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September 9, 2021

Dear Staff Member,

Redistricting is a fundamental aspect of a fair and equal democracy, and as engaged Kansans, we look forward to multiple transparent opportunities for community engagement in a process that will impact how our individual votes shape Kansas policy for the next 10 years.

Mainstream Coalition is a member-based, nonpartisan nonprofit representing thousands of Kansans residing predominantly in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. We were pleased with the turnout of the Redistricting Town Halls held August 9-13, and especially with the engagement in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. Thank you for hosting these opportunities to hear directly from your constituents regarding the need for a transparent process resulting in fair district maps. But, as you have heard during these town halls, the Kansans you represent are urgently requesting that you move forward with greater transparency and additional opportunities for valued public engagement.

Specifically, we at Mainstream and our members, see a need for the Redistricting Committees to do the following:

- Adopt guidelines and technical rules by October 1 so that we, your constituents, may know how you will be creating new districts and how individuals can easily submit Community of Interest maps. These guidelines must adhere to the promise of equal rights embedded within Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and follow the guidance issued by the Justice Department on September 1.
- Host an additional round of town halls so that testimony can be submitted after all Census data is released and guidelines and technical rules are adopted. These townhalls should provide opportunities to hear from Kansans in different parts of the state - specifically in locales where there has been a change in population and demographics. Of the most interest to our membership is the need for more than one town hall to accommodate the large turnout in Johnson County.
- Reveal maps under serious consideration so that Kansans have ample time to review and respond. This should happen no later than the end of January and should be accompanied by opportunities for hearings and public input.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for serving the people of Kansas in a fair and transparent manner during the redistricting process. We are depending on you to produce maps that represent real Kansans and the interests and needs that live in our communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Poppa', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Poppa, Executive Director  
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CC:  
Members of the Senate Committee on Redistricting  
Members of the House Committee on Redistricting  
KLRD Staff