

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 10:02:16 PM

Date: 2021-09-26
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Every 10 years, after the census, Texas state legislators gather to redraw our congressional and state legislative district boundaries. The legislators are tasked with ensuring that these districts are drawn fairly and with transparency, so that the new districts have nearly equal populations and do not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity.

Unfortunately, in every redistricting cycle in the last half-century, Texas has been found to have intentionally discriminated against people of color or violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. A federal court found intentional discrimination in the last round of redistricting in 2011 and highlighted both the secret process and the exclusion of minority and public input during that process.

This typically closed-door process with backroom deals between politicians undermines democracy. Instead of voters picking politicians, you end up with politicians picking their voters. The result: Texas is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country.

When politicians pick their voters, they have no incentive to be responsive to the actual wishes of the people, and we end up with policies that a majority of the people oppose.

Western Harris/Ft. Bend County sliced and diced apart to prevent new, high growth communities of color from having a voice in SD 17, which was growing increasingly competitive.

1. Western Harris/Ft. Bend County sliced and diced apart to prevent new, high growth communities of color from having a voice in SD 17, which was growing increasingly competitive.

B. This map cracks apart Ft. Bend communities of color with thin lines running down the middle.

A. Proposed Senate District Map

C. In particular, it splits apart new Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Communities of interest.

D. District 17 is also the home district of Committee Chair Huffman, who cut across western Houston to include her house in a rural district which has little in common with the urban area where she lives in order to make her own re-election safer.

2. The Senate Map splits Tarrant County into five districts. Four of the districts extend

way off into rural counties, creating majority white districts, which completely dilutes the voting power of a county which boasts a 17.9% African American population and a 29.5% Hispanic or Latino population.

A. Each of the 5 splits is made to break apart the communities of color in Tarrant County (bluer shading is higher % Non-White)

Tarrant County Map

B. In particular, splits in half the Fort Worth Latinx community (purple shading), which is currently wholly contained in Senate District 10

3. In the Northern Dallas/ Fort Worth area, an area of extremely high growth driven 95%+ by communities of color, the map splits these communities into Five different Districts, four of which extend out to rural, predominantly white counties.

A. Each of the 5 splits is made to break apart the communities of color in Tarrant County (bluer shading is higher % Non-White)

A. New, high growth AAPI Communities are split apart

