

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Attachments:** R\_ Garcia Franco\_Redistricting Submission\_12FEB2021.pdf

Date: 2021-02-12  
First Name: Rebecca  
Last Name: Garcia-Franco  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Houston  
State: Texas  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:  
12 February 2021  
Written Submission for the 2021 Redistricting Hearings

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is Rebecca García-Franco. I'm representing myself.

I am a native Houstonian, and I consider Clear Lake City my home.

Texas has grown a lot in the last ten years, and I understand that we may get a new congressional seat.

Redistricting has always been a challenging task. But this year, it is even more difficult. On one hand this is a sweet opportunity for our one-sided gerrymanders, for, once again, maps will be redrawn to favor older white voters, who are a shrinking minority of Americans. We all know that electoral manipulation goes against the fundamental principles of democracy. So while a single-party will deepen its dominance, the pandemic and economic crises in Texas is a problem you are ill equipped to change—unless you disrupt the status quo. This extraordinary moment demands eliminating racial and partisan maps.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, along with State Senator Royce West from Dallas and State Senator Borris Miles from Houston, made a virtual appearance on the State of Black Texans virtual event series. He spoke of having listened to and worked well our black and brown communities. He gave the impression that both he and his party want to reach across the aisle to work together with the Democrats so that all Texans are benefited. Recovery, according to the Lieutenant Governor, is a balancing act between opening businesses and the health and safety of workers and customers. "We are one Texas," he claimed. He seemed to want to offer something like radical hospitality towards the Democrats.

If race-based maps protect him from being held accountable, then his optimistic talk and continued grip on power are meaningless to help Texas contain a virus that does not discriminate based on partisanship.

I am writing to return the committee's sights to the obvious. Texas cannot continue being a society cleaved between a dominant party as the owner class, while the rest of the under-represented population as the laboring class. Unfair maps is un-American and economically unsustainable, particularly now in this unrelenting pandemic and its severe outcomes.

I demand legislators comply with the Voting Rights Act and not discriminate against communities of color. I want redistricting in Texas to be fair and the process transparent. I ask that you do not manipulate maps in support of one party or one politician.

In addition, after the Census results are released, I expect you to find a way to come back to us with maps. I ask that the committee draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent all Texans.

I am asking for radical change from the past, and I expect you to do the right thing.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members.

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