

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-10
First Name: Caitlin
Last Name: Mitrowski
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: Tx
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I live in the Wells Branch area in Austin. Our current Congressional District, 17, is made up of a basically square area of counties stretching from Waco to Bryan, with a long "finger" stretching 100 miles to grab off a piece of the Austin Metro.

As a neighbor put it,

“To engineer a fair split of legislative districts, simple geometry can be a guide. The ratio of circumference to land area should be minimized. (A circle has the lowest ratio, while a long skinny "salamander" with legs and tail reaching out, would have among the highest ratio.) This is how the public knows gerrymandering when it sees it.

Texas Legislative Districts must fairly represent the population of Texas, offering equal weight to every vote. They must not be distorted to advantage one political party over another. Distortion (gerrymandering) creates the following problems:

Gerrymandering discourages election of moderate candidates, and the compromise that could follow, by guaranteeing that the winner of a primary for the dominant party will automatically win the general election. In a gerrymandered district candidates biggest fear is being "primaried" by someone more extreme. In a fairer district final selection is made in a general election where all voters assess the candidates.

Gerrymandering discourages participation by frustrating prospective voters.

An official elected in a gerrymandered district has a harder time physically covering the district, as travel distances become greater, and more media markets must be covered.

As a legislator representing all the members in your district, not just those of your party, I ask you: please create fairer districts for all Texas voters.”

There is no valid reason to gerrymander. Please right this wrong.

