From:	applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent:	Thursday, March 4, 2021 6:45 AM
To:	Senate Redistricting
Subject:	INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-04
First Name: James
Last Name: Fox
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: ██████████████
City: Fairfax
State: VA
Zipcode: ████
Phone: ██████████

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Dear Members of the Texas Special Committee on Redistricting, Thank you for your work toward ending gerrymandering. I thought you might be interested in a
new method that has been developed for constructing fair legislative district maps.   This
procedure is deliberately transparent. Although this approach is systematic and research- based, it can be, and was, implemented by hand. It can be used to build both Congressional and State Legislative district maps. The approach is attracting interest. It has garnered, to date, almost 500 views on the Preprints Page of the American Political Science Association.
https://preprints.apsanet.org/engage/apsa/article-details/60132387f0e57e892a97e039
I urge the Committee to download and review this work.

I am aware of the computer-aided redistricting work being conducted by many extremely talented mathematicians at such institutions as Tufts and Princeton. I believe that work is amazingly elegant and sophisticated. At the same time, I understand that many citizens, advocates and jurists, alike (myself included), simply lack the skills and training to fully understand, and hence fully embrace, such work. (Witness, for example, Chief Justice Robert's comments regarding the related Efficiency Gap measure.)
The new approach is intended to be accessible to all.   A Guide has been prepared which
provides a quick overview of the procedure. The Guide provides ready access to the essence of the approach for citizens, advocates, and commissioners as well as legislators and judges.
A paper, "Fair and Square Redistricting," explains, justifies and applies this approach.
Texas was included in this study
Abstract
"Fair and Square Redistricting" presents a new procedure for constructing fair legislative district maps. This straightforward, transparent, research-based approach is intended to be helpful to those interested in promoting fair legislative district maps. The work draws upon a recent award-winning study of preferences of redistricting experts and lay citizens to construct foundational legislative district maps of compact districts. The mapping procedure then builds on that foundation, employing the well-established concept of partisan symmetry to construct maps that are fair to both major political parties. The article opens by discussing the new view of compact districts and describes the procedure for

constructing the maps. Foundational maps are drawn for 12 states that have recently been under court scrutiny. Partisan symmetry is then applied to construct legislative district maps that are fair and square.

The paper also examines, for example, the state legislative map in Wisconsin. Wisconsin, as a whole, contains about the same number of Democrat and Republican voters. However, both state chambers contain about twice as many legislators from one party as the other. The "Fair and Square" procedure is applied to construct a fair map for Wisconsin where the partisan distribution of State Assembly districts matches the partisan distribution of the state as a whole.

Jim Fox

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