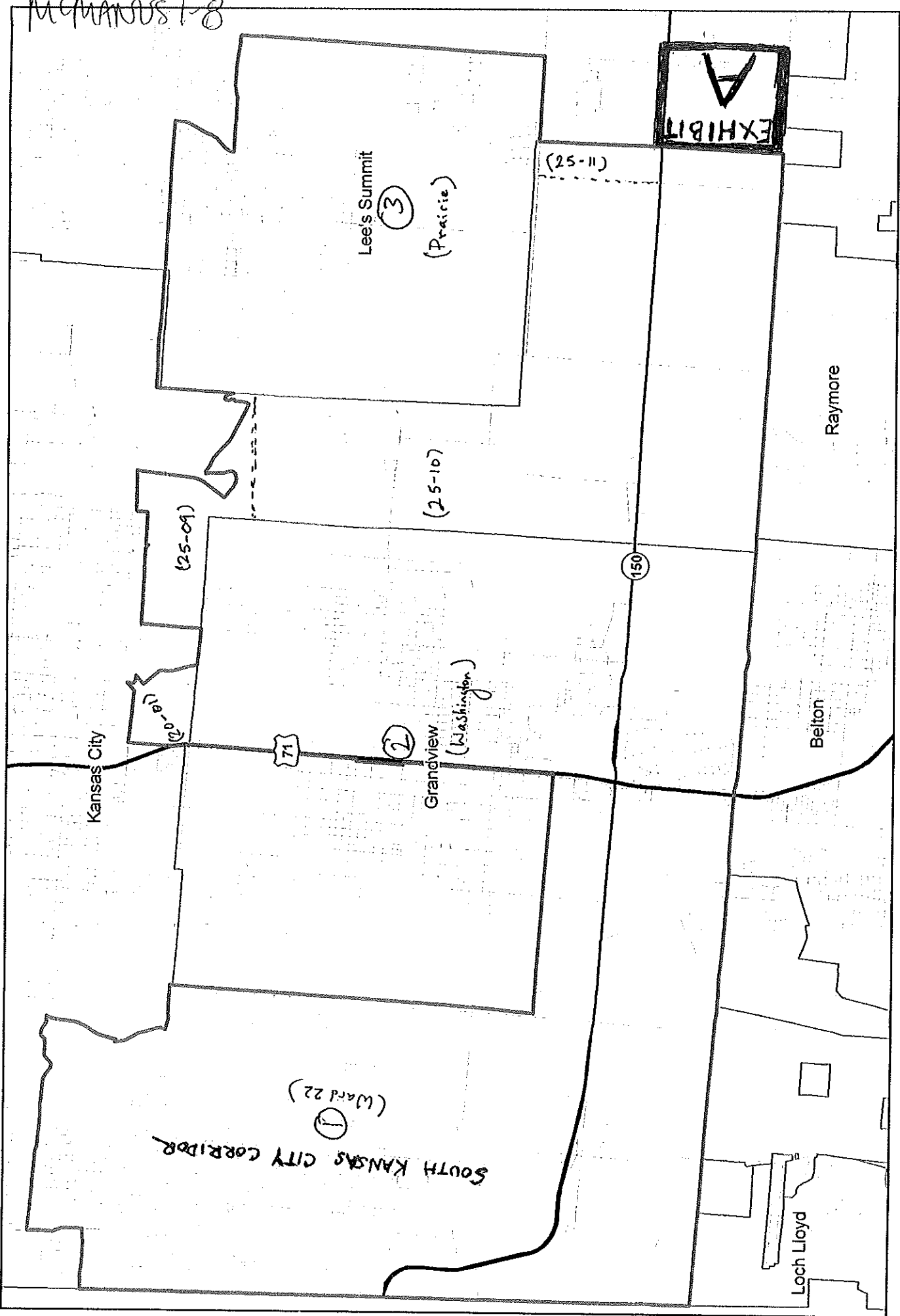
For more information please contact your school office
or the GC-4 Transportation Department at 816.316.5175



- | Elementary School Boundaries | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | Belvidere (BV) |
| | Butcher-Greene (BG) |
| | Conn-West (CW) |
| | Martin City (MC) |
| | Meadowmere (MM) |
| Middle School Boundaries | |
| | Grandview Middle (GM) |
| | Martin City Middle (MC) |
| | Center for Alternative Instructional Resources (CAIR) (816.316.5150) |
| | Grandview High School (GHS) |
| | High Grove Early Childhood Center (HG ECC) |
-
- | | |
|--|---|
| | Belvidere Elementary (816.316.5300)
15200 White Avenue, GV, MO 64030 |
| | Butcher-Greene Elementary (816.316.5400)
5302 E. 140th St., GV, MO 64030 |
| | Conn-West Elementary (816.316.5225)
1100 High Grove Rd., GV, MO 64030 |
| | Martin City K-8 School (816.316.5700)
201 E. 133rd St., KC, MO 64145 |
| | Meadowmere Elementary (816.316.5525)
7010 E. 136th St., GV, MO 64030 |
| | Grandview Middle School (816.316.5600)
12650 Manchester, GV, MO 64030 |
| | Center for Alternative Instructional Resources (CAIR) (816.316.5150)
1001 Main St., GV, MO 64030 |
| | Grandview High School (816.316.5800)
2300 High Grove Rd., GV, MO 64030 |
| | High Grove Early Childhood Center (816.316.5500)
2500 High Grove Rd., GV, MO 64030 |



McMANUS 1-8



Missouri House District 46

McNEIL-1

Mr Matt Hesser
Office of Administration
State of Missouri
Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Dear Matt,

I appreciate the hard work that members of the Apportionment/Redistricting committee have before them in redrawing district lines for the Missouri House and Senate.

The starter map on display on April 28th did a nice job of keeping districts in the North County area compact and community based. However, it appears that some districts in other parts of the County take in several municipalities. The way our County government is structured, it would be best to limit the number of municipalities that one Representative covers. For example, HD 82 is drawn very long and appears to cover at least four municipalities which would require 50 minutes to drive from one end to the other. That configuration divides communities and makes it difficult for the most effective representation; it would best serve the constituents to belong to a more compact district.

I currently represent parts of three cities and have strong regard for all. Each community has its own events and issues. Representing each well means being there for them, whether attending their events or communicating with their elected officials. Because St. Louis County Representatives have an extensive list of constituencies, it will best serve the people of Missouri for each representative to have a compact district.

Again, thank you and the committee members for your time and dedication to the people of Missouri.

Sincerely,

Margo McNeil

State Representative, House District 78

124 St Stanislaus Ct,

Florissant, Mo 63031

314-570-7677-cell

SCHUPP-1

Submitted by State Representative Jill Schupp

I have seen the Skaggs-Davis map #1, and I am grateful and extremely pleased that this map serves as an excellent starting point to frame the future as a politically diverse state with competitive representative districts.

The proposed 78th district lies due west of St. Louis City and is made up of constituents whose interests in both public and private schools are supported in the region. On Skaggs-Davis #1, Olive Boulevard lies as a definitive East-West corridor, surrounded on each side by mostly single-family homes. From the Creve Coeur neighborhoods, which were primarily built in the 1960s, to those of University City, first developed in the early 1900s, the 78th district will encompass a community that is both well-established and still demonstrates its viability and growth potential. With little room for new construction, throughout the area there is renovation, replacement and rejuvenation.

Thank you for providing this map and allowing us to have input in helping you determine the best way to create representative districts in Missouri.

SIFTON-1

Mr. Hesser:

I understand the record for the April 28, 2011 hearing of the redistricting commission remains open. I submit this e-mail for inclusion in the record.

The map presented by Commissioners Davis and Skaggs was very helpful in providing an early reference point for the redistricting process. As the testimony of several witnesses established, due to shifting and growing population the present boundaries no longer provide an adequate frame of reference because they do not reflect anything approaching an even distribution of population. The current map simply has too many seats in some places and not enough in others. The map presented at the hearing on the 28th, on the other hand, does reflect an even population distribution and therefore provides a much better frame of reference for moving forward than does the current map. I greatly appreciate the efforts of Commissioners Davis and Skaggs in this regard.

I do, however, have some comments about the Davis-Skaggs map. As I stated at the April 28 hearing, due to the size of the Bayless School District I believe it is very important that all or just about all of it be concentrated in a single legislative district. Simply said, Bayless needs and deserves its own State Representative. I fear if the District is subdivided to any great extent its influence will be diluted to the District's detriment. The Davis-Skaggs map appears to subdivide the Bayless School District to a degree I believe is not in the community's best interest.

I am, however, pleased that the Davis-Skaggs map appears to include much of the Bayless School District in a district that also includes a substantial portion of the Affton School District. The Affton and Bayless School Districts are closely connected parts of the same community. They are part of the same Chamber of Commerce and Community Betterment Association. The core of both districts is also located in the same ZIP code, something that may seem trivial from an outsider's perspective but is actually quite significant to the history of the community. The first postmaster for what is now the 63123 ZIP code was George Aff, and his route along Gravois Road came to be referred to as "Aff's Town," which over time was shortened to "Affton."

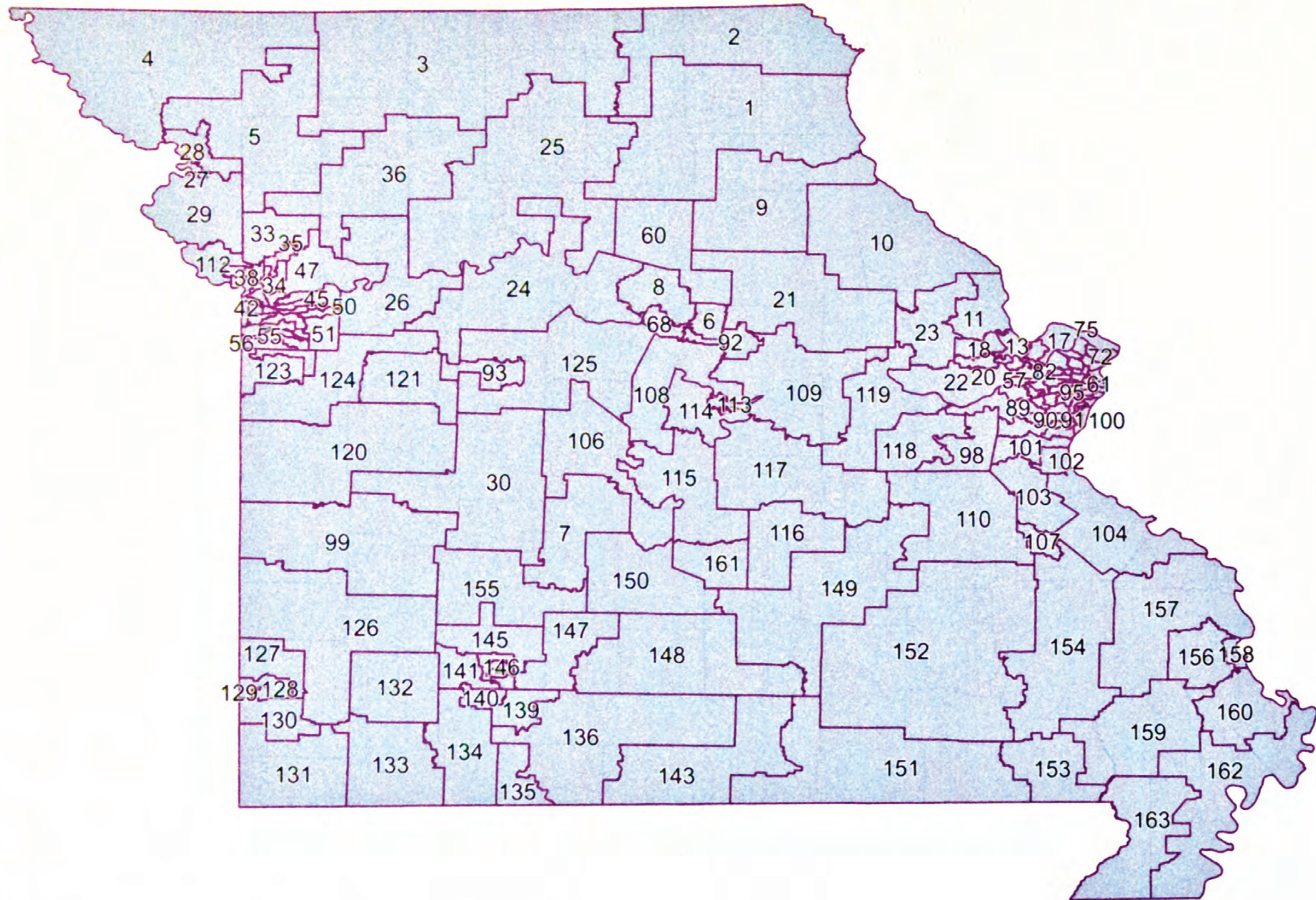
It is also fitting that the Davis-Skaggs map appears to use Gravois Road, State Highway 30, as a district boundary. Gravois is a major thoroughfare of historical significance to the community and also serves as a St. Louis County Council boundary. Because the Affton School District has a larger population and is less geographically compact than the Bayless School District, historically the Affton School District has been subdivided into multiple legislative districts -- five in all on the present map. It would be very difficult for the Commission to avoid subdividing the Affton School District. Gravois Road / State Highway 30, as one of only a few roads running through the entirety of the Affton School District, is as logical a dividing line as any the Commission is likely to find. Gravois also serves as the northern boundary of the Bayless School District, save for one very small precinct on the north side of the road.

I also note historically there has been at least one district comprised of substantial portions of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. I believe it is helpful to have at least one member of the General Assembly whose district requires him or her to balance the perspectives of City and County and serve as a "bridge" for the respective City and County delegations. It would not make sense from a communities of interest standpoint to have a multitude of such districts, but I believe it is important to have at least one. Presently that district is the 66th. Although the Davis-Skaggs map appears to have three districts primarily based in the City of St. Louis with a small portion of their constituency in St. Louis County, it does not appear to include a district that is as much as a one third / two thirds split between City and County. To the extent the Commission concludes there should be at least one such City / County district, it may make sense for purposes of continuity to have the 66th remain as that district.

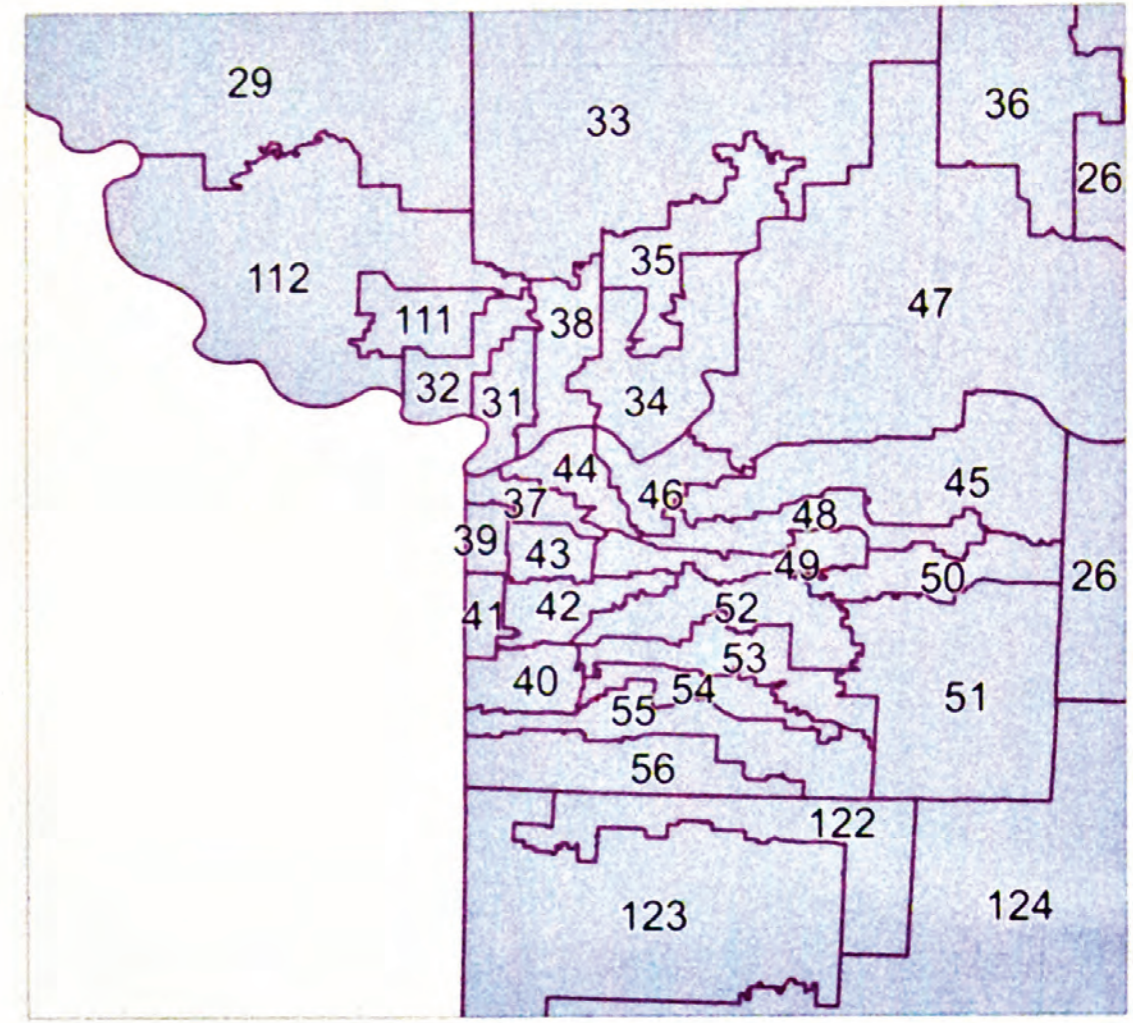
I would appreciate your electronic confirmation that you have received my comments above and that they will be included in the record of the April 28 hearing. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

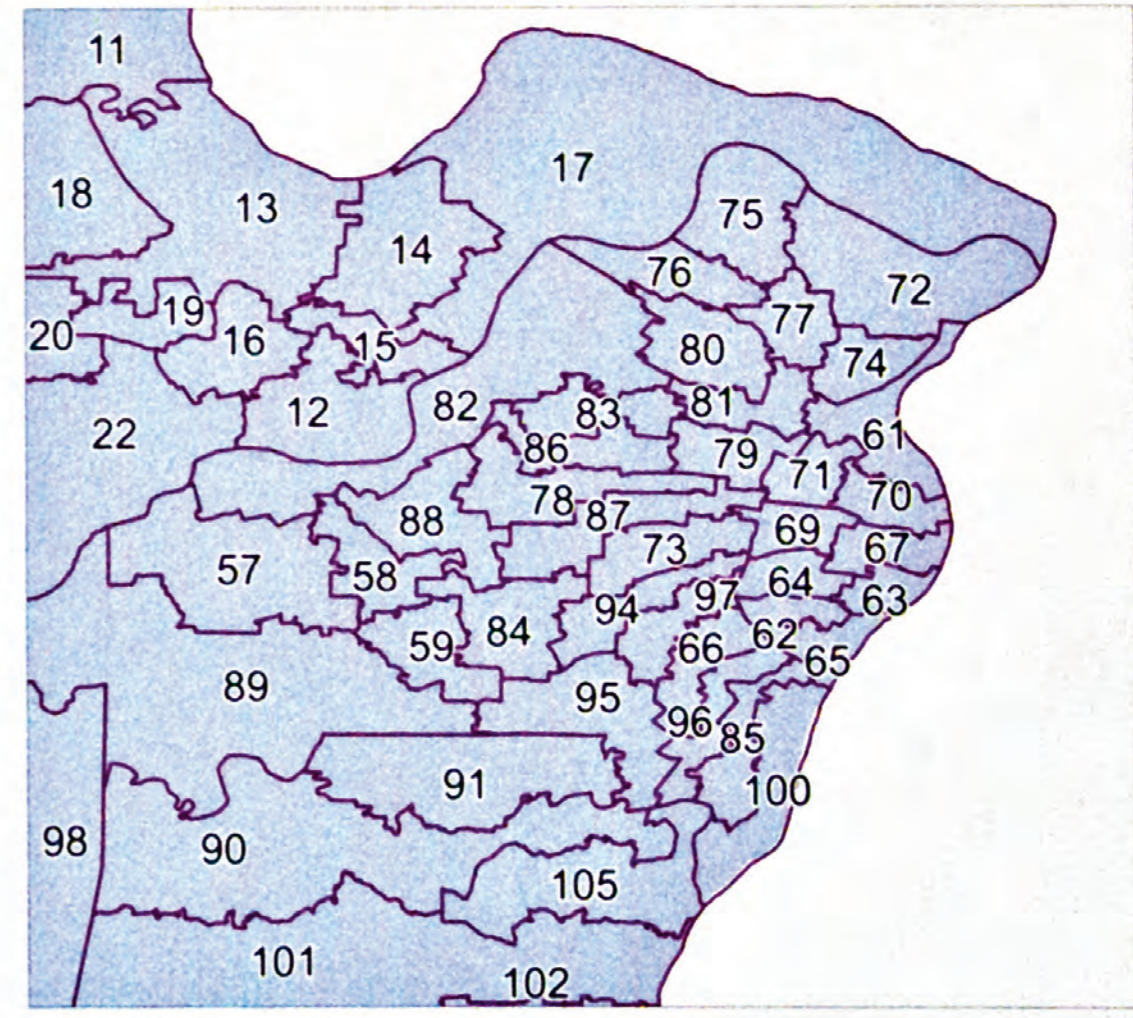
Scott Sifton
State Representative, District 96



Kansas City Area



St. Louis Area



THOMAS-1

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Thank you for returning my call. I am emailing with a request that the Committee charged with redrawing the district lines for the Missouri House change the representative boundaries for the 9th District. As presently drawn, my address within the city limits of Columbia, 4402 Celebrant Court, is part of a geographically rural District that goes 60 miles north to the border of Monroe County. This configuration is not representative of the interests of either party—rural farmers or urban dwellers—and should be changed. I would like my address to be included in a representative district limited to the city of Columbia, or the county of Boone. Thank you very much.

Best, Mark

Mark Thomas
4402 Celebrant Court
Columbia, MO 65202
Phone: 573-881-2959

Whitesides 1

Testimony

House Redistricting Commission Hearing

Jefferson City

April 28, 2011

My name is Jane Whitesides. I live in Glasgow, Missouri. Part of my job involves encouraging citizens to participate in the civic engagement process. I frequently hear people say that it does not matter if they vote, that their vote does not make a difference, or that their vote does not count. As I look at my own voting districts, I see a house district where my Representative was unopposed in the last two elections; my state Senator had only token opposition; and my Congressman continued to occupy a safe seat. Upon reflection, it is obvious that my vote did not have any impact on the outcomes of these elections. Because I have voted in every election since I was eighteen years old, it saddens me to acknowledge that those who decline to exercise one of our most valuable rights as citizens may have good reason.

Over several election cycles, more than 50% of legislative races in Missouri have been noncompetitive. It seems that across the country, more and more districts are drawn to protect incumbents and to maintain power, leaving voters with fewer choices, stifling democracy, and increasing the influence of special interests. As Commissioners, you have the power to address the inequities in our current legislative districts.

As you undertake the difficult process of drawing new legislative maps, I urge you to design districts that are competitive and fair, which could energize the electoral process, re-engage voters, and allow voters to hold their representatives accountable. Accountability is what ultimately makes our representative form of government work, and Missouri voters deserve the opportunity to participate fully in civic engagement.

Jane Whitesides
401 Commerce
Glasgow, MO 65254