

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:03:29 AM

Date: 2021-09-30
First Name: Gayle
Last Name: Kanies
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide my input to maps drawn by the Senate Redistricting Committee.

First, I would like to thank the Chairman and the Committee Members for providing an opportunity for voters to provide input to this process so fundamental to sustaining our freedom and democracy. I am representing myself and my name is Gayle Kanies.

Although, I have lived in Texas for 17 years, this is the first time I have closely followed the redistricting process. It has been a privilege to be able to provide input. Unfortunately, it is deeply troubling that citizen input has been ignored and the districts have been so severely gerrymandered, ultimately rendering black, brown and urban communities greatly diluted or muted. One thing I have observed is that Texans usually look out for one another except for politicians. It is sad and not in the character of Texans to blatantly and intentionally disenfranchise each other. Freedom means the freedom for every Texan to be heard not just those of a certain political leaning.

Key observations:

1. The new redistricting results in increased majority white districts when the census results showed that 95% of the population growth was in black, brown Texans centered in urban and suburban communities.
2. The number of voters in each district is not equalized for example the 22nd Congressional district has an excess of 205,000 people resulting in dilution of their vote and the 34th Congressional district is under populated by 55,000 people making their vote count more than other districts.
3. The votes from the cities and suburbs of our major cities are drastically diluted. For my community Williamson County grew by 44% in the last decade and 77% of that growth came from diverse communities (including 26% from the Latino community, and 21% from the Asian community), but TX-10, TX-17 and TX-31 split these communities, pairing them with far-off, rural, white communities.
4. The maps are severely packed and cracked as to create no competitive districts. One of the guidelines for redistricting is that the Districts should be compact. The proposed Districts are anything but compact. This type of redistricting ensures not only that one party will remain in power but that the voices of each citizen will not be heard. There are many issues where the opinions of the majority of Texans are not respected such as expanding Medicare and letting every Texan carry a gun without a license. Over 60% of Texans do not agree with the way our government voted on these issues. The legislators get away with voting contrary to their constituent's views due to flaws in the districting maps. Texans deserve to be heard.

This proposed map ignores public input and takes away representation from Texans of color and urban and suburban communities. Freedom should mean the freedom for every Texan to be heard not just those of a certain political leaning.

I urge you to redraw the maps.

Thank-you!

