From: applications.administrator@capitol.local

To: Senate Redistricting

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:13:56 PM

Date: 2021-09-23 First Name: Kenneth Last Name: McDonald

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address:
City: Houston
State: TX
Zipcode:
Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

We are seeing the democratic nature of our republic challenged. Many have challenged the validity of the last presidential election while others want to change the dynamics of our Supreme Court and congressional rules in ways that deviate from the will of the American people. The Economist Intelligence rated the U.S. as 25th most democratic governments unfortunately placing us in the "Flawed democracies" category.

It is in this context for the credibility as a democracy that it is crucial that Texas adopt district lines that represent the interests of all Texans rather than special interests or those in power. It is time for elected officials to set district lines so that the people's voices can be respectfully heard. The only way to do so respectfully is to treat others as you would want to be treated.

With that in mind I request the following:

- 1. Make the district lines so that as many Texans' views are represented proportionately rather than gerrymandering them to minimize ethnic, religious, or political groups.
- 2. Make districts so that they are as simply shaped and compact as possible. It is inconvenient for us to go to our elected officials' offices when we have a strangely-shaped, narrow and long district. How can officials do a good job if they have to travel large distances to reach their constituents.
- 3. Publicly publish the process used in determining the districts. The people have a right to know the process. If it is too embarrassing to tell your mother and your neighbor, don't do it.

Please make us proud of being Texans. Please make us be leaders and examples of what democracy should look like.

Thank you.