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### 2021 Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizens Commission

## WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

October 16, 2021

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My name is Nancy Price and I have lived in St. Louis County for a dozen years. I am actively involved in work to support the development of new redistricting maps which will allow each voter's voice to be heard.

Thank you for taking your time to listen to the people of the greater St. Louis area. You have been given the task of drawing the district maps which will be in effect for the next ten years. I wish you each the wisdom of Solomon as you work to best serve all Missourians.

This morning I would like to speak to you about the City of Ferguson which is in St. Louis County.

Per the 2020 census, Ferguson has a population of 20,359. This is down 844 people (4%) from the 2010 census. Despite its small size, Ferguson's General Assembly representation is divided between two Senators (Districts 13 & 14) and three House Representatives (Districts 73, 74 & 75). It is also divided among four school districts (Ferguson-Florissant R-11, Hazelwood, Jennings and Riverview Gardens). Most residents feel unheard by their legislators and powerless to have their concerns addressed. The residents of Ferguson have had their vote "cracked."

Keeping the entire City of Ferguson in ONE Senate district will only make it 11% of the constituents in that new district. Placing all of it in ONE House district will only make it 55% of the constituents in that new district. This still leaves the residents needing to work hard to be heard.

Ferguson has a strong sense of community. The death of Michael Brown put this small city in the national news. Since that tragic event, residents have come together to rebuild their infrastructure. Even more significantly, they have rebuilt their sense of community. They continue to work hard to provide better government that improves the quality of life of their fellow residents. While they have accomplished much, the fragmented representation they currently have has made this much more difficult than it needs to be.

The City of Ferguson, with its mayor Ella Jones, is working hard to meet the needs of all its residents. It is determined to turn around the gradual population decline which goes back to the 1980s by making Ferguson a better place to live. To do this, they need support in bettering their education system. This is exceedingly difficult to do with the city's children attending school in four different districts.

They also want to improve job opportunities and the revenue their commercial areas bring into their city. Improved infrastructure is also necessary. Many of these changes will require help from state and federal sources. Again, their current divided representation in the Senate and House makes this harder to accomplish. To move their community forward, they must convince a bevy of legislators that what they need is important. Furthermore, they have the

unnecessary burden of convincing each of those legislators that a small minority of their constituents is worth fighting for even though their voting power is relatively small in that legislator's district. This is the very definition of being "cracked."

I came here today to ask you to keep the City of Ferguson intact when you draw the new maps for the next ten years. It is a community that is working hard to make the lives of its residents better. Please support the efforts of this city of 20,000 by assigning it just one senator and one representative. This would allow Ferguson to build a working relationship with those charged with representing them in Missouri government. It would show that you want to recognize the residents of Ferguson and want their city to have a voice in Jefferson City.

I believe that the members of Missouri's General Assembly genuinely want to make Missouri the best place to live. To do that, we need to have our state senators and representatives listen to and support the efforts of local governments and residents who know their communities and their needs.

Thank you for listening today. As you work to create fair maps for all Missourians, please think of the City of Ferguson. It needs to be kept intact, with representatives who will work together to make Ferguson a great place to live.

Nancy Price

### Nprice07@gmail.com

St. Louis Senate Redistricting Hearing 10/16/2021

St. Louis House Redistricting Hearing 10/21/2021



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#### Testimony Submitted by Margo McNeil, Saturday, October 16, 10am:

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity of presenting thoughts on redistricting in the State of Missouri.

My name is Margo McNeil. I live in the City of Hazelwood, in Hazelwood School District and in the North part of St Louis County. I am a proud North Countian who has lived in the area for 44 years. I love my community and I love its people. We work and play together well because we care about our community. We want and need adequate representation at the state level.

Currently, I serve on the Hazelwood School Board. Hazelwood School District (HSD) is the second largest school district in St Louis County and educates approximately 17,500 students. HSD is a majority minority district which includes African American and Caucasian students as well as students from 40 different countries. The boundaries of the school district contain parts of eight state representative and two state senate districts. We have four unique cities within our boundaries – Florissant, Hazelwood, Ferguson and Blackjack. This school district ties the region together and helps our children, our parents and our communities to flourish. North Countians want and need to have proper representation.

Although Missouri as a whole gained population, some North County State Representative and Senate districts lost population. The total population lost for all of North County was approximately 11,500 residents, while St Louis County of which we are a part, had a slight overall gain in residents. Therefore, we recognize that State Representative and Senate district boundaries will need to change some in our area however, the loss of population is not great enough to warrant the elimination of a state representative district as happened in 2012.

Drawing boundaries for the entire state will be a difficult job. I would like you to consider the following.

My suggestions to this Senate committee are:

- 1. Keep our cities whole and refrain from dividing them when possible.
- 2. Start your process of map drawing in North St Louis County and move straight south redrawing districts as you go. Since the population in the Southern parts of St Louis County increased, much of the shifting of boundaries will probably be equalized by the time you get to Jefferson and/or Franklin counties, both of which gained population.
- 3. Whenever possible, make districts competitive. The residents of Competitive districts have choices in their representation and usually hear from the candidates running more often. Voters have more opportunity to learn the positions of candidates and those elected will likely be more responsive to their constituents. Elected officials in competitive districts tend to consider the views of all constituents more than an official who doesn't need to worry about re-election. Look for those opportunities to make these districts more competitive.

I appreciate this opportunity to present my thoughts to you and thank you for agreeing to serve on this very important and impactful committee.

Sincerely,

Margo McNeil

Director Hazelwood School Board

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### 2021 Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizens Commission

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October 16, 2021

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#### TESTIMONY BEFORE

#### COMMISSION FOR REAPPORTIONMENT

#### OF THE

#### MISSOURI STATE SENATE DISTRICTS

Presented by: Dr. Elbert A Walton Jr, AA, BA, MBA, JD

Chairman, Unified Democratic Township Organizations Former Missouri State Representative, District 61

Presented on October 16, 2021

### Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT	4
POPULATION SHIFTS	4
CURRENT ST LOUIS CITY AND COUNTY DISTRICT CONFIGURATION	5
Districts Represented by Black State Senators	5
Number of State Senate Districts Wholly Within St Louis County	5
Number of State Senate Districts Wholly Within St Louis City	5
Number of State Senate Districts Partially Within St Louis County and St Louis City	5
Number of State Senate Districts Partially Within St Louis County and St Louis City	5
2020 Census Allows for Same Configuration as 2010 Census for St Louis amd Franklin County	6
SUGGESTED REAPPORTIONMENT	6
District 5	7
District 4	7
District 13	7
District 14	8
District 24.	8
District 1	8
District 15	8
RACIAL EFFECT	8
RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY REAPPORTIONMENT	8
VOTE DILUTION	9
SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT (65%) RULE	9
CRACKING AND PACKING	. 10
VOTE DILUTION DEVICES	. 10
DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT	12
14th AMENDMENT	. 12
15th AMENDMENT	. 12
VOTING RIGHTS ACT	. 12
STATUTORY PROVISIONS	. 13
PROOF OF DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT	. 13
OTHER PROTECTED MINORITIES	. 14
PARTISAN REAPPORTIONMENT	. 14
CONCLUSION	. 14

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#### INTRODUCTION

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Board

I want to first thank you for the opportunity to address the Commission for Reapportionment of the Missouri State Senate Districts in reference to drafting a map for reapportionment of the Missouri State Senate Districts and particularly those districts that are currently situated within the City and County of St Louis.

My name is Elbert Walton. I serve as Chairperson of the Unified Democratic Township Organizations, a political action committee operating primarily within the boundaries of the 13th State Senatorial District of North St Louis County, but which has operations both in the city of St Louis and areas outside of the 13th State Senatorial District. The organization includes several elected officials and political activist in St Louis City and County. I am also a former member of the St Louis County Democratic Central Committee, from the Halls Ferry District, and a former Missouri State Representative, last elected from District 61, which was located in the city of St Louis at that time. As Chairperson of the Unified Democratic District Organizations, I am here in support of the drawing of a fair and equitable reapportionment plan for the Missouri State Senatorial Districts, with specific emphasis on both St Louis City and County that will continue to provide African American voters of St Louis City and County the opportunity to elect Representatives of their choice to the Missouri State Senate. Keeping in mind that Missouri also has a substantial black population in the Kansas City area, as well as Columbia and the bootheel, the principles discussed in this testimony are equally applicable to those areas of the state as well. Moreover, my testimony not only supports retention of districts in which black voters will have an opportunity to elect representatives of their choice but supports retention of the current number of state senate districts situated within the city and county of St. Louis.

By way of background, I have been involved in advocating for fair and equitable reapportionment plans at the federal, state, and local level in Missouri for five decades. I am the

author of a dissertation entitled, "Separation from Power, A Study of African Americans Quest for Election to Public Offices in St Louis and Kansas City." One offhe Chapters in the Dissertation specifically addressed reapportionment of multi-member legislative bodies and particularly the Missouri Legislature. This testimony is gleaned from that Chapter of the Dissertation.

It is my hope that I will be able to outline to you, the issues that must be considered by this Commission in drafting a reapportionment plan for the State Senate Districts of St Louis City and County that will not hamper the re-election chances of those incumbent State Senators who seek re-election to office after the adoption of a reapportionment plan nor deny African-American voters the opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.

#### LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT

The Missouri State Senate, under the state constitution, is a multi-member body. Each member of the Senate is elected from a separate geographical District. Under the US Constitution, as well as the state constitution on the subject, each District must contain a total population, as nearly equal in population to each of the other Districts, as practical. The Districts are also required to be compact and contiguous.

#### **POPULATION SHIFTS**

Periodically, we have shifts in populations from District to District, due to relocation of people from one District to another or moving out of or into the District.

Furthermore, we have births and deaths, thus, some Districts' total population will increase in excess of the average required population per District, while other Districts' total population will decrease below the required average, over time. This then results in Districts substantially unequal to each other in total population per District. In order to remedy this problem, the Federal Constitution as interpreted in Reynolds v. Sims, decided in 1964, and Missouri State Constitution, Article III, Section 7, respectively, provide that every ten years, following the decennial census, each District's boundaries shall be redrawn, and the population reapportioned among the Districts such that the

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Districts will be restored to as nearly equal total populationsper District as is practical.

#### CURRENT ST LOUIS CITY AND COUNTY DISTRICT CONFIGURATION

I have reviewed the current configuration of state senate districts for the state of Missouri, that were drawn after the 2010 census, the population for each district based on the 2020 census, the average population required per district based on the overall population of the state, and the racial breakdown of each of those districts.

#### Districts Represented by Black State Senators

I note that currently, as configured after the 2010 census, there is one majority black district in Kansas City, District 9, two majority black districts in St Louis County, Districts 13 and 14, and one majority black district in St Louis City, District 5. Furthermore, there is one district that encompasses parts of both the city and county St. Louis, which though majority white, is currently represented by a black state senator, District 4.

#### Number of State Senate Districts Wholly Within St Louis County

St Louis County has five senate districts totally within St Louis county, Districts 1, 13, 14, 15, and 24.

#### Number of State Senate Districts Wholly Within St Louis City

St Louis City has one state senate district located wholly within the city of St Louis, District 5.

#### Number of State Senate Districts Partially Within St Louis County and St Louis City

There is one state senate district located partially in both the city of St Louis and St Louis County, District 4.

#### Number of State Senate Districts Partially Within St Louis and Franklin County

There is one state senate district located partially in both the Franklin County and St Louis County, District 26.

2020 Census Allows for Same Configuration as 2010 Census for St Louis County and St Louis City

Based on the overall increase in the population of the state, following the 2020 census, the average State Senate District will go from 176,145 residents to 181,027 or an increase on the average of 4,882 residents per district. Under the 2020 census, the city of St Louis lost population while the county of St Louis gained population.

Despite its increase in total population, based on the total population for the state and the average size of a state senate district, St Louis County went from having sufficient population for 5.67 state senators to population for 5.55 state senators. Based on its loss of population as well as the increase in the total population of the state, St Louis City's population went from allowing 1.81 state senators to 1.67 state senators. The next effect for both the city and county of St Louis was the loss of only 0.27ths of a state senate district. Thus, the 2020 reapportionment plan should retain the current configuration of one district wholly within the city of St Louis, District 5, one district partially within the city and partially within the county of St Louis, District 4, five districts wholly within the county of St Louis, 1, 13, 14, 15, and 24, and one district partially within the county of St Louis and one district partially within the county of Franklin, District 26. A greater portion of District 4 will be in St Louis County and a lesser portion of District 26 will be in St Louis County. More of District 26 then will be in Franklin county after reapportionment.

#### SUGGESTED REAPPORTIONMENT

In 1983, the Supreme Court ruled in <u>Brown vs. Thomson</u> that state legislative and local districts could vary by as much as a ten percent range; however, the Missouri Constitution, Article III, Section 7(c), provides that the variation may not be more than three percentage points. Furthermore, the Missouri Constitution provides that the reapportionment plan must comply with the federal constitution and laws protecting minority voting rights. Using those criteria, I have concluded the following population shifts between senatorial districts will have to be made to bring the districts into



balance.

#### District 5

I believe you should first adjust the lines by starting with District 5 which is wholly within the City of St Louis. It is short 10,986 people. However, since the ideal district is 181,027, and it can be short by 3% or by 5,431 persons, I suggest that District 5 be draw with only 175,596 residents and thus it will need only 5,555 people. Those 5,555 people should be taken from the southwestern part of the city of St Louis out of District 4 and added to District 5.

#### District 4

Next you should look at District 4 which includes both the city and the county of St Louis. It too should be drawn with 175,596 residents. It will then be short 14,522 people once you remove 5,555 city residents from District 4 and put them into District 5. District 24 is 7,542 over the needed average of 181,027 number of voters, thus, I would suggest that you take 7,542 people from District 24, and 6,980 people from District 1, and put them into District 5 to bring it into balance. Although District 4 is represented by a black state senator, its population is majority white, and it will remain so after reapportionment for there are not enough black residents available to put into District 4 without substantially reducing the black populations of Districts 5, 13 and 14.

#### District 13

You should next adjust the lines in District 13 which is the furthest northeastern district in St Louis County bordering the city on the south, St Charles County on the north, Illinois on the east, and District 14 on the West. It is 13,031 residents short of 181,027. If it too is drawn with 175,596 residents, it will then need only 7,061 people. The Districts abutting District 13 are 4, 5 and 14. Since we cannot take any residents from Districts 4 and 5, we will have to get those 7,061 residents from District 14. I suggest they be taken out of the area bounded by 270, New Halls Ferry, Hudson, and West Florissant.

#### District 14

Turning attention to District 14, we note that if we draw it with 175,596 residents, it will be short, 17,280 people. Looking at the Districts that abut District 14, those 17,280 people will have to be taken from District 24.

#### District 24

The incumbent in District 24 is term limited and thus it is not necessary to preserve that incumbent's old lines. District 24 currently has 188,569 residents. As proposed above, we will take 17,280 people out District 24 and put them into District 14, and 7,542 out of District 24 and put them into District 4, thus from those population shifts, District 24 will be reduced to 163,747 people. If it too is drawn to 175,596, it will be short 11,849 residents. I suggest that those 11,849 people be taken from District 26 since more of it will have to be pushed out of St Louis County.

#### District 1

District 1 currently has 184,444 residents. 6,980 will be removed and placed into District 4, thus it will then have 177,464 people, which is about 2% short of the ideal average number of 181,027 residents for a senatorial district. Since it can be drawn short by up to 3%, that will be a sufficient number of residents for that district.

#### District 15

Finally, District 15 has 184,750 persons which makes it over by 3,723 residents, thus it is over the average needed by 2%. A district can vary from the ideal by 3% over or under; thus, District 15's boundaries may be left intact without any changes.

#### RACIAL EFFECT

The changes set forth above for the Districts situated in St Louis City and County will in all probability retain the requisite proportions of black to white voters in each of the districts currently represented by black state senators.

#### RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY REAPPORTIONMENT

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During this reapportionment process, District boundaries may be drawn in such a manner as to either minimize or maximize the number of Districts with a black voting majority and thus, in that voting tends to be polarized along racial lines, minimize or maximize the number of black persons who might be elected as members of the Missouri Senate. Historically, the reapportionment process, in many parts of the country, have often been under the control of an anti-black racially discriminatory majority; and, unfortunately, such racially discriminatory governmental bodies which are responsible for reapportioning the legislative branches and Districts have historically used the reapportionment process to minimize black voting strength and thus to minimize the number of black persons elected to office. In response to that tendency, the U.S. Constitution, the US Voting Rights Act, the federal courts, and now the Missouri Constitution provides guidelines for protection of "minority" voting rights.

#### **VOTE DILUTION**

An article titled, "Minority Vote Dilution", includes an essay by Frank R. Parker in which he discusses racial gerrymandering in legislative reapportionment. He discussed several methods used during reapportionment to dilute the minority vote.

#### SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT (65%) RULE

One of the concepts discussed by Parker in his essay is the 65% rule. Equalopportunity in the electoral process means that black voters are entitled to have anequal chance to elect African Americans to office to that of white citizens.

Ordinarily, equality would mean that Districts should be drawn that are at least50% black, wherever possible. However, analysis of census data reveals that the black population as a whole is about 5% younger than the white population.

Therefore, the black voting age population in a District will generally be 5% less than the white voting age population, given 50% parity of the races. Also, due tolower socio-economic characteristics, black people of voting age tend to be registered at a rate which is 5% lower than the

voter registration rates of white voters; and furthermore, black registered voters tend to turnout to vote at approximately a 5% lower rate than white registered voters. Thus, to create a District in which the black voting strength is equal to that of white voters, the black population in a District must be adjusted upward by 15%. A District then must be 65% (50% plus 15%) black in order for the black voters to have an equal opportunity to elect a representative of their choice.

#### CRACKING AND PACKING

Another issue discussed by Parker were the practices of "cracking" and "packing" as vote dilution devices. As indicated above, a black majority of at least 65% in a District is necessary for black voters to elect a representative of their choice. However, a District with greater than a 65% majority is not required.

Therefore, it has been found that discriminatory reapportionment authorities will employ variants of one of two basic tactics in order to minimize black voting strength:

- (1) Cracking -- this is when District lines are drawn so that an area of concentrated minority population, which could constitute one or more majority blackDistricts, is divided among several predominantly white Districts, to assure that no black person can be elected in any of those Districts; or
- (2) Packing -- this is when District lines are drawn so that an area of concentrated minority population, which could constitute two or more majority blackDistricts, is packed into a single majority black District, to assure that no more than one black person is elected to office.

The packing and cracking devices take variant forms with the same objective, to minimize the number of black representatives elected to office. Thus, we find discussed in U.S. Justice department documents various situations which the justice department believes is indicative of vote dilution.

#### **VOTE DILUTION DEVICES**

John Dunne, Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Civil Rights, authored severalunpublished papers on this subject, and delivered speeches on the issue before various groups on the question of

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"reapportionment." U.S. Justice Department Regulations, 28 CFR 51, serves as the basis of his paper.

Dunne sets forth the following as a list of reapportionment practices which are deemed to be vote dilution devices:

- 1. Altering District boundaries so as to put a black incumbent in the sameDistrict with a white incumbent where that white incumbent has advantages in campaign funds or a white voting majority,
- 2. Altering District boundaries so as to match a black incumbent in the same District as fellow black incumbent, while creating open Districts, in which no incumbent resides, with a white majority population, in order to assure that black incumbent legislators will not be re-elected and will instead be replaced by white legislators,
- 3. Altering District boundaries so as to carve up the constituency of a blackincumbent so as to prevent said constituency from re-electing said incumbent to office,
- 4. Reducing the percent of black voters in a District where the black votershave previously been able to elect candidates of their choice by only a very slim margin,
- 5. Maintaining the re-election chances of white incumbents by preserving the old District lines of such white incumbents to the greatest extent possible to prevent black voters from electing representatives of their choice,
- 6. Altering District boundaries to increase the number of white voters, in previously marginal or competitive Districts where, black voters were almost, but notquite, able to elect a preferred candidate,
- 7. Creating open Districts, where there is no incumbent, by drawing the boundaries of the District so that the black group will constitute an electoral minority,
- 8. Arbitrarily, capriciously, and discriminatively deviating from the reapportionment criteria that the commissioners claim they used in drawing the boundary lines, for example, crossing county or city boundary lines to pick up voters to create a white majority District while refusing to do

so to create a black majority District,

9. Excluding black persons from the process of drawing the plan, or merely paying "lip service" to them by soliciting, but then ignoring, the black voter's input and then providing arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory rationale for rejecting the black voter's reapportionment proposal.

#### DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT

The result of cracking and packing of black voters is to deny black voters theopportunity to elect representatives of their choice in proportion to their numbers of the population as a whole.

#### 14th AMENDMENT

The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has been held to requirepopulations as nearly equal to each other as is possible in legislative Districts.

Therefore, on failure of the state or local legislative body, board, or commission, which has responsibility to adopt a reapportionment plan, a citizen can go into court and request the court to either order the legislative body, board, or commission to redraw the boundary lines, or on failure to do so, the court itself can redraw said lines to provide that each District has a population as nearly equal to eachother District as is practical.

#### 15th AMENDMENT

In addition, however, the court has found that in reapportioning said Districts, the reapportioning authority has to consider the effects of the Fifteenth Amendment and those statutory provisions passed by the U.S. Congress to enforce Amendment Fifteen. The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides:

"The right of the citizens of the United states to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color or previouscondition of servitude."

#### **VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

The United State Supreme court has established the principle that practices which dilute the right to vote should be treated like practices which deny the right to vote altogether; and thus, any

119

reapportionment plan which results in the cracking or packing of concentrations of black voters in such a manner as to deny the minority group its right to elect representatives of its choice is a violation of the U.S. Voting Rights Act. The courts have said then that the reapportioning authority's obligation is to draft a plan with Districts containing populations as nearly equal to each other asis practical, without diluting minority voting strength.

#### STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 1971(a)(1), provides that anyone who is otherwise qualified to vote under state law is entitled to vote "without distinction of race, color or previous condition of servitude." Section 1971(b) of title 42 provides that it is illegal for officials or private citizens to interfere with a person's right to vote in any general or primary election. And Section 2 of the U.S. VotingRights Act of 1965, as amended in 1982, provides:

- "(a) No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in the denial or abridgment of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color,
- (b) A violation of subsection (a) is established if, based on the totality of circumstances, it is shown that the political processes leading to nomination or election in the State or political subdivision are not equally open to participation by members of a class of citizens protected by subsection (a) in that its members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice. The extent to which members of a protected class have been elected to office in the State or political subdivision is one circumstance which may be considered: Provided, That nothing in this section establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion in the population."

#### PROOF OF DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT

In a reapportionment court case, in order to prove a violation of the VotingRights Act, the plaintiffs must present evidence to the court of the following:

1. That African Americans are located in an area that is geographically compact and contains sufficient numbers of black Americans such that single member Districts with a black majority can be drawn.

\*

- 2. That the number of Districts with black majorities actually drawn, by the reapportionment commission, is less than the maximum number of black majorityDistricts that could have been drawn.
- 3. That black voters are politically cohesive in the Districts being drawn, thatis, they tend to vote as a bloc, casting most of their votes for the same candidates foroffices.
- 4. That whites vote as a bloc, casting their ballots in such concentrations suchthat the candidates of choice for the black community are usually defeated.

#### OTHER PROTECTED MINORITIES

The above principles apply to Hispanic and Native American populations as well.

#### PARTISAN REAPPORTIONMENT

Similarly, historically, that same process has also been employed to minimize a particular political party's voting strength, within a district, and thus to minimize the number of legislators affiliated with a particular political party being elected to office in the legislative body as a whole. So far, no court has voided a reapportionment plan based on partisan gerrymandering of districts.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In closing, I want to thank you for the opportunity to give testimony to this Honorable Commission. It is my hope and, if I may be so bold to say, the hopes of the African American citizens and voters of the State of Missouri, and specifically the City and County of St Louis, as well as Kansas City, that this Honorable Commission in considering District Reapportionment will keep the above principles in mind when drafting a plan for reapportionment of the Senate Districts in the state.

Again, thank you and that is the end of my testimony.

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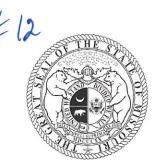
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### 2021 Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizens Commission

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My name is Cheryl Adelstein, and I am the Deputy Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis.

Guided by Jewish values, the JCRC advocates, educates, collaborates and mobilizes action on issues important to the Jewish community, which numbers 60,000 strong in St. Louis. We are committed to pursuing religious tolerance, civic discourse and social justice in St. Louis and beyond.

While I am proud to be here representing my organization, I must note that Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath. It is a day when we do not work, but instead rest and reflect. My organization does not hold events on the Sabbath or allow its employees to work on the Sabbath. I am here today because we live in a non-Jewish world, which does not always enable us to stay true to our practices. Going forward, I would ask that this commission think strongly about scheduling public meetings on Saturday, thereby excluding members of my community.

That said, there are some well accepted reasons when we can bend the laws of keeping the Sabbath. One such Jewish law states, "Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world. (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:9; Babylonian Talmud Tractate Sanhedrin 37a.)

So travel and/or work can be allowed on Sabbath if it is necessary to save a life. We consider it so important to be here today that my appearance falls under that guideline. Equity in redistricting is important for many reasons, and does in fact have the ability to save a life.

Let me explain. When we draw maps, we determine how we will be represented and how funds for schools, hospitals, and other essential services will be allocated. New maps will impact how resources are allocated for the next decade. The resources that come back to our communities depend on our representation in Jefferson City. If communities are underrepresented, access to healthcare can lag, food deserts occur, public health can suffer through pandemics such as Covid and gun violence. People can and do die.

No matter our skin color, ZIP code or religion, we want a transparent redistricting process we can trust, where communities remain whole and where voters have an equal voice.

Throughout Jewish history, broad communal participation in civic life has been of core importance. Rabbi Yitzchak taught that "a ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted" (Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 55a). In Deuteronomy, we see the engagement of all the people, with their diverse backgrounds, positions, and genders, in the life of the community. It reads, "You stand this day, all of you, before the Eternal your God, you tribal heads, you elders, and you officials, all the men of Israel, you children, you women, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to water drawer to enter into the covenant of the Eternal your God." (Deuteronomy 29:9-11)

Our modern-day Jewish responsibility to support the engagement of all people in the life and well-being of our community is no less significant.

Everyone must count in our maps. Missouri has counted everyone in state legislative maps since the 1800s because counting everyone is a core component of fair redistricting. Using anything other than total population as the population base for maps would be discriminatory, wrong, and illegal.

Our tradition teaches us that the process of choosing leaders is not a privilege but a collective responsibility. It is our duty to ensure that all eligible citizens are afforded the opportunity to vote and have their votes counted. We believe that voters pick our leaders, our leaders do not pick their voters.

I don't come here to ask for a mapping change to represent the St. Louis Jewish community. Our population is scattered throughout the region from St. Louis City, to the central corridor, to far west St. Louis County and out to St. Charles County and beyond. No district would give us a voice, nor should it. Districts should not be drawn that way.

I come here to voice the words of Rabbi Hillel, the prominent first century Jewish sage, who famously said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Now is the time to stand up against gerrymandering. District lines should be drawn to empower communities, encourage competition, and produce an overall outcome that reflects our great, diverse, and ever-changing state.

Thank you for this opportunity to have our voice heard.

Cheryl Adelstein, Deputy Director, Jewish Community Relations Council
12 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146 - 314-442-3872 - cadelstein@jcrcstl.org





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Senate redistricting Testimony – October 16

I am Angie Dunlap. I have lived in unincorporated south St. Louis County very near the Meramec River for six years. Thank you for serving on this commission and hearing me today.

I am President of the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis. The League believes an effective democracy represents all citizens and this is necessary for government to work for everyone. I believe every voter matters and should have fair representation.

In a democracy, it is the citizens who should have the power. When communities that have common concerns are together in a district their voice is stronger. When communities are split between districts their voice is diminished. When a larger community is crammed into a single district, again the voters lose power. Communities should not be "cracked" or "packed."

People who live on and near rivers in Missouri are being punished by the effects of climate change. One example is extreme flooding exacerbated by levies working to save some communities and push water into other communities with less political power. I would like commissioners to keep those who live along Missouri rivers together when drawing maps. Then the voice of flooded-out citizens might get attention and a plan created for solutions that are fair to all.

The river was over the road behind my house for nearly four months in 2017. Interstate 55 has been closed, or nearly closed, several times at the Meramec River over my six years in South County. Over the last two decades, land, homes, businesses along the Meramec River from Eureka to the Mississippi river have been damaged or destroyed.

Flooding concerns are not limited to cities. I grew up in Maries County on a farm on the Gasconade River. My dad still runs cattle in fields

along the river bottom. Flooding was something that Dad had to deal with occasionally, but in the last decade, the river has exceeded the high-level record two times. As a farmer, fixing fence is a common job, but replacing rows and rows of fence multiple times in the span of a few years is overwhelming. Now he has given up putting in real fences and resorts to electric fence. Dad just sees flooding getting worse and worse with no solution in site.

Give power to the communities affected by extreme weather by keeping them together so they will have a strong voice to create real solutions.

Dad has given up on fences. I do not want voters to give up on voting and this can happen if citizens do not see that their concerns are being tackled by their representatives. Please draw maps to give voters the power and encourage voters to see that democracy can work for them.

Thank you.

Angie Dunlap 5303 Hagemann Crossing Dr. St. Louis, MO 63128 #23



#### 2021 Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizens Commission

## WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

WITNESS INFORMATION			
Please complete <b>ONE</b> of the following sections.			Please Print
Individual: if testifying only on behalf of yourself, please complet	e this section.		
Witness Name		Phone N	
Home Address  1256 N. Euclid Ava		(314) 3	349-0271
Home Address			
1256 N. Euclid Ave			
City	State		Zip Code
Saint, Louis	MO		63113
Business/Organization: if testifying on behalf of a business or o	rganization, please cor	mplete this	section.
Witness Name		Title	
Business/Organization Name:		Phone Ni	umber
Submission (Games and Control of			
Home Address			
City	State		Zip Code
<b>Registered Lobbyist:</b> if registered with the Missouri Ethics Comrorganization or government agency, please complete this section.	I mission and testifying o	on behalf o	f a business,
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Please complete <b>ONE</b> of the following sections.			Please Print
Individual: if testifying only on behalf of yourself, please complete	e this section.		
Witness Name		Phone Nu	ımber
Cheri Crockett		865-3	300-7913
Home Address 245 Towers Creek Ct			
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St. Charles	State		Zip Code 63304
Business/Organization: if testifying on behalf of a business or or	ganization, please cor	mplete this	section.
Witness Name		Title	
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Home Address		l	
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# No meed to speak



#### 2021 Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizens Commission

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Please complete <b>ONE</b> of the following sections.	##	Please Print
Individual: if testifying only on behalf of yourself, please complet	e this section.	
Witness Name	~	Phone Number
A/ Gerber (EARs	he)	314-409-4727
Home Address		
Home Address  13482 Mason Village Ct.	<b>4</b>	
City St. Lovis	State	Zip Code 6313/
Business/Organization: if testifying on behalf of a business or or	rganization, please cor	mplete this section.
Witness Name		Title
Business/Organization Name:		Phone Number
Home Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Registered Lobbyist: if registered with the Missouri Ethics Comnorganization or government agency, please complete this section.	nission and testifying c	on behalf of a business,
Witness Name		Phone Number
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