

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 11:36:27 AM

Date: 2021-10-04
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

The proposed 2020 Texas congressional maps present a clear attempt to give Republican voters the advantage over Democratic voters. The maps make districts across the state even safer for Republican representatives than they have been since 2012. Further, the maps fail to fairly represent the huge increase in the number of people of color who now reside in our state, significantly diminishing their voting power. This causes people like me, a private citizen of our great state, to resent and mistrust you, our elected leaders, thus exacerbating the political divisions that have so weakened our state and our world. Many districts have been gerrymandered to give Republicans the overwhelming advantage, as seen in my district 21, where many Democratic voters have been packed into the neighboring, more liberal district 35 and leaving 21 more likely to remain with Chip Roy, a representative who certainly does not represent my point of view. The new maps also reveal cracking and packing of voters in many districts within our major cities, for example, the 6th and 25th districts in Dallas, the 7th district in Houston, and the new 37th district in Austin, the latter packing Democratic votes into the city so that the surrounding, more rural districts are more likely to swing Republican.

A better, fairer mapping process would be the work of a committee or commission of people who do not have a stake in the outcome of elections. At the very least, there should be sufficient time for outside review and comment before the maps leave committee, an opportunity all but impossible in the very limited amount of time you have provided. The result would be more trustworthy election outcomes and fewer high-stakes primaries that result from unfair maps that ensure that one party or the other will represent a district. Then voters like me won't consider crossing party lines in order to keep candidates who have narrow support from special interests out of elections. In the long run, we will have leaders who aren't swayed by those same special interests and legislation that more fairly represents the views of the population at large. In lieu of a non-partisan committee process, I urge you to rethink gerrymandered districts across the state so that people like me have

more faith in people like you, our elected leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

