

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 3:23 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-14  
First Name: Marilyn  
Last Name: Guida  
Title: n/a  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: El Paso  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Senators,

We only get one chance every ten years to participate in how maps of our representative's district are drawn. That's why I'm here to testify.

My name is Marilyn Guida. I have lived in El Paso TX since 2008.

I would like to start by saying that the most important thing for this Committee to do is to respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act.

None of my testimony today should be used by the legislature to justify diminishing the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice or artificially distorting maps for racial or partisan political purposes.

It is of utmost importance to keep communities whole and grouped with nearby communities with similar, shared interests.

I'd like to point out that when redistricting bills are presented to the public, all the maps in the bill should be made public so that citizens and the media can see the maps and can thus decide whether to support or oppose the bill during hearings.

I suggest you examine maps of El Paso Texas House Districts, El Paso City Council Districts, El Paso County Public School Districts, El Paso County Commissioner Districts, El Paso Income Distribution and Education levels.

One suggestion for drawing districts that are fair is to look at various commonalities among the people which might include ethnicity, age, income level, geographic and topographic characteristics of the landscape, party registration, educational level, future development plans and other factors. To accomplish this means taking a deep dive into the most recent and most reliable sources of information. It means getting input from experts and from citizens.

Sometimes just looking at a map and knowing the topography, the freeway alignments, watersheds and/or the waterways will make it clear where to investigate boundaries that might not make sense when you simply look at them on a flat map. Other important factors are future growth, new development plans, redevelopment plans, new and expanded highways, and access to basic services like water, sewer, and utilities.

Two districts in El Paso that I think you should carefully examine are State House districts

77 and 78 which straddles both sides of the Franklin Mountains, the NE and NW sides. I have lived in NE El Paso for the past twelve years. Just in the past month I moved to Central El Paso.

El Pasoans know that the Northeast is very different from the Northwest side of the Franklins. The NE is more ethnically diverse, most likely has lower average income than the NW, has more people of retirement age, more retired and active military individuals and families because of the location of Fort Bliss nearby, and more people living in apartments than the NW.

With the recent passage of the El Paso Municipal Management District in far NE (north of Transmountain Rd to the TX/New Mexico state line), the NE will experience an increase in population size over the next ten plus years. Meanwhile, more growth is also expected on the Northwest side of the Franklins, especially north of Transmountain Rd. El Paso Water is planning to sell close to 7,000 acres on both sides of the Franklin Mountains from north of Transmountain Road to the state line with New Mexico. This will bring in more people to Districts 77 and 78. These two districts need to be carefully examined for appropriate boundary changes.

Good luck with your work and thank you for your efforts to create fair and equitable districts for our representatives.

Maps: [https://www.bing.com/images/search?](https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+el+paso+texas+state+representative+districts&id=251B89A964BD1CB8DE1AA13C420C01DA89C55DFD&FORM=IQFRBA)

[q=map+of+el+paso+texas+state+representative+districts&id=251B89A964BD1CB8DE1AA13C420C01DA89C55DFD&FORM=IQFRBA](https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+el+paso+texas+state+representative+districts&id=251B89A964BD1CB8DE1AA13C420C01DA89C55DFD&FORM=IQFRBA)

