

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 10:18:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [Redistricting Testimony 2.docx](#)

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Date: 2021-09-30  
First Name: Elisa  
Last Name: Gonzalez  
Title: N/A  
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City: Corpus Christi  
State: TX  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Regarding Redistricting:

My Name is Elisa Gonzalez and I am a Texan. It is impossible at this point to justify the decisions the Senate has made with regard to redistricting. Regardless of what justifications are made by the Senators on the Redistricting Committee, there is one thing that is absolutely clear. The maps do not in any way, shape or form reflect the demographic changes that have developed in Texas over the last 10 years.

It's rather a shame to say that we can't trust our representatives to do the right thing – to provide enough time and consideration on the part of both the committee and the public to consider many options to the maps that have been proposed. There is only one conclusion to be made about the pushing through of said maps and that is the shameful attempt to squash the voting power of people of color.

Senator Huffman has said that she took into careful consideration the expressed wishes of the senators in designing the maps. Many of those senators themselves are in their positions specifically because of the gerrymandering of the past. There is no obvious support on their parts for all Texans made apparent by the actions of these Senators. There has been an outcry about the voter restriction laws they have voted on and passed. There has been an outcry about the ridiculous reproductive restrictions they have imposed on 50 % of the population. It is beyond shocking that there are no, NO competitive districts drawn!! None across 38 districts!! Appalling and a massive failure on the part of the Committee. This speaks to a total lack of being able to think outside the narrow box of their obsession with controlling rather than accepting the actual decisions of the Texas voters without the manipulation of greedy power mongers.

As an example of the perverseness of the created maps, just consider what has been proposed for Fort Bend County. Eighty-seven percent of the incredible growth in Fort Bend County (40.6% growth in the last decade) was from diverse communities while the white population shrunk by 3%, yet these growing and diverse communities are packed into TX-07 and TX-090 with the remainder cracked into TX-22.

Despite the fact that the growth in Texas came almost entirely from people of color, the maps actually increase the number of majority-white districts.

Of course, very disturbing to me is the gerrymandering of Nueces County, my home county, making a jigsaw puzzle of district boundaries that cut through the heart of our county and our city, complicating the avenues of governmental support for and participation by the people, the schools, the businesses of the intact county and city we call home.

In addition to actually ignoring the new census demographics that shows a population driven by a rapid growth of communities of people of color, the actual maps that have been created continue to demonstrate a pervasive lack of commitment to fair and competitive districts on the part of the committee. They, for the most part, totally ignore the importance of keeping communities of shared interests together.

The Census is clear that 95% of all growth in Texas occurred in the AA, Latino, and AAPI communities. Any fair map must reflect the diversity of our state. There should be more districts where people of color can choose elected officials that share their background and values. Any map that doesn't do that is a flawed map.

Such maps are in direct opposition to the Voting Rights Act.  
Thank you for considering this testimony.



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