

Testimony of Commissioner Kevin Boozel (Northwest Regional Hearing)

There is a concern regarding the redistricting of PA congressional districts to include splitting of counties, but even more so when we are splitting precincts. This behavior causes stress on the voters, elections staff and extremely inefficient. It is critical that we remove the barriers to vote that would include confusion. I am aware of several split precincts in Butler County and we are also the only county to have 3 Congressional Districts. Butler County has experienced a growth spurt the last 10 years with an increase of 5.4% that will require additional infrastructure, housing, and supports. Our area is experiencing growth and economic success due to the hard diligent work being done that all levels of government have benefitted from and we will absolutely need to have fair representation of our area.

To be honest, working with the three separate districts is both positive and negative. As a County Commissioner, we are able to have three independent voices listening to the concerns of our residents, provide specifics to their areas covered that concern their residents, and work on funding in three different districts simultaneously. Collectively, they are each aware of our county projects and we have been pretty aggressive as one of the fastest growing counties in PA. We are experiencing growth at a rate of 5.4% while nearly every county west of Harrisburg are experiencing losses. It our county intent to support all the counties surrounding ours as best we can and that requires a Federal, State and Local Municipality to be working closely. That is the space we are serving as county commissioners.

The challenge is keeping everyone informed, ensuring residents know their districts, are informed of their voting area/candidates, etc...

While population counts per district are important, we want to ensure that county and precinct boundaries are not unnecessarily impacted to group by political affiliation. This is about fair, equal and transparent elections where the majority should win the majority of representatives. As these are not statewide votes and votes that represent a geographical population, it would be expected that both parties should hold the ability to vote there representative into office.

Total Registered Voters (D/R/NA/Other)

Dem: 4,028,275 / 46.24% Rep: 3,411,985 / 39.17% Not Affiliated: 888,113 / 10.20%

Other: 382,464 / 4.39%

Total PA Registered Voters: 8,710,837