

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, September 6, 2021 2:27:05 PM

Date: 2021-09-06
First Name: Stuart
Last Name: Yarus
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Bedford
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you Chairman and Committee Members.

I am Stuart Yarus. I represent myself.

I live in Bedford. Hurst-Euleless-Bedford is my community of interest.

I am a member of the Bedford Community Emergency Response Team and the Bedford Amateur Radio Club. We assist first responders in disasters and perform community service. The three cities have a strong tradition of cooperating with each other to make the community better for all.

I am concerned about how divided we are as a country. Gerrymandering and map manipulation only make the problem worse. People in my district and across the state want solutions not more division.

The new maps drawn for Texas House, Senate and Congressional Districts need to reflect the true make up of our diverse population.

I implore you:

Do not artificially distort maps for racial or partisan purposes.

Do not manipulate maps in support of one party or one politician.

Do not discriminate against people of color.

Do not diminish the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice.

Do not crack and pack the voters to gerrymander districts that favor your reelection.

Respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act.

Make redistricting in Texas fair and make the process transparent.

Come back at us with maps and give the public a chance to review them and provide testimony.

Give us at least 2 weeks public notice of hearings, and make it easy to register to testify safely online.

I care about the freedom to vote, fixing the power grid, gun violence, and Medicaid expansion, as do most Texans. We haven't forgotten freezing in our own homes. But because of gerrymandering, the legislature passed laws that make our lives harder, especially for people of color.

I am a volunteer with the Religious Action Center of Texas and a member of Congregation Beth Israel. Freedom to vote – and have one's vote counted – is a core value of my faith, as is alleviating the systemic injustices which harm marginalized communities, especially people of color.

Now is the time to break with this state's history of racial and partisan gerrymandering, and draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent ALL Texans.

Thank you.

