

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 10:47:29 PM

Date: 2021-10-05
First Name: Melody
Last Name: Southall
Title: N/A
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Hutto
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of myself and [organization] regarding SB 6 and HB 1 relating to redistricting in Texas.

My name is Melody Southall and I live in Hutto, Texas, House District 52 and Senate District 5. I am also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and serve on chapter here Social Action committee.

Census data definitively shows people of color fueled 95% of Texas population growth over the past decade, stated the Texas Tribune article that can be found here. As an African American woman, I fundamentally believe that communities of interest should continue to reside in the same district to ensure African American and other minority voices are not diluted. Texans, particularly Black Texans, have already suffered at the hands of previous gerrymandering and the consistent attack on our voting rights along with a list of other items negatively impacting the Black community like over-policing, food deserts, and lack of healthcare resources.

As Texans we request that the Texas Legislature works to decrease barriers for inclusion in the process including:

Providing meaningful procedural access to the process,

Increasing committee hearings notification to provide significant time to prepare to deliver testimony,

Providing increased access to Red Apple (redistricting mapping software) and longer time for proposed map review.

Remember, you must follow the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution and Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 while creating these maps. And we would ask that the aforementioned requests would also apply to all redistricting related legislation.

My final prayer is that the Legislature will lead a fair process that will create fair maps that appropriately represent the changing demographics of Texas.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone at phone number here or at email here.

Sincerely,
Melody Southall

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Austin Alumnae Chapter

Thank you!

The Texas Redistricting Cohort

