

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Redistricting.pdf

Date: 2021-02-12
First Name: Aliza
Last Name: Geretz
Title: CHAIR, SD17
Organization: Harris County Democratic Party
Address: [REDACTED]
City: HOUSTON
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Three concrete recommendations:

First, redraw SD17 entirely within Harris County. Second, reduce the number of Senate Districts in Harris County from 8 to 5, so that the new Senate Districts are all within the County (county-line rule). Finally, nest House Districts within Senate District (5 House districts per Senate District) so that similar neighborhoods stay together.

Please schedule another round of hearings for public input after the Census data become available and maps are drafted.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

TO: Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
CC: House Redistricting Committee

FROM: Aliza Geretz, SD17 Chair, Harris County Democratic Party

Date: February 12, 2021

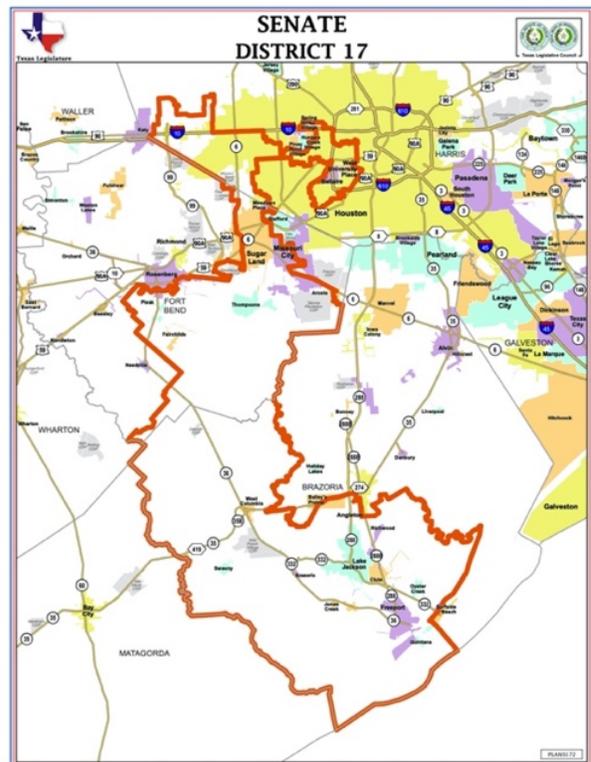
Hi, I am writing to you in my capacity as a Senate District Chair for Harris County Democratic Party, specifically SD17.

While I identify with one party, I believe this process should be non-partisan, and that creating “fair maps” without discriminatory, racial, and partisan bias is a non-partisan issue. I make the following proposal in that context.

First, redraw SD17 entirely within Harris County. Second, reduce the number of Senate Districts in Harris County from 8 to 5, so that the new Senate Districts are all within the County (county-line rule). Finally, nest House Districts within Senate District (5 House districts per Senate District) so that similar neighborhoods stay together.

1. Draw SD17 to be compact, and within Harris County.

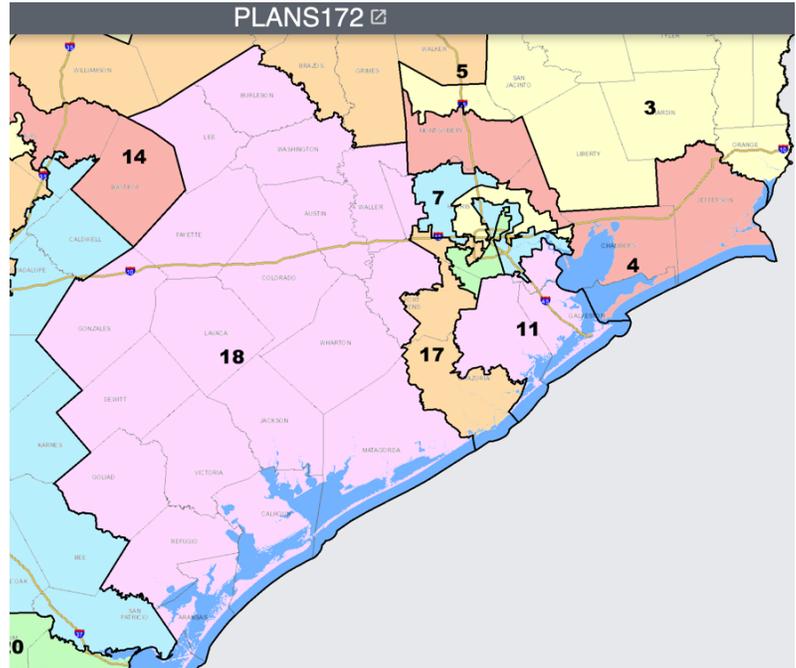
In the case of SD17, the District is split into Harris (65%), Fort Bend (23%), and Brazoria (12%) counties. People who live “inside the loop” (urban Houston) share a State Senator with residents in the suburbs, rural areas, and Freeport on the Gulf Coast!



2. Respect Harris County boundaries in drawing State Senate Districts.

As you know, Harris County is split across 8 Senate Districts, with only 3 of districts (SD6, SD7 and SD15) entirely within Harris County.

SD	% of County	Population ¹	Counties in SD
4	3%	135,603	5
6	20%	812,881	1
7	20%	809,277	1
11	7%	286,165	3
13	17%	696,185	2
15	19%	793,108	1
17	13%	521,407	3
18	1%	37,833	21



Targeting the ideal district population of 811,147, Harris County (population 4,092,459) can be divided into 5 Senate Districts (SD6, SD7, SD13, SD15, and SD17).

This follows the idea outlined in the House District “county line rule” -- a county that has sufficient population for two or more whole districts must be divided into that number of districts, with no district extending into another county.

¹ Data from 2010 Census, District Population Analysis with County Subtotals, data.capitol.texas.gov/topic/redistricting

