

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:16:56 AM
Attachments: [letter to Senate.docx](#)

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 1268
Austin, Texas 78711

September 29, 2021

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice-Chair Hinojosa and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express our deep dismay at the wholly inadequate public process surrounding proposed redistricting maps. The Congressional map proposal was disclosed Monday, September 27th with a notice issued for a single public hearing scheduled to be held starting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 30 in the Senate Chamber in Austin. The notice does not indicate that any other public hearings will be scheduled to permit additional public input on the Congressional maps or that remote public testimony via videoconferencing will be available.

After hearing from hundreds of Texans regarding the need for a fair and transparent redistricting process, calling for more time to review maps, more hearings to permit on-the-record public testimony, and more avenues for virtual participation; the Committee has apparently decided to ignore those pleas for adequate and meaningful public input and instead provide only meager notice and opportunity for hearing.

This is unacceptable and flies in the face of the fundamental right of the citizens of Texas to choose their representatives in Congress. It builds on last minute, late night amendments to the Senate maps, inadequately noticed hearings, and no opportunity for comment on amendments.

It also ignores the admonishment given by courts in litigation necessitated because of improper notice and hearing in previous redistricting cycles, that Texas follow a "fair and open" redistricting process.¹

In our letter of September 3, 2021 to both legislative redistricting committees, signed by 38 different community advocacy, voting rights and racial justice organizations, we set forth what we saw as a minimum requirement for a "fair and open" process:

Sincerely Charlotte Bell

████████████████████ Austin, TX ██████████