

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:24:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [Redistricting Testimony.docx](#)

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Date: 2021-09-27  
First Name: Elisa  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Senator Huffman and Members of the Redistricting Committee:

My Name is Elisa Gonzalez and I am a Texan. Thank you for allowing people to give public and written testimony on the maps that the Senate is proposing. However, it is one thing to do that and quite another to actually take into consideration what is said during and in those public and written testimonies.

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. They lack competitiveness and completely ignore the new census demographics showing a population that is being driven by a rapid growth of communities of people of color.

For example, The Senate Map splits Tarrant County into five districts. Four of the districts extend way off into rural counties, creating majority white districts, which completely dilutes the voting power of a county which boasts a 17.9% African American population and a 29.5% Hispanic or Latino population.

Each of the 5 splits is obviously made to break apart the communities of color in Tarrant County.

In the Northern Dallas/ Fort Worth area, an area of extremely high growth driven 95%+ by communities of color, the map splits these communities into Five different Districts, four of which extend out to rural, predominantly white counties.

Areas that were growing increasingly competitive such as Western Harris/Ft. Bend County have been sliced and diced apart to prevent high growth communities of color from having a voice in SD 17.

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.

In addition, I would think that the Senators and House Representatives would be embarrassed by the obvious attempts at protecting incumbents in creating new maps such as District 17 which is also the home district of Committee Chair Huffman, who cut across western Houston to include her house in a rural district which has little in common with the urban area in which she lives in order to make her own re-election safer.

Or, such as in Central Texas where the map artificially splits apart regions and scoops into Atascosa County so that former Senator Pete Flores (R) can run in new SD 24.

Most disturbing in all of this is the clear lack of regard and absolute lack of will to create fair maps based on the actual census data which reflects the phenomenal growth of people of color. It appears the Republican senators are afraid of implementing true Democratic values.

Thank you for considering this testimony.



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