

REDISTRICTING OKLAHOMA

The logo features the words "REDISTRICTING" and "OKLAHOMA" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. "REDISTRICTING" is on the top line, and "OKLAHOMA" is on the bottom line. A thin orange line starts from the left edge of the "REDISTRICTING" line, goes down, then right, then down again, ending in a jagged, wavy line that resembles a map boundary or a lightning bolt.

Public Comments Received by the Oklahoma
Senate and House Redistricting Committees

58th Legislature

As of 11/16/2021

Comments from Joint Senate and House Congressional Redistricting Town Halls

July 8th – Oklahoma City – Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 535

- Carol Goodwin – Choctaw Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Keep Choctaw, Nicoma Park, Jones and Spencer together. Eastern Oklahoma Co has worked together, and they wish to be kept in one district rather than broken between two.
- Dave Green – Eastern Oklahoma Co resident
 - Wants to make Oklahoma City the central point then go out to the border from there as if “slicing a pie”, to make all districts the same geographically.
- Rhonda McLain – Edmond, OK
 - Wanted to know if residents who are moved into a new district will be informed?
 - Quyen responded that residents who get a new precinct will be notified via mail with a new voter ID card.
- Dan Hough – Western Oklahoma Co resident
 - Suggested all of Oklahoma Co be put into CD5 rather than breaking it up for CD4 to have some of it.
- Andy Moore – People Not Politicians
 - Asked how undercounts in minority groups will handled, regarding state legislative seats?
 - Keith answered adjustments will be made if minority groups are undercounted.
- Colonel Gene Love – Lawton resident
 - Would like to see Fort Sill and Tinker AFB be kept in the same district.
- Mark VanLandingham – Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
 - Increase Congressional representation in Oklahoma Co. Keep Fort Sill and Tinker AFB in the same district.
- Robbie White – OKC resident, Chair of Oklahoma Co Democratic Party
 - Keep Oklahoma Co cohesive, all together if possible.
- Julianna Kershen– Norman League of Women Voters
 - Where can people find legal parameters for local and county redistricting?
 - Keith answered that each city is different according to their charters, County Commissioners have an extended deadline until November 30 and schools over 1,800 students must redistrict but have until 2022.
- Oklahoma National Guard Member
 - Keep Fort Sill and Tinker AFB in the same district.
- Nancy Barrett – Via Email
 - Asks that the process be done in a fair, nonpartisan way.

- Dan Williams – Oklahoma Co resident
 - Suggested shifting CD5 into Oklahoma Co then into Northern Canadian Co (Piedmont) while keeping Tinker AFB and Fort Sill in the same district.

July 13th Virtual

- Doris – League of Women Voters
 - How are incarcerated people counted?
 - Quyen answered that they are counted where they are incarcerated.
- Jonathan Hewitt – Shawnee Resident
 - Suggested not making Oklahoma County its own district because plenty of people in Pott and Seminole Counties work in Oklahoma City. Also driving to visit their representative is more convenient if Pott and Seminole are in CD5.
- Pamela Iron – Cherokee County
 - Wanted clarification because she heard that the legislature had already voted on the maps but then heard they will vote again?
 - Keith answered that there are two parts of redistricting – Legislative and Congressional. We are currently on the Congressional lines so the public can submit a map on Congressional lines. Input is still accepted for the state legislature as well.
- Rachel Melot - CEO Shawnee Forward
 - 15,000 people commute to Oklahoma City from Shawnee and visa versa. Shawnee and Oklahoma City feel connected in many ways from economic development to infrastructure. The relationship with CD5 is great and has been helpful with getting long term projects finished.
- Helen Duchon – Resident
 - Who determines city ward, county commissioner and school board lines?
 - Keith answered that cities are all done differently according to their charters. School boards are written to be due next year, any school with more than 1,800 students (K-12) must redistrict but that is up to the board to do so. County commissioners must be finished by November 30th according to a bill passed during the first session. The House and Senate are offering their services to redraw the lines.
- Owen Underwood – Resident
 - Will political subdivisions be considered a major priority? Also, will the current Congressmen have input?
 - Quyen answered that population is the highest priority. Keith went on to say that there are no guidelines in the Oklahoma Constitution, for Congressional Redistricting, to follow boundaries, only equal population. Also, yes, the five Congressional members will be submitting input just like the 149 state legislators and the public are doing.

- Doris Kupfer- Resident
 - Will cities limits be subject to being divided up?
 - Keith answered that yes but also will be paid attention to by the legislators. The main priority is population since there is not a deviation for congressional Districts. Currently there are cities divided to meet that requirement.
- Andy Moore, People Not Politicians
 - How will the Redistricting process handle tribal borders?
 - Quyen answered that any of the tribes are welcome to give input. The McGirt decision was not an issue during the Oklahoma Legislature Redistricting process.
- Robert – Edmond Resident
 - Feels it is important for Edmond to stay with Oklahoma City as it is a community of interest, sharing a lot in common.
- Darlene Wallace – Seminole Resident
 - CD5 should include Pott and Seminole Counties, it makes a balanced district adding rural areas to the district.

July 20th – Enid - Autry Technology Center

- Resident
 - Is there a chance of a large change to the lines passed during the first legislative session?
 - Keith answered that the likelihood of that happening is minimal as both the House and Senate have prepared by using the 5% deviation.
- Resident
 - What is the deadline for drawing lines?
 - Keith answered that the legislature passed bills to allow ample time for line completion.

July 22nd – Tulsa – Tulsa Technology Center, Riverside Campus

- Resident
 - What considerations are you taking into account since final census data was not used?
 - Keith and Quyen answered that population is the main criteria. Both the House and Senate adopted specific redistricting guidelines. Public comment, deviation, compactness are also taken into consideration.
- Tulsa Co Election Board
 - Request to keep Tulsa County all together in one Congressional district

- Resident
 - How is political data taken into consideration?
 - Quyen answered that neither chamber used political data to draw the maps.
- Resident
 - Is there a date certain to be completed?
 - Keith answered that the legislature does not have a date certain, but county commissioners do. Ideally, the legislature will be complete by November 30.
- Resident
 - Heard a rumor that Oklahoma City could be split into three districts
 - Keith responded that Oklahoma City is currently split into three districts as the boundaries of Oklahoma City are already in three congressional districts.
- Resident
 - Why does it seem like county lines are important?
 - Keith answered that county boundaries are hard lines and counties have functions within themselves. Those are lines that do not change and have been in place for many years.
- Resident
 - Is Dave's Redistricting the software the House and Senate use?
 - Keith answer that the House and Senate are using Maptitude for Redistricting by Caliper.
- Resident
 - Does Maptitude use political data?
 - Keith and Quyen answered that no, it does not but Dave's Redistricting has the option to use political data.
- Resident
 - Is it possible for a member to export the data and save it to their computer?
 - Keith and Quyen answered that no because only staff have access to Maptitude for Redistricting.
- Resident
 - Could the Republicans encourage staff to move Congressional lines in favor of a specific member?
 - Keith answered that no because this is a legislative process and both parties have to vote to approve the lines. Same situation for legislative lines. Both House and Senate committees have Democrat vice-chairs.

- Resident
 - What taken into consideration to reduce cuts and edges?
 - Keith answered that compactness was the main factor, but the House and Senate maps are more compact this time than 10 years ago.

July 27th – McAlester – Kiamichi Technology Center

- Representative Jim Grego
 - How many people does CD2 have to pick up?
 - Keith answered that CD2 needs 44,534 people according to the 2019 estimate data.

July 29th – Lawton – City Hall

- James Taylor – Lawton Resident
 - Would like Fort Sill and Tinker AFB to stay in the same district as he feels changing the district would hinder the district.
- Resident
 - Once we get all of the numbers, who is the overseer of the final product and is there an oversight to ensure everything is done to population?
 - Keith answered that the Redistricting process run like a normal bill – the House/Senate vote on the bill then it goes to the Governor for approval. Quyen answered that yes, there is an oversight – the plan will be published and available to the public before it goes to a vote on the chamber floors. Also, Dave’s Redistricting is available to the public to draw their own plans and check population.

August 3rd – Virtual

- John Grundmann - Oklahoma Farm Bureau Board of Director Member
 - Would like to keep rural areas in CD5 so that it is not completely urban.
- John – Resident
 - Can you explain the process of removing 1,000 people from CD4?
 - Quyen answered that 1,000 voters would simply be moved from CD4 and given to another district.
- Austin Buchanan - Resident
 - Congressional districts require one person deviation. Is that a state law? To my knowledge, federal law does not require such strict deviation.
 - Keith answered that Oklahoma may take on the 1% like West Virginia did (and won a Supreme Court case), but most states have done the one person deviation. West Virginia did that so they could keep counties whole.

*** All questions are answered by Keith Beall, Senate Redistricting Director and Quyen Do, House of Representatives Redistricting Coordinator**

Comments received via email

- To : Redistricting Committee,

Please consider this a formal request to keep Shawnee as part of Congressional District 5. For more than 40 years, Shawnee has been deeply connected to OKC economically . As such , Shawnee is currently part of the Combined Statistical Area (CSA) for the OKC metro. Other factors, such as water supply and rail access for Shawnee are highly connected to what happens in OKC. The improvement of Interstate 40 between Shawnee and OKC and the opening of the Kickapoo turnpike has served to improve the flow of traffic between the OKC metro and Shawnee. Because of this ease of access, persons are choosing to live in Shawnee and commute west- many studies show this trend of seeking to live OUTSIDE the larger city will only continue. So as the OKC metro may have previously been receiving the greater economic benefit from retail sale dollars etc, that has begun to be more equally reciprocal. Effectively, Shawnee and the OKC metro are “connected at the hip”. It would be a mistake for Shawnee’s placement in CD5 to change.

Thank you for your time.

Paul A Bass
President
First United Bank & Trust

- Hello. My name is Cami Engles, and I'm a business owner in Shawnee. I opened a restaurant (Theopolis Social Club) in downtown Shawnee two years ago. I also own Leaning Tree Homes, Heirloom Flooring and the Shawnee Outlook Magazine. Leaning Tree Homes has invested approximately 2 million dollars in Shawnee within the past year and a half- mainly buying and renovating run-down properties in our historic districts and turning them into fair-market value nice apartments, commercial real estate, and single family homes. I am very committed to the economic development and the progress of my community. I take great pride in the work we are doing, and I'm hoping to help change the trajectory of our town with my investment.

I was made aware of the potential redistricting of Shawnee, and I would like to express my desire to remain in our current district. I believe Shawnee is more aligned with the Oklahoma City metro than the proposed district. I also see the benefit of remaining in our district as our community has worked for years on the expansion and completion of railroad sections. I believe the redistricting of Shawnee will undermine the progress that's been made in regards to the railroad, and all the economic advantages that will afford us.

Shawnee has an incredible amount of commuters who work in OKC, and also commuters from OKC now working in our county. I believe the recent growth and private investment we're witnessing in our community would be best supported and propelled by remaining in our current district.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my point of view.

Please feel free to contact me at (405).....

Thank you

Cami Engles

- Senate,
Why? And to whose benefit would moving Pott. and Seminole counties from district 5. We are literally a shout out from the OKC metro area and a significant percentage of the population in both counties are employed by a plethora of businesses in the OKC area. Our representation should remain as is.

C. L. Prevost III

Management Development Coordinator

Gordon Cooper Technology Center

- Redistricting representatives,

I am a resident of City of Seminole and Seminole County and a business owner. It is important for Seminole and Pottawatomie counties to remain in the CD5. Seminole has many residents who travel into Oklahoma City to work. We are even the home of Troy Smith the founder of Sonic, one of the CD5's and OK's most iconic businesses. Many people have friends and family that they see often in OKC and it is important that our communities remain linked together in the same district. Additionally, the office for our representative is less than an hour away. It would take much longer to travel to many of the other districts. While there is a small office that is technically a little closer, it is not connected by a main road- which Seminole is easily connected to OKC with. This office is convenient for us and already knows us from past partnerships and federal projects.

-Darlene

- Hello,

My name is Kimber Hewitt. I wanted to take a moment to thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts. My family and I reside in and around Potawatomi and Seminole County and I commute to Oklahoma City every day for work.

I wanted to express the importance of Potawatomi and Seminole County remaining in CD5. Many people who reside in these counties are like me and commute to the city daily for work. Their lives, businesses, and incomes are directly linked to the city. Splitting CD5 would potentially cause the residence of these counties who work in the city to no longer benefit from the projects and programs that have been built to assist them.

Lastly, I want to stress again the importance of maintaining the integrity of CD5 as Potawatomi, Seminole, and Oklahoma County economies are intimately intertwined.

Again thank you for your time and consideration.

Kimber Hewitt

- I think it is imperative that Oklahoma's new congressional districts need to be as reasonably close as possible in geographical size as well as possible.

This would help to blend urban, suburban and rural constituents, perspectives and interests.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the factors that will determine our future districts and representation.

Best regards,
Marc Hader

- I hope you'll redistrict based on census data only, not political affiliation. We need a robust political environment that represents all the people.

- Hello,
Pottawatomie County is very unique to the OKC Metro area, not only the close proximity to downtown OKC, the new turnpike, we have at least 42 single family homes that are in Oklahoma City City Limits as we speak. This is not to mention the amount of people employed at Tinker AFB and the amount of acres farmed that is shipped worldwide. We must have that diverse representation, that voice in Washington that would represent our citizens, our concerns and our HOMES in Pottawatomie county.

Thank you for your time,
Raymond J. Lutomski, Shawnee
Congressional 5th District

- In regards to removal from the 5th Congressional District:

Shawnee and Seminole are in no way similar to Tulsa area. If you look at location, shopping preferences, dining choices, lifestyle.....our areas line up much closer to Oklahoma City. Please do not let the redistricting become a political issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pamela O'Rorke
Shawnee, OK

- Hi!

I live in Shawnee and, as a part of the Greater Oklahoma City community, I do not want our representation moved to Tulsa or Muskogee.

We are growing more and more as an Oklahoma City bedroom community and should be represented at the state level as such and remain a part of congressional district 5.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Zoe Loeser

- Please look at David Greene's suggested redistricting map. It seems to make a lot of sense. - --
 - Stephanie West
- I am asking that the 5 districts be redrawn and divided so that each representative represents agriculture as well as people within our state.
 - Paula Trowbridge
- Thank you to all members of the Redistricting Committee for your conscientious work on the project. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns on developing Congressional Districts for Oklahoma.

I have had the same residence in Oklahoma City, Canadian County, since January 1992. During that time, I have been represented by CD 5, CD 4 and CD 3. I have witnessed the growth of eastern Canadian County which has resulted in Oklahoma City being the largest city within my county. This area serves as a commuter community to Oklahoma County and is dramatically different in many facets from the current CD 3 area.

I strongly urge your committee's consideration of having CD 5 represent the eastern side of Canadian County along with the designated areas of Oklahoma County for our shared community of interest and access to our Congressional Representative.

Sincerely,

Sue Thompson

- Good Morning!

I am writing this email to officially submit public input for Oklahoma's Congressional redistricting process as I am unable to attend today's 9:30 A.M. public meeting at the state Capitol due to a scheduling conflict with work.

I am currently a resident of the Cedar Valley neighborhood in Guthrie, OK and live in U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas' district. However, the overwhelming majority of my neighbors and I commute to downtown Oklahoma City everyday for work. Most of the entire community in fact commutes to either Edmond or Oklahoma City for work and many of the companies that provide jobs in Guthrie and Logan County are headquartered in downtown Oklahoma City.

Guthrie, and much of Logan county share a unique bond with Oklahoma County and OKC through infrastructure partnerships, economic development, community initiatives and public/private partnerships. Logan and Oklahoma counties have entered into collaborative agreements to work on county line roads like Waterloo Rd and fall in the same emergency response region in the event of a state emergency.

While I and my neighbors have been pleased with being represented in the 3rd congressional district (CD-3), we feel that it would be far more appropriate to be represented in the 5th Congressional district. The 5th district is where we commute everyday for work, shopping, healthcare, entertainment and for so many essential and recreational activities that contribute to the happiness and wellbeing of our families. Guthrie has far much more in common with Edmond and Oklahoma City than it does with rural areas of the 3rd district like Guymon or Hobart.

It makes more sense for our community to be represented by a member of Congress who is our neighbor here in Central Oklahoma, than by someone from Western Oklahoma who represents the panhandle. While I understand that not all of OKC can be represented in the 5th Congressional district due to a variety of factors. I firmly believe that downtown OKC should remain in the 5th district as it is the economic hub of the 5th district now and removing the downtown area from the rest of the district would accelerate the rural vs. urban divide that we already seem to have on a state legislative level.

My contact information is below. Please feel free to call/email me should you require any additional information. Thank you for your consideration!

Best, Jeffery Coleman

- The deliberate attempt to reduce the voting power of south okc is absolutely alarming. OKC is changing, it's people are changing, and they should be represented accordingly.
 - Ana Garcia
- Please do not split the south side . Better yet please be thoughtful and fair in redistricting. It should be for the good of the people
 - Mary Garrison
- I live in S. OKC and I want a Representative who lives in OKC; Not the panhandle. I expect that folks who live in the panhandle would rather have a Representative who lives in a rural area. Stop the partisan gerrymandering. Try winning on your ideas not by rigging the maps.
 - Trace Logan
- Please vote against any kind of redistricting that removes south OKC from district 5. Rural communities have different needs than urban communities. I fear that with new districting suggestions it will continue to put south OKC further and further behind in education and access to healthcare services. Say NO to gerrymandering!
 - Serina Freeman
- I am concerned about the redistricting of the south side of OKC. They need accurate representation as they are part of OKC and Not the panhandle. Stop gerrymandering!
 - Jessica Baker
- As someone who has lived and worked in OKC for years, I am deeply disturbed by redistricting South OKC into a Congressional district out of District 5; District 5 more accurately represents the needs of those who live in South OKC. District 3, in the panhandle, quite frankly does not. To even suggest such a move is incredibly tone-deaf and disrespectful to residents of both districts. They have different needs from their respective representative. Please, stop this flagrantly obvious gerrymandering!
 - Zheila Azartash-Namin

- To Whom it may concern,

I have recently heard reports of splitting the vote in OKC again so that the citizens of OKC may not even choose one elected representative to Washington. This is criminal. If you continue down the path of splitting Democrats so they don't get representation, I will have no choice but to close my business and move out of this state.

- Evan from Vanessa House Beer Co.
- Do not split up South Oklahoma City and add it into a congressional district that is primarily made up of a rural environment. The issues that affect South Oklahoma City are different than that of rural Oklahoma. Therefore, it is important that we do not share the same representation in the United States House of Representatives. Doing so will leave South Oklahoma City neglected in the House of Representatives whereas the focus would primarily be on Rural Oklahoma.
 - Chace Neal
- After learning about the publicly submitted maps for consideration I am deeply concerned that the southside of OKC was discussed to be taken out of Oklahoma County. Much of the southside community patronizes businesses in Oklahoma County and sends their children to schools in Oklahoma County. Their needs are more related to those in Oklahoma County than they are to other counties.
 - Rosalinda Espinosa
- Redistricting to include the panhandle and south side makes sense. It would more evenly distribute our population. Give more representation to the south side. Great idea
 - Karey Jo Wise
- When will Oklahoma ever lead the way, we are mocked and laughed at across the United States. Like we live in the laws of time from 50 years ago. When will we be seen as the state that does the hard work and leads the way across the board and show other states how we don't need gerrymandering and other forms of ill tactics to stand as one, united in all areas of governance with all people standing proud to be an Oklahoman. For the people to know and be proud of those who represent us. Please God, please sirs and please madams, this is my home this is where I'm from. I love my state and all my neighbors. Please don't separate us with gerrymandering anymore. Like what they teach at Calumet, OK... Always do the right thing.
 - Linda Pedro

- I think it is important for the citizens of Piedmont, Oklahoma to be included in Congressional District 5. Piedmont is just outside of CD 5 and we are just a small swath of CD 41. We could be better represented along with Oklahoma City and Edmond in CD 5. Piedmont is a bedroom community and most of our residents work, shop and participate in activities every day in Edmond and Oklahoma City. I'd rather have our community represented along with the bigger cities where we share the same interests. These are the cities where we spend our money on essentials, entertainment and healthcare. It just makes sense since we are so close.

Thank you,

Jackie Geiger

Piedmont, Oklahoma Resident

- To Whom It May Concern:

I am contacting you to register my husbands and my desire to have Logan County/Guthrie moved to the 5th Congressional District. We are residents of Logan County/Guthrie and both commute to Oklahoma City to work each work day as do our neighbors and many other residents in our community.

It would seem more in line to be represented by the 5th Congressional District with our community needs and urban make up.

We are neighbors to the cities of Edmond and Oklahoma City and align more with their communities.

Thank you for your consideration with this request.

Best,

Jeff and Debbie Taylor

Comments received after 11/1 press conference

- There is no place for gerrymandering in a Democratic society. The fact that part of inner city OKC will share a representative with folks from Guymon does not provide fair representation for either group. Be better.
 - Matthew Morton
- Please keep all of Oklahoma County in one district. Putting rural counties within an urban area weakens rural votes. This is not okay. Our rural communities do not have the same needs as urban areas and their voices will be lost. It is also not appropriate to split the Hispanic vote in Oklahoma county by tying it to the district that includes the panhandle. Those needs are different. The needs of someone near Will Rogers airport are completely different from those in Boise City or Ripley, Ok.
 - Nestor Ruiz
- I do not like the blatant corrupt attempt by the Oklahoma GOP to change the districts to eliminate the voice of the Democrats who live in this state. District 5 should not be broken up with a good portion of it going to the Panhandle. Ridiculous and corrupt grab for power.
 - Mark Rauch
- My name is John Schuyler Smith and I live near downtown OKC and I would like stay in the 5th Congressional district. This is an important city to Oklahoma and not just one representative can fully represent the interest in OKC. Please take these comments with careful consideration.
 - John Smith
- I live in the Plaza distict and own a variety of properties in South OKC. I wtire this letter to convey my strong desite for my neighborhood and most of Southwest OKC to fall within the boundaries of Oklahoma's 3rd Congressional District. This area used to be represented by U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas and I believe it should be again. Much of the western and sothern portions of OKC are already in CD-3 and it makes the most sense for all of it to be.

Most of what the Southside Chamber already represents is in CD-3 as well, so this would make more sense in terms of economic representation. We in the South sid have always felt like the forgotten step children with sidewlks to nowhere. Moving all of South OKC to CD-3 would ensure the Southside has a unified voice and have true representation.

- Chris Turner

- I write to you as a proud Southsider and member of Oklahoma's Latino Community. Much of Oklahoma's Hispanic community is split between Oklahoma's 3rd and 5th Congressional Districts. While the majority of the Hispanic population is in the 3rd District, there is a significantly high concentration of Latinos in the 5th District, primarily located here in South OKC. Past gerrymandering has traditionally limited minority power when lawmakers try to spread out a minority community between districts, so they make up a small portion of the electorate and have little political power in each district. We do not want this to happen to our community!
I and other members of my community adamantly believe that OKC's Hispanic community needs to not only be kept intact, but also combined with the communities of Oklahoma's 3rd Congressional District so that we can have a stronger, louder and more unified voice in Congress.
 - Dario Antonio
- I live at 3116 NW 20th St. in Oklahoma City. On this proposed map I would change Congressional districts from District 5 to District 3. Living less than 10 minutes from downtown OKC and the state capitol, I would share a congressman with those living in the panhandle. This is obvious political gerrymandering with the intent of keeping District 5 from turning purple or blue. I greatly oppose this proposed map. Its creators must be unethical and sleazy. I submit this map be thrown out and a new one drawn. If this map passes, I will support legal efforts to have this map invalidated. Thank you for your time.
 - Hoover Brendan
- The gerrymandering of Oklahoma City is disgrace. I know this email means nothing but can't go without being heard.
 - Ramirez Bogie
- I live in OKC and the new redistricting would put us in district 3. I believe this is not in our best interest. The concerns and priorities in my neighborhood are very different than those of folks in small towns and rural areas. I am reaching out to voice my opposition to the proposed redistricting.
 - Amy Osatinski
- Gerrymandering is disgusting. It makes zero sense that I would be in the same district as the panhandle counties as a resident of the urban core of OKC.
 - Melissa Napoli

- The gerrymandering in the proposal for redistricting is ludicrous. Cutting into to Oklahoma City to dilute its vote is just wrong. There is no legitimate reason for one district to span Cimmaron to Creek counties. Please put together a plan that is bipartisan. Gerrymandering is bad for every state, and this is a perfect example of why.
 - Judith Ingraham
- Hello, Not that you care but Gerrymandering should be illegal. It shows though that republican leaders in district 5 are so scared of flipping blue again that a large population of democratic voters WHO ARE OKC, SMACK DAB in the middle of OKC are now given to a crap shoot area. Ensuring we can't flip OKC. Well... I guess this means we are going to work harder! Be louder! Republicans cheat.
 - Lauren Hemry
- If I thought the Republicans running the redistricting process were capable of shame, I'd say shame on you. However, the proposed splitting of the 5th district into a gerrymandered, nakedly political, sham of a district shows that you people have no capability to feel well-deserved shame. You are supposed to be representatives of the people, but this just proves our GOP supermajority are irredeemably corrupt crooks who will hold onto power at any cost, morals be damned. Putting a huge chunk of OKC into a rural western Oklahoma district is a surefire way to make sure that Oklahomans who disagree with your ultraconservative, backward, fascist views will never have a voice in Congress again. This is just one more vile display of soulless corruption and cheating that will make Oklahomans more and more disenchanted with the political process. Democracy is dead and Republicans pulled the trigger.
 - Kyle Foster
- I am a CD5 resident. Respectfully, I oppose the blatant partisan gerrymander of OKC via its division into three (3) Congressional districts. It's absolutely absurd for OKC's Congressional Representative to be controlled by rural constituencies. I sincerely hope you'll reverse course and pass a map that keeps Oklahoma City together so that the driving force of growth in our State (economic and demographic) benefits from having its collective voice heard.
 - Wyatt McGuire

- Hello,
As an individual living in the heart of OKC, I feel like moving my congressional district to include western Oklahoma will not allow me to have fair and accurate representation for me and those in my immediate area. As Americans, we deserve the right to elect representatives by drowning our votes with rural Oklahoma who have different representative needs than urban Oklahomans. I am sure that rural Oklahomans would not want my needs to overcome there's just as much. Gerrymandering is an attack on democracy and it is wrong to carve the urban areas up, many of us left rural areas because we do not feel safe or valued in those space, at times being persecuted based on race, gender, or religious beliefs. Please let Oklahoma's diverse political environment have fair representation.

Thank you,
Caitlyn Gondolf

- Hello!

I'm just writing to express my profound disappointment in the congressional gerrymander you have created to effectively disenfranchise an entire city.

As a government teacher, it is my job to educate students and help transform them into engaged, educated voters. It annoys me to no end that this committee would work to lessen the impact of those votes that I am trying to teach them to cherish.

I would like to ask you to reconsider these anti-democratic plans and start over.
Thanks.

Benjamin Meaders

- I am a registered Republican of 2238 NW 55th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 and this map is disgusting and clearly shamefully gerrymandered. The lord knows you are cheating.

In what world is south OKC in the same congressional district as Guyman?

Shame on you. I will not be voting for Republicans as long as this shameful gerrymandering continues.

Carl Symcox

- Good evening,
I expect better from Oklahoma than to follow Texas in gerrymandering its districts. This map is a clear display of gerrymandering. A representative should represent the residents of the district. Residents of Guymon and Oklahoma City should not have the same representative. Additionally, Oklahoma City should not be gerrymandered such that three different Representatives siphon votes. Please make a moral decision, and do not harm the voters of Oklahoma. Do not gerrymandered the districts. We're better than Texas; do not stoop to their level.

Kindest regards,
Keith Hudson

- We should not be divided and placed from our current district, our concerns and need are not aligned with rural OKLAHOMA
-W. Williams
- I live in Eastern Canadian County and even though it's OKC with Yukon address and Mustang Schools. I speak for quite a few when I ask. Why can't we keep our District with Frank Lucas. Stephanie Bice really doesn't understand our needs and we really don't want to be a part of OKC anyway.
- Leslie Fails
- This is obvious gerrymandering. All urban areas should have similar representation. There is no one that can convince me that people in rural Western Oklahoma have similar concerns and votes as the urban core of OKC. This is putting a further emphasis on rural Oklahoma for politics. Everyone needs to be grouped with people who have similar lifestyles in terms of population, school districts, infrastructure, etc. Do not make this district change.
- Susan Lobsinger
- Hello,

I'd like to drop a note to tell you that I vehemently disagree with the proposed redistricting as they are blatantly gerrymandered. This flies in the face of any true attempt to represent the people of Oklahoma, specifically the people in district five. Those with a moderate or progressive voice already are drowned out in this state. Watering down the urban vote with the rural is unfair, undemocratic and a gross miscarriage of your elected duties. Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should. The scales are ALREADY massively tipped in the GOP's favor. With these new districts, there isn't even a chance of a competing narrative being heard, and that does no one any good. Please reconsider.

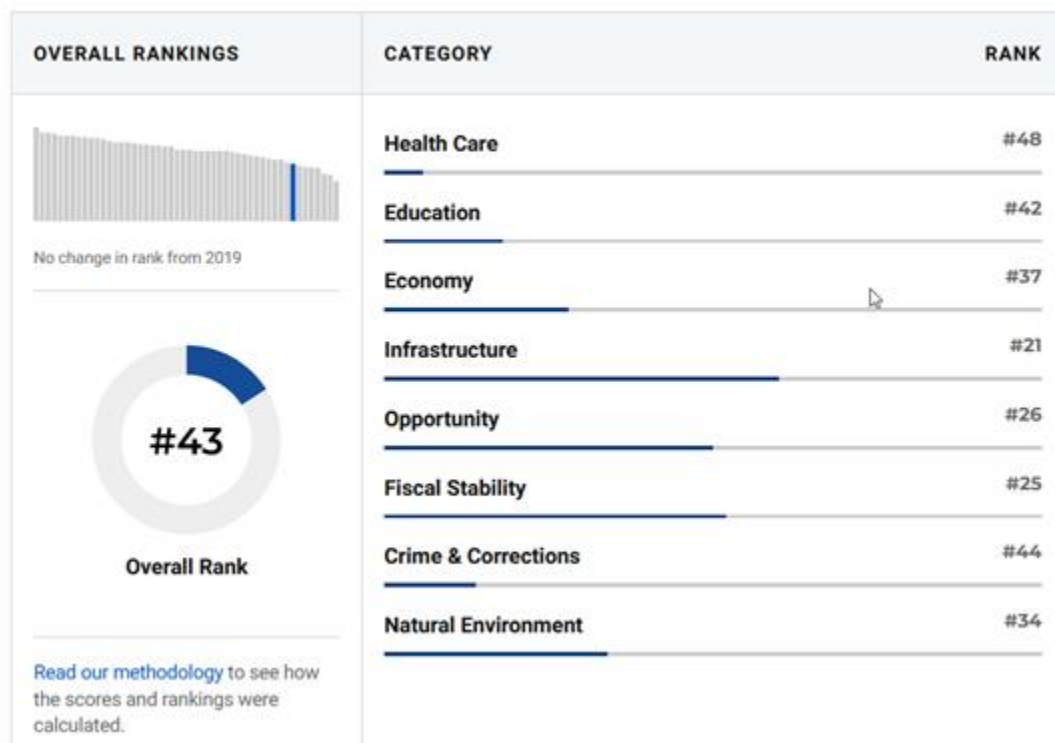
Sincerely,
Rebecca Ambrosi

- To Whom it May Concern,

I saw the proposed new map of redistricting Oklahoma, as a 3rd generation Oklahoman who has lived here his whole life, I strongly urge you to not even consider this.

It is blatantly obvious the intent behind this redistricting and in no way makes sense for someone near OKC to be represented by someone 4+ hours away. This is not what the core values of being an Oklahoman are about and continuous changes like this redistricting is what translates into things like the below screenshot:

Oklahoma Rankings



We aren't ranked in the top 20 in anything, and some of our lowest ones are 3 big ones -- Healthcare, Education, & Economy. I don't know about you, but those are 3 big categories that in the grand scheme of things dictate life expectancy, job opportunities, and growth.

As a lifelong Oklahoman, I want to see my state grow into a great fun state, I want to have a plethora of opportunities for work if I ever choose a different career path and I want to grow old here. I've spent my life here putting in work and hoping to see it thrive, if you go through with the redistrict, you're stopping me and others like me from being fairly represented and the chance at seeing it thrive.

I strongly hope you reconsider.

- Dylan Powell

- Hello,

Instead of cutting up OKC to make uncompetitive GOP districts you should give democrats presentation in Congress or at least keep the districts competitive. This new map is a blatant partisan power grab.

- Chris Pfeifer
- As an Independent, I despise the partisan redistricting system of two parties playing gotcha. It does NOTHING for the people of Oklahoma who've been suppressed by more than 100 years of two parties - BOTH demonstrating corruption - playing footsie and king of the hill, more concerned about their own political power than the needs of the people of this state.

As the state continues to crumble further under the weight of more than a decade of a corrupt cabal of moneyed interests in the morally bankrupt GOP, look for it to fall even further if this current map is finalized.

No amount of the simplistic cherry picked data Stitt reads out like a robot about can hide the sad state of affairs in Oklahoma in a host of indices from education to health to quality of life.

The bright spots of the state - many in metro areas - are the result of cities and larger towns changing and making conscious decisions to become more democratic and humane after more than a century of oligarchic authoritarian rule in this state (BOTH parties are complicit).

You can't whitewash history or this state's numerous failings and bottom-of-the-barrel stats with redistricting. The only thing the GOP demonstrates with the current proposed map is how corrupt the GOP has become, how scared the party is of democracy, and how determined the GOP is to keep the people of Oklahoma enslaved in ignorance, poor health and low incomes.

Is there is a whit of decency anywhere in the GOP? Anyone for fairness? Someone with a whit of morality and intelligence who will stand up without parroting tired, old, devious rhetoric? Anyone with courage to stand up for the people and point out how undemocratic this process has been and how unfair it is to the lives of half a million Oklahomans who are being written off as collateral damage by the GOP's war on democracy? I live in hope but I'm not holding my breath. For more than 40 years, Oklahoma's GOP has never failed to descend to the next lower level of hell.

- Shauna Struby

- We live in South OKC. We pay taxes in South OKC. We frequent South OKC businesses. We vote in South OKC on city, county and congressional, issues. And we work all around Oklahoma City. Not Weatherford. Not Elk City. Not Guymon. Not the panhandle, but urban OKC. All of OKC is in the same shared Fifth District and it works well.

We live minutes from downtown OKC, mere minutes from the Plaza District, Bricktown, State Capitol, Scissortail Park, and the various MAPS 3 attractions we voted for and funded with our tax dollars. Yet if the majority in the legislature has their way with redistricting we in South OKC will no longer be in the same congressional district as the rest of our OKC neighbors. Oklahoma City Community College would no longer share the same district as its namesake city. Instead our "representation" would be hundreds of miles away.

Why are we being redistricted out of our own community and lopped into the largely rural Third Congressional District of which we have nothing in common with? Our densely populated South OKC neighborhood is at the junction of two high traffic volume interstates and a major US airport, and South OKC is the one area of the entire state of Oklahoma that has immediate access to three of the major cross-country interstates. I-40 which goes from California to the Carolinas, I-44 which crosses from Texas to Chicago, and I-35 which traverse from Mexico to Canada all crisscross by our community. All of this play a heavy part in the economy of Oklahoma City, from Norman to Edmond. It benefits the suburbs and downtown alike.

Again, this doesn't involve Western Oklahoma's panhandle, or rural communities like Cheyenne or Guymon. We have nothing in common and our concerns are not their concerns. Yet, according to GOP legislators we in South OKC should surrender our voice and no longer be a part of the Fifth District, as the rest of OKC is, but instead be part of the same rural Third District represented by that farmer-turned-congressman Frank Lucas whose hometown of Cheyenne is over 143 miles from South OKC, or little over two-hour drive. Meanwhile our CURRENT congressional representative lives mere minutes north of us.

Just as our South OKC community is growing we are having our voices heard for what seems like the first time. Our OKC Mayor David Holt is refreshingly making so many inroads and building bridges to a South OKC community that has often felt ignored and our representatives such as Reps Dollens, Cruz, (Forrest) Bennett, and Senator Brooks have done a great job doing the heavy lifting at the Capitol and making sure we are heard and they are delivering results. Now is not the time to push us out of our own community and into a faraway district we have nothing, zero, zilch, in common with.

As an article from The Oklahoman points out, when [Speaker] McCall was asked about South OKC being moved to the Third District and what they have in common here was his response: "What language do you think is the predominant language in Guymon Public Schools, Spanish or English? It's Spanish, not English." THAT's the rationale for us no longer having a shared voice with the rest of our OKC community? I'll let you form your own opinions on his words but can you imagine if he would have said the same thing about

Mvskoke speakers or our indigenous neighbors, that they should all be lumped together in the same district, how would you have interpreted that? I'll just say if there were ever a court case involving this map I'd make sure that quote was included.

At the same time they want to pick off South OKC from the same district as the rest of OKC they also want to add in far rural areas of Canadian and Logan County. Areas that are 40+ minutes away. I know, I drive to those areas for work and they are far from our city, both in distance and in shared concern. Again, what do they have in common with OKC that warrants being in the same Fifth District that we who live here do not? Remember how I described South OKC as having access to three major US interstates and home to the state's busiest airport? What's going to happen when we need federal funding for projects to improve that critical infrastructure and need to lobby our congressperson? Do you think rural voters out in the panhandle-- many of whom are hostile to any type of government funding-- are suddenly going to give a damn what happens here, or do you think it would matter more to the same Fifth District Representative who lives here and whom would benefit from that very infrastructure?

The new proposed congressional map is not only insulting, it's deliberate gerrymandering. There's no reason why Oklahoma City cannot be its own congressional district. There's no valid reason or justification to divide us up, only mere partisanship. Party over people apparently.

We implore, we beg, we plead for the rest of our state representatives and leaders to vote against and to speak out against this redistricting/gerrymandering map. Don't surrender our voice. Not now, not ever.

- Jason Madrid

- The current proposal for the new US House districts marginalizes Oklahoma County and Oklahoma City's representation. It also waters down rural voter representation. Instead of having three house members, each with a finger in OKC and rural coverage, one seat should be concentrated on Oklahoma County, and its unique needs, and have the other two districts focus on rural needs and challenges without the distraction of Oklahoma County. Oklahoma City and county are leading the growth in the state, both economically and with population. The citizens of the area should have a proper voice to continue to drive that growth.
- Misha Goli

- I believe that these are partisan maps which only serve one party and go to further disenfranchising voters of Oklahoma who disagree with the majority. A good compromise is when what is truly best is done and that would be to unbiasedly look at the population and follow the data to ensure proper representation. Current politicians should have absolutely nothing to do with being able to further select or be able to basically choose their voters. The representation for Independents here is atrocious & the leadership is lacking in every way. This isn't too late to be fixed with some common sense legislation. We have a want to be bully for a governor who thinks he can hire and fire as he chooses to further the conservative agenda but this is the point where some of us Oklahomans stand up & say enough is enough. This selective brand of government doesn't work for us, but we the people hold the power & we will use our power to make changes in our elected officials to hold you all accountable
 - Jared Hall

- Please prioritize having Oklahoma County as much as possible under one district. Urbanized Oklahoma County has unique needs for infrastructure, business, and jobs, and we need a district where the representative can advocate for those particular needs so that Oklahoma City can keep growing and prospering as an economic engine of Oklahoma.
 - Shane Hampton

- I object to the current proposed federal Congressional districts. I live in Oklahoma County, in the area bounded by SE 89th Street, I-240, Sunnyslane, and Sooner Road. The current federal Congressional District proposal puts me in District 4, a district that includes Lawton, Ardmore, Ada, Chickasha, and Duncan, as well as a large expanse of rural area. My community of interest and economic and political interests lie with the urban area of Oklahoma City, and Oklahoma County, not the smaller cities of Chickasha, Ardmore, Ada, and Lawton, and the wide range of farmland and grazing lands in the south central counties of Oklahoma. I fail to see why Shawnee and Yukon should be part of the OKC metropolitan area voting block, yet I, living within the city limits of OKC, not be part of the OKC voting block. The same is true of southwestern OKC. Please modify the Congressional Districts to group me with my community of interest and economic and political interests in OKC and Oklahoma County.
 - Diane Lewis

- The proposed Redistricting is an obvious ploy by Republican lawmakers to disenfranchise citizens of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City. If this is approved Oklahoma will lose any progress it has made & become the nation's laughingstock.
 - Benjamin Ridley

- I fully support the proposed maps by the redistricting committee and believe that it ensures that OKC will continue to be represented by three members of Congress as it has been for as long as I can remember. OKC deserves a strong voice in Congress and we keep that with this map!

- Lynette Lunsford

- I live in Oklahoma City, own property across the metro area and work in downtown OKC. I wanted to say that I fully support the map that the Joint Committee on Redistricting has proposed. Oklahoma City has been represented by three members of Congress since before I was born and this map continues that tradition and ensures that OKC gets the maximum representation and voice in D.C. that it deserves.

- Colton Roth

- I reside in South OKC and I'm sick of hearing the rhetoric about how far Guyton is from OKC. Frankly, we're all Oklahomans and it'll be very beneficial for OKC to have 3 members of Congress.

- Samuel Gomez

- I live in the Cimmaron City area just South of Crescent and West of Cedar Valley. I have a small business with interests in Logan, Oklahoma and Lincoln counties. My family, neighbors and everyone I've spoken to in our area firmly supports the congressional redistricting map submitted in HB 1002.

Most of our community works, shops and receives healthcare in Edmond & OKC. WE share an airport with Edmond and have shared economic development investments and infrastructure projects. We absolutely need to be in the SAME congressional district as Edmond and OKC to ensure our community and its residents are taken care of and have the voice in D.C. we deserve!

- Earl Valliquette

- I've lived in Prague all my life and I agree with being moved into the 5th district. I have to travel to Oklahoma City to buy equipment and raw materials for my farm. Me and my family have a close relationship with Oklahoma City and Oklahoma County. Please keep this in mind when voting.

- Hal Jenkins

- As an active member of the Latino Community and proud Southsider, I want to express my ardent support for HB 1002 and the proposed Congressional map that was previously released. OKC has ALWAYS been represented by three members of Congress and that's how it should always be.

As Southsiders we have always been treated as the forgotten step children of OKC, especially the Hispanic Community. This map ensures that Latinos have a stronger voice in D.C. It will also likely cause the current Congressman for CD-3 to move their office to Southside OKC, which we all see as a good thing!

- Dario Alvarado-Torres

- I've lived in Guthrie for over 20 years, I work in Edmond for an insurance agency. I have close ties to Oklahoma County and it only makes sense for my representative to cover this area. I hope you take this comment into your consideration. Thank you.

- Hugh Cooper

- I, other members of the Guthrie City Council and an overwhelming number of our constituents wholeheartedly support the proposed Congressional map introduced in HB 1002, which puts Guthrie in OK-5. Guthrie and Edmond already share a plethora of economic development and infrastructure projects and investments that have a federal nexus. Sharing the same member of Congress who also lives in Central Oklahoma is just common sense.

We ask that the Oklahoma Legislature please vote yes and pass HB 1002 as introduced!

Thanks you,

-Jeff Taylor

Ward 2, Guthrie City Council

- Guthrie and the surrounding community in Logan County need to be in Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District. Our citizens attended town halls, submitted public feedback and our city council submitted an official letter in support of this.

The people who are claiming that there is "no public support" or that the process wasn't transparent are just lazy individuals who refused to participate in the over year-long process. That's the same as complaining about not winning the lottery and never having bought a ticket.

- Kyle Booth

- I'm a resident of Guthrie and fully support our city falling within the boundaries of Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District. Dozens of our residents have submitted public feedback prior to map submissions and there is incredible public support for our community to be part of OK-5.

Please vote yes on HB 1002!

- J.D. Taylor

- I believe the new map for the Congressional districts. They look very similar to our maps when we had a 6th district. This sets us up for hopefully receiving that in 10 years time. Having Del City in the 4th makes sense due to Tinker being in the 4th. The community has heavy ties to the base and with the base not moving to the 5th. Del City should join Midwest City in the 4th.
- Joshua Shultz

Official Letters

CHAIRMAN
John A. Barrett
VICE CHAIRMAN
Linda Capps
SECRETARY-TREASURER
D. Wayne Trousdale



Jbarrett@potawatomi.org
Lcapps@potawatomi.org
Dtrousdale@potawatomi.org


CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

July 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the tribal government of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a sovereign tribal nation based in Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District. As constituents, we wanted to provide our input on potential changes to the current boundaries of the district. Our tribal jurisdiction falls in OK-5, and most of our 2,300 tribal employees, neighboring communities and partners also fall within the district. Being part of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area as a member of the district has been vital to our successes in the realms of economic and infrastructure development, public safety and education funding. Any adjustment of Pottawatomie County's current status within the Congressional district would be highly disruptive to our work in these areas, and we respectfully request that we remain in the confines of OK-5.

Thank you.


Linda Capps
Vice Chairman
CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
405-275-3121 office
405-650-1238 cell
lcapps@potawatomi.org



July 9, 2021

Oklahoma Select Committee on Redistricting
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Subject: Congressional Redistricting in Central Oklahoma

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comments on Congressional redistricting. This will summarize my remarks at yesterday's Town Hall meeting. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is an economic development organization with more than 3,500 members. It is one of the largest chambers in the county by virtually any metric, including membership, staff, and annual budget.

From 2010-2019, Oklahoma County gained approximately 80,000 residents. We believe this substantial population shift into central Oklahoma warrants increased representation in Congress for our region. We request the following be considered by the Redistricting Committee: 1) expanding the geographical area of CD-3 to include part of Oklahoma County/OKC; and 2) expanding CD-4 into more of Oklahoma County/OKC. Because CD-3 currently abuts Oklahoma County to the north/west and CD-4 currently includes part of Oklahoma County, neither of these options would be disruptive and would facilitate the increased Congressional representation warranted by central Oklahoma's population growth over the last decade.

Additionally, we believe Tinker AFB and Fort Sill should remain together in CD-4. Tinker AFB is the state's largest single site employer with 26,000 employees and is vitally important to national security and the state's economy. Our Chamber has dedicated full-time staff at Tinker AFB and leads efforts to protect and grow the base under a contract with Oklahoma County. Keeping it in the same congressional district as Fort Sill, one of the premier Army training posts, makes sense in terms of national defense policy, growing Oklahoma's economy and alignment of military interests in CD-4.

Finally, we believe Oklahoma County/OKC should continue to have one "primary" representative, with 70-75 percent of its residents in CD-5. This would be clearly preferable to, for example, dividing Oklahoma County/OKC into approximately equal thirds or fourths when redistricting. Should that occur, central Oklahoma could go from having two or three members of Congress to effectively having none.

Thank you again for your important work on federal redistricting and allowing our chamber to participate in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark VanLandingham". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark VanLandingham
Sr. VP, Government Relations & Policy



Mayor
100 N. Midwest Boulevard
Midwest City, OK 73110
Office: 405.739.1209
Fax: 405-739-1208
www.midwestcityok.org

Oklahoma House Redistricting Committee

Oklahoma State Capital

2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.

Oklahoma City, OK

Oklahoma House and Senate Redistricting Committee

As the elected representative of the City of Midwest City, it is of my opinion that, in the best interest of the City of Midwest City and the constituency of this community that we remain within the boundaries of the Fourth Congressional District and Tinker Air Force Base.

As you are aware, I am sure, that Midwest City was developed as a support community for Tinker Air Force Base and has enjoyed a long relationship with the base and its leadership.

As we go through this process, your consideration of this manner will be greatly appreciated.

Matthew D. Dukes II

Mayor, City of Midwest City



The Honorable Lonnie Paxton
Oklahoma State Senate
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

The Honorable Ryan Martinez
Oklahoma House of Representatives
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

October 15, 2021

Dear Chairmen Paxton and Martinez:

Re: OKLAHOMA CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING 2021

On behalf of Oklahoma Farm Bureau and our 83,985 member families, please accept our thanks for all your hard work during the ongoing state legislative and congressional redistricting process. The many town halls your committees conducted around the state provided valuable opportunities for our members to learn more about this process and offer their feedback on the variety of proposals.

We believe the level of interaction our members in all 77 counties have had with the current redistricting process is unmatched in Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 79-year history. Consistently across all regions of the state, our members have expressed a clear preference for all five congressional districts to include a portion of both rural and urban areas. This could increase understanding and cooperation on many important issues, particularly in agriculture, one of the state's leading industries.

As much as the policy and political challenges of recent history continue to be heated along partisan lines, they have also highlighted a significant and growing rural vs. urban divide. Our entire state deserves fair representation and we feel strongly that ensuring each congressional district has a mix of both rural and urban constituents is the best way to serve the needs of all Oklahomans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodd Moesel', written over a white background.

Rodd Moesel, President
Oklahoma Farm Bureau



October 25, 2021

Oklahoma Select Committee on Redistricting
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Subject: Congressional Redistricting in Oklahoma

Honorable Committee Members:

I am submitting this letter to officially convey what I and my colleagues believe is the desire of our 11,376 constituents in Guthrie, OK as it relates to the Congressional redistricting process.

While we have been very pleased with the representation that U.S. Representative Frank Lucas (OK-3) has provided our community, we feel that it would be much more appropriate and advantageous for the residents of City of Guthrie and all of Logan County to be represented in Oklahoma's 5th Congressional district.

The City of Guthrie, and Logan County share a distinct bond with the City of Edmond, Oklahoma City and Oklahoma County through commerce, various infrastructure partnerships and economic development initiatives. This intrinsic relationship has been vital to the success of our community and the well-being of our residents.

Enjoying the same Congressional representation as the neighboring communities we share public/private partnerships with will be beneficial to our economic growth and ensure Central Oklahoma has a strong unified voice in Congress. Therefore, we respectfully request that you highly consider placing Guthrie and all of Logan County in Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and allowing us to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeff Taylor
Ward 2 Council Member



**231 N. Bell | Shawnee, OK 74801
(405) 273-6092**

October 28, 2021

Oklahoma Select Committee on Redistricting
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

I write this letter on behalf of Shawnee Forward, which is the economic development and chamber organization for Shawnee, OK. We represent more than three hundred member businesses in the area. This letter highlights public comments at recent town halls, emails and our public map submission, which all support our strong belief that all of Pottawatomie County should remain in Oklahoma's 5th Congressional District.

We believe that Pottawatomie County is integrally connected with Oklahoma County, Shawnee specifically.

- Roughly 17,000 people commute between Shawnee and Oklahoma City for work.
- Shawnee Forward is a key contributor to the Oklahoma City Regional Partnership and has been since the groups inception.
- We are members of the Greater OKC Chamber and collaborate with the City of OKC on key economic and legislative issues.

Major infrastructure projects that we work on are largely contingent on congressional representation and assistance.

- We have an active project with the Army Corps of Engineers in Oklahoma County to address issues with the North Canadian River that directly impacts Pottawatomie County.
- We have multi-million dollar railroad projects and proposals representing economic development investments in both Oklahoma and Pottawatomie County
- We are the last phase of the Interstate I-40 road expansion which is the first step to an integrated rural transit system for multi-modal transportation

Pottawatomie County is the home to several Tinker AFB subcontractors, employees and DOD contractors, making the OK-5 Representatives (traditional) service on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) mission critical to our continued growth (as seen on the last census data).



**231 N. Bell | Shawnee, OK 74801
(405) 273-6092**

Being part of OK-5 has been vital to our successes in the areas of economic and infrastructure development. Altering Shawnee or Pottawatomie County's current status within the 5th Congressional District would be counterproductive to the great work and collaboration that is being done in these areas. On behalf of our continued collaborative efforts, we respectfully request that Pottawatomie remain within the boundaries of the 5th Congressional District. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Rachael Melot, CEO
Shawnee Forward
405.410.3554

Letters received after 11/1 press conference



From the Desk of Dario Antonio Alvarado-Torres

October 29, 2021

Oklahoma Select Committee on Redistricting
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter as a proud Southsider and member of Oklahoma's Latino Community. Much of Oklahoma's Hispanic community is split between Oklahoma's 3rd and 5th Congressional Districts. While the majority of the Hispanic population is in the 3rd District, there is a significantly high concentration of Latinos in the 5th District, primarily located here in South OKC.

Past gerrymandering has traditionally limited minority power when lawmakers try to spread out a minority community between districts, so they make up a small portion of the electorate and have little political power in each district. We do not want this to happen to our community!

Our community is proud, and we have a strong voice. However, we feel that we can have a stronger more unified and impactful voice if most Oklahoma Latinos are represented by the same member of Congress. That will give us power in numbers and therefore we can be better positioned to impact change and have a greater ability to advocate for our community and values.

I and other members of my community adamantly believe that OKC's Hispanic community needs to not only be kept intact, but also combined with the communities of Oklahoma's 3rd Congressional District so that we can have a stronger, louder and more unified voice in Congress.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Best,



Dario Antonio Alvarado-Torres
1617 SW 40th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73119
Dario.antonio88@gmail.com

October 27, 2021

Dear Redistricting Committee Members,

I am submitting this letter to reinforce the feedback that I previously provided via email to officially submit public input for Oklahoma's Congressional redistricting process.

I am currently a resident of the Cedar Valley neighborhood in Guthrie, OK and live in U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas' district. However, the overwhelming majority of my neighbors and I commute to downtown Oklahoma City every day for work. Most of the entire community in fact commutes to either Edmond or Oklahoma City for work and many of the companies that provide jobs in Guthrie and Logan County are headquartered in downtown Oklahoma City.

My neighbors have been happy with being represented in the 3rd congressional district (CD-3). However, we feel that it would be far more appropriate to be represented in the 5th Congressional district. The 5th district is where we commute every day for so many essential and recreational activities that contribute to the happiness and wellbeing of our families. Guthrie has far much more in common with Edmond and Oklahoma City than it does with rural areas of the 3rd district like Guymon or Hobart.

It makes more sense for our community to be represented by a member of Congress who is our neighbor here in Central Oklahoma, than by someone from Western Oklahoma who represents the panhandle. While I understand that not all of OKC can be represented in the 5th Congressional district due to a variety of factors, I firmly believe that downtown OKC should remain in the 5th district as it is the economic hub of the 5th district now and removing the downtown area from the rest of the district would accelerate the rural vs. urban divide that we already seem to have on a state legislative level.

My contact information is below. Please feel free to call/email me should you require any additional information. Thank you for your consideration!

Best,
-Jeff

Jeffrey E. Coleman
1055 Pr Ave, Guthrie, OK 73044
405-620-3366 cell phone