

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 10:57:54 PM

Date: 2021-10-01
First Name: LINDA
Last Name: CLAYTON
Title: self
Organization: redistricting
Address: [REDACTED]
City: AUSTIN
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Linda J. Clayton, and I am representing myself.

I have lived in Austin, TX for more than forty years. I have worked for small businesses, been a small business owner, and currently work with vulnerable populations. I have experienced Austin's growth in population and diversity—in terms of ethnic background, educational level, financial status, and political affiliation. Yet there is a disconnect between this diversity and my current makeup of the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas State Senate. Simply put, they "represent" far too few of their constituents. I believe that gerrymandering is, in part, responsible for this disconnect.

Both the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution charge the Legislature with drawing district maps according to certain criteria, among them, complying with the federal Voting Rights Act – namely that the resulting districts cannot have neither the purpose nor the effect of "abridging the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or language group." I strongly believe that this criterion has not been heeded in the past. It needs to be heeded during the current redistricting process. We live in a democracy and we need to hold on to democratic values. These values cannot be allowed to vanish because elected officials want to put their partisan priorities ahead of those values.

[REDACTED]