

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2021 2:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-01-30  
First Name: Carol  
Last Name: Spencer  
Title: N/A  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

### Message:

Comments about redistricting that urge you to do so in a way that specific ethnic populations can elect representatives of their ethnicity fly in the face of the very foundation of the United States of America. Districts should not be determined by ethnicity as so many speakers today (January 28) have requested. Doing so leads to tribalism, to pitting one ethnicity against another in legislatures. Ultimately, doing so will lead to a breakdown of that which makes us unique and the greatest nation on earth: the melting pot. People come to America to meld together as Americans, not geographically siloed cultures. Government silos are extremely damaging to the efficacy of our government and to the blending of cultures in our Republic.

Redistricting must create districts that balance geography and include peoples of all ethnicities, of all walks of life, all ages. The key is redistricting so that urban areas cannot outvote rural areas. In some districts, rural votes do not matter because urban voters can easily outvote rural voters on every issue, for every candidate. Take our TX Senate District 14, for example. Bastrop voters don't have a prayer of electing a representative because we're outnumbered by Austinites. The needs of our populations (not ethnicities) are very different (rural versus urban) and the importance of each to our state's future is critical.

The geographic layout of districts is less important today than 100 years ago. Today, people can connect with their representatives online without the need to travel. If a legislative district is long and narrow, that has little effect on whether a constituent can communicate with that district's representative. I live in the northernmost section of CD-27 and have no problem at all communicating with my representative.

To claim that the current mapping process causes polarization and court cases, while asking for "communities of interest" to be put together in one district, is disingenuous. "Communities of interest" by their very nature will have different interests. They may like the redistricting maps, but such a map will surely foster polarization in the legislature as "community" interests are pitted against one another.

"We cannot afford to have our voices diluted" said one witness today (January 28) regarding Latinos being specifically represented. Your voice is as an AMERICAN. We are AMERICANS first and foremost. Our districts should be drawn to

represent AMERICANS equally. We cannot afford to have districts that represent certain ethnicities. That will be the downfall of our Republic.

Thank you for wading through the volume of comments on this topic, and for your work to be sure that the citizens of the Great State of Texas are well represented here and in Washington over the next ten years.

