

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 5:10:34 PM

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Date: 2021-10-04  
First Name: Joy  
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State: TX  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:  
Good evening,

I am honored to be submitting my comments testifying here defending our voting rights.

My name is Joy Davis, and I am a proud member of the Texas Organizing Project here in Houston, Texas

For over a decade now, TOP has organized Black and Latino communities in Harris, Dallas, and Bexar counties with the goal of transforming Texas into a state where we truly have the representation and the power that we deserve. We mobilize our members and supporters around electoral campaigns, increasing voter participation in communities that historically have been marginalized, neglected, ignored, and left out of the political process by those in power. At the core of our theory of change is expanding the electorate of color in Texas -- in particular Black and Latino voters -- by running some of the largest, independent voter engagement

programs in the state. Our ground game is unmatched.

The tactics of diluting our votes during the redistricting process is another attempt to silence us and take away our power just to maintain the status quo. We've seen how horrendous those proposed redistricting maps are! This is a coordinated and orchestrated attack on our communities to chip away at our power at the polls and our representation.

Let's be honest. The bills that passed this summer during the second special session, were the most egregious attacks on voting rights and our bodies the state has ever seen recently. Banning 24hr voting and drive thru voting were just a few.

These election bills were a direct retaliation against the record voter turnout we saw across our state and country in last year's presidential election. A turnout largely driven by voters of color.

We should be trying to build on the successes of 2020 and move Texas into becoming a national leader in the area of voting rights, not undermining the progress and voices of those that, Based on Census data, have increased representation to the point where we now have two additional seats in Congress. These maps prove that there are elected officials that are terrified of the shift in Texas demographics. Changes are coming and I welcome them all!

We will not stand idly by on the sidelines and let the rights that our ancestors fought and died for to win be eroded so that those who have

long governed the state, in the interests of the few, can extend their grapple on our state's governance for a few more election cycles.

To reduce Black representation in Congress was deliberately done and racial in nature. Where are the minority led districts now? Based on what we have seen so far, there aren't many.

