

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 7:13:51 PM

Date: 2021-09-30
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

The Senate Special Committee on Redistricting has NOT held a fair and open process of redistricting. I am against Senate Bill 4, relating to the composition of districts for the election of members of the Texas Senate.

When state senate map proposals were posted by Chair Huffman, the maps were available for only a few days for the public to review and analyze before the committee voted on SB4. Chair Huffman shut down virtual testimony and required that public hearings be held **IN PERSON ONLY** after maps were posted. To protect the health and safety of all Texans and to include Texas voters who work full-time jobs, virtual hearings and virtual testimony should be permitted throughout the entire redistricting process. The public has the right to be a part of the legislative process and to make recommendations on the maps without risking health and safety and employment status.

Many individuals, groups, and organizations had already requested in the initial prehearings of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting that the committee allow ten or more days to review posted map proposals, and at least five more days to review map amendments, and to allow and use public input in virtual public testimony in public hearings.

Chair Huffman posted Senate District map proposals on 9/18/2021, then allowed only five days for the public to review maps prior to the first public hearing. On 9/23/2021, Huffman posted map amendments around 9 p m., the night before the first map proposal public hearing was held on 9/24/2021, ensuring that the public as well as senators on the committee had no time to review map amendments prior to public testimony.

If Texas voters are deliberately excluded from having a voice in how voting maps are drawn, then the people cannot freely elect who will serve them in the Texas legislature and the US Congress. Rigged voting maps will result in invalid election outcomes.

Senate committee chair and members have improperly used the party affiliations and race/ethnicity of voters to draw lines that favor certain candidates and dilute the votes of minorities.

The rushed timeline is artificial, unnecessary, and denies adequate public input. The Texas Constitution requires that redistricting occur in the Regular Session, and we are currently

in the 3rd Special Session, so Chair Huffman is rushing the redistricting process without any legal authorization.

The public has the right to a fair and open redistricting process that does not weaken the voting power of racial and ethnic minorities. The Federal Voting Rights Act addresses both intentional and unintentional discrimination. Section 2 defines the test as a totality of the circumstances inquiry, so that if a pattern or practice has led to an infringement or abridgement of the right to vote based on race—even if such a result was unintended—it is prohibited.

There were less than 3 business days for the public to view map amendments from the time that amended map proposals were posted on the night of 9/23/2021 to the time that SB 4 was voted out of committee on 9/28/2021.

<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=873&Bill=SB4>

