

Letter from Kathryn Canges to the Reapportionment Commission.

Honorable Commissioners:

I am a Colorado native. The first house I can remember living in was in Lakewood. I attended elementary schools in and out of Arvada. When I reached high school, I went to an alternative school in Evergreen for two years, before it moved to Lakewood. That school still attracts students from all across the county to a central learning environment. When I left home, my first apartment was in Wheat Ridge, just far enough away to feel independent, but still close enough to Arvada to do my laundry at my Dad's house. When I was ready to buy my own home, I came back to Arvada, and I now live in Lake Arbor where I am surrounded on all four sides by Westminster.

Having lived in Arvada for most of my life, I am very proud of my city. Since I was a kid I have ventured into Old town for the Harvest festival. Now I find myself in Old town looking for the best food and entertainment. As much as I love Arvada, it is not the whole of my life. I have a weekly hobby group that meets in Wheat Ridge and many of them come from Arvada and Lakewood. My cats would disown me if I didn't venture into Wheat Ridge for their favorite natural cat food every month.

When I think about my community, it has less to do with geography than with shared experiences. As you draw these lines that will define my representation for the next decade. Please remember what's most important. Lines on a map do not define communities. We need representatives who will make sure to care for our common goals: good schools, safe roads, excellent fire and police protection, that is what is most important to my community.

Thank you very much

Kathryn Wallace

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