

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:52:25 PM

Date: 2021-09-30
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:
Legislators,

As a student organizer in Fort Bend County, I consistently hear the bold voices of my peers who are marching in pursuit of justice. One thing I can say is that our representatives do not adequately reflect our values.

Fort Bend County, which encompasses the diverse cities of Sugar Land and Katy, has rapidly grown over the past decade, mostly driven through the population increase of ethnic minorities.

Because of the nature of redistricting, we remain represented by essentially a single congressional district. The people of our county also continue to be inadequately represented in the Board of Education, the Texas Senate, and depending on where you live inside the labyrinth of district lines, the Texas House cherry-picks its Fort Bend voters as well.

If the new districts drawn and passed by the 87th legislature do not reflect the increase in population and the changing demographics of our community, we can call it out for what it is - gerrymandering.

Furthermore, if the new districts do not reflect the diverse culture of our community, we can call it out for what it is - gerrymandering.

We know of the many many many districts in Texas that have consistently been gerrymandered to support one political party over the other. Whether it be cracking and packing, or ignoring community lines, the districts we have do not reflect our community. There should be no reason that the ethnic and cultural minorities of Congressional District 22 can be represented in the way that we are. The same can be said of many state districts in Fort Bend County.

As our voices continue to be suppressed and our concerns continue to be left unheard, the COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped ravaging our nation, and the only action that has been taken by the legislature and the governor were measures that made it worse. The Texas power grid continues to be a problem yet to be solved by the legislature. More

than 200 people died during Winter Storm Uri and others were expected to pay thousands in electricity bills.

The Texas Lege is attacking the dignity of racial minorities, censoring education, and stripping away virtually all reproductive rights. Our communities are suffering, and it is because of the shortcomings of the 87th Texas Legislature.

Politics has historically held a poor reputation, and I have no reason to disagree after looking at the past several years, especially in Texas. It is clear that our politicians do not represent us any more than they represent themselves.

I love what our state can be, but I am disappointed in what our state is. If we want to create a Texas where all people are valued, uplifted, and given justice, we must protect democracy and fight back against partisan gerrymandering. Let us pursue a redistricting process that is open, transparent, and fair to all Texans.

- Cameron Samuels, Fort Bend County

