

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-12
First Name: Courtney
Last Name: Perry
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Dear Redistricting Committee,

Thank you for your service. My name is Courtney Perry and I am testifying on the redistricting process. I will 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 public comment 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 and partisan purposes. The Redistricting Committee needs to ensure that any bill it passes protects the voting power of historically disenfranchised communities.

I have three asks regarding Redistricting:

1 In order for our democracy to function, the public needs to have a voice in the process. In order to have a voice, we need to have all the facts.

2 Transparency: let us see the maps before the bill is filed. I am asking that this Committee commit to holding a public hearing with public testimony on any maps before said maps are passed. The Committee must give the public sufficient notice and capability to review the maps before this hearing.

3 Tell us how/why these lines were drawn. Furthermore, I am asking that legislators who draw the maps not hide any communications they have regarding drawing the maps.

4 Allow public comment/testimony again AFTER the census data is finalized (late) in September.

5 Let cost-efficiency and healthy citizenry drive your decisions.

Gerrymandering COSTS a lot!

\$ In Travis County, where I live, there are 818 different voting ballots (because of how chopped up where are...to dilute our voice...to disenfranchise communities of color). This costs the taxpayers.

...10 ballots go to NO voters

...280 go to LESS than 100 voters

...149 go to LESS than 10 voters

...35 ballots unique to ONE voter. ONE.

\$ Not to mention the costs of political strife due to political frustration (sometimes leading to political violence) AND the cost of economic instability due to huge swings in policy due to party politics.

③ I am asking for Fair Maps. One person, one voice, one vote.

Representative democracy should reflect likeminded communities in everything from race to religion to education to income.

When Austin is challenged by gentrification and affordability, we cannot rely on a politician from Fort Worth to take action or even understand what the problem is. From net neutrality to funding for higher education to interstate traffic to the availability of Medicaid, we deserve, as American citizens and taxpayers, a responsive federal government to address the needs of our community. Think of the outrage when it came to light that ERCOT's board members weren't even Texas residents. Now imagine that they're-not-even-FROM-here outrage each and every day as East Austin is at the mercy of a car salesman from Parker County, 220 miles away! It's inexcusable and totally inefficient.

I am a veteran, 20-year, former public school teacher. That's 20 years of being underpaid (and undervalued). Now that I know how much of the taxpayers money is wasted on undemocratic, non-representative practices like gerrymandering, I am even more incensed that I was underpaid.

Voice. Efficiency. Fairness.

Thank you.

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