

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-13
First Name: Georgia
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
March 13, 2021

Texas House Committee on Redistricting
The Honorable Joan Huffman
The Honorable Juan Hinojosa
The Honorable Carol Alvarado
The Honorable Paul Bettencourt
The Honorable Brian Birdwell
The Honorable Dawn Buckingham
The Honorable Donna Campbell
The Honorable Kelly Hancock
The Honorable Bryan Hughes
The Honorable Nathan Johnson
The Honorable Eddie Lucio, Jr.
The Honorable Jose Menendez
The Honorable Robert Nichols
The Honorable Angela Paxton
The Honorable Charles Perry
The Honorable Royce West
The Honorable John Whitmire

Good morning. My name is Georgia Keysor. I have taken the time to address this committee because I believe redistricting is an integral function of our democracy. When redistricting is used by incumbents to artificially preserve their majority, our democracy suffers.

The current system of closed door back room deal-cutting partisan gerrymandering has resulted in politicians supporting policies that the vast majority of their constituents oppose, or opposing policies that the vast majority their constituents support. Case in Point? The wildly popular COVID Relief Bill.

We know something like 90% of Americans support expanded background checks for gun purchases. We also know that because the gerrymandered majority GOP is owned lock, stock and barrel by the Russian funded NRA, the will of the people goes ignored. The majority of Americans support the LGBT community, a women's right to control her own body and her destiny and the decriminalization of cannabis. The gerrymandered majority GOP does not. When we see our elected representatives twist themselves into pretzels of sedition to appease their QAnon base just to maintain their tenuous grasp on power, it's clear that the discordance between elected political leaders and the citizens of Texas couldn't be more obvious.

I am asking you to ensure that the public has a voice and a vote in the redistricting process. I am asking that this Committee commit to holding public hearings with public testimony on any maps before they are adopted. I am asking that sufficient public notice be given to allow all interested parties a thorough review of the proposed maps.

This is an opportunity for you to avoid wasting millions of my tax dollars paid to politically well connected law firms with ties to the Governor to defend lawsuits resulting from an unfair redistricting process. It's also an opportunity to show that you have confidence in your constituents and believe in open government and fair elections. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Georgia Keysor

[REDACTED]
Austin, TX [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]