Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 5:44 PM

To: Senate Redistricting

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-01-24 First Name: Eva Last Name: Esparza

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address:
City: AUSTIN
State: TX
Zipcode:
Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Currently I am a taxpayer who is not represented. I would like to be represented by being grouped with people who share my same concerns, parks, streets, coffee shops, neighborhood and grocery stores in the next redistricting effort. I would like to be represented by a politician who attends our neighborhood celebrations, yearly block parties, neighborhood association meetings, town halls. My representative for over 10 years, Roger Williams has never attended any non-partisan public event in Austin to my knowledge. He lives in Ft. Worth – a 4 hour drive. Ft. Worth is not remotely similar to Austin. In Austin, we are not represented because our city has been carved up between Republican representatives who serve lobbyists, not us the citizens.

Windsor Park - 78723 is a progressive, racially and ethnically mixed neighborhood which is why I moved here in the late 1970s. My neighbors and I are taxpayers who are not represented. Even though Austin has worse traffic than Bangkok, there's been no federal effort to put a train system through Austin using IH35. Freight traffic, including high risk freight, travels right through our city. HWY 290 was made into a toll road with no consideration to neighborhood noise, walking safety, biking safety or appearance – zero benefit and lots of noise and pollution. While most of Austin fought to keep the Affordable Care Act, both my neighbor's representative McCaul and my representative Williams fought to eliminate a program which kept both of us alive.

We need a non-partisan commission to draw the new district maps so people like me are represented and political parties are not able to silence the voices of people of color.