

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:45 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-09  
First Name: Craig  
Last Name: Mindell  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

### Message:

I live in the Wells Branch area between Austin and Round Rock. Our current Congressional District, 17, is made up of a basically square area of counties stretching from Waco to Bryan, with a long "finger" stretching 100 miles to grab off a piece of the Austin Metro.

Living in that piece has left me feeling unrepresented in the US House, without a fair chance of being heard.

To engineer a fair split of legislative districts, simple geometry can be a guide. The ratio of circumference to land area should be minimized. (A circle has the lowest ratio, while a long skinny "salamander" with legs and tail reaching out, would have among the highest ratio.) This is how the public knows gerrymandering when it sees it.

Texas Legislative Districts must fairly represent the population of Texas, offering equal weight to every vote. They must not be distorted to advantage one political party over another. Distortion (gerrymandering) creates the following problems:

Gerrymandering discourages election of moderate candidates, and the compromise that could follow, by guaranteeing that the winner of a primary for the dominant party will automatically win the general election. In a gerrymandered district candidates biggest fear is being "primaried" by someone more extreme. In a fairer district final selection is made in a general election where all voters assess the candidates.

Gerrymandering for political party automatically gerrymanders for race, given the correlation between race and party.

Gerrymandering discourages participation by frustrating prospective voters.

An official elected in a gerrymandered district has a harder time physically covering the district, as travel distances become greater, and more media markets must be covered.

As a legislator representing all the members in your district, not just those of your party, I ask you: please create fairer districts for all Texas voters.

