

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-11
First Name: Joseph
Last Name: Barron
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Members of the Texas Redistricting Committee,

My name is Joseph Barron. I live in the Near Northside of Houston, TX, a community just north of downtown. I am native Texan who has only strayed away from our great state in order to serve our country during the Iraq and Afghan wars.

I would like to start by saying that the most important thing for this Committee to do is to respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act. None of my comments should be used by the legislature to justify diminishing the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice or artificially distorting maps for racial or partisan purposes.

The population of my community is mostly Latino and working class. As a community, we want to be able to vote for someone who represents our interests. I request that you allow for virtual committee hearings to be held throughout the entire legislative session so communities like ours can have a say in the future of our district. Closed door hearings regarding redistricting allow for the perception of racial and political bias. With the current environment in Texas it is in our state's best interest that all matters such as redistricting are completely open and encourage the participation of ALL of the communities that are involved.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]