

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Saturday, October 2, 2021 11:47:42 PM

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Date: 2021-10-03  
First Name: Shahthureen  
Last Name: Khan  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Wylie  
State: Texas  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Shahthureen Khan and I am representing myself. I live in precinct 237 in Wylie, Collin County. For the community to be involved in the democratic process we need to have the ability to elect representatives that reflect our views. We can only let democracy flourish when voters get to pick their lawmakers, not when lawmakers select which voters they want in their districts. Therefore, it is essential for Texas to have a transparent and independent process for redistricting the state.

I am a small business owner who is an integral part of economic growth in Texas. I am also part of the South Asian community that contributes to the economic, social, and civic success of the area. We have a strong presence in North Texas including event halls and even movie Theaters such as Fun Asia in Richardson, TX. There are many ethnic restaurants in North Texas such as Bawarchi in Frisco & Richardson plus tons of grocery stores such as Patel Brother, India Brazzar in Plano. My concern is the redistricting process unfairly splits part of this voting block and lumps them with more rural parts of Texas.

Our community has had a substantial impact on Texas. We bring a strong economic growth engine especially across the cities of North Texas. Yet, we are not able to elect candidates that represent our voices. Some of the issues we are particularly concerned about are education, power grid, covid management among others.

For far too long, AAPI communities, which are the fastest-growing across Texas, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts and thus, have been prevented from having the ability to elect a candidate of their choice. All I ask is that we are given equal representation through fair legislative districting. We ask that you honor the Voting Rights Act which prohibits you from drawing lines that dilute our voices. Your maps are deliberately breaking up our community.

South Asians are the fastest-growing minority population in Texas. District lines were drawn 10 years ago. Our community has grown exponentially since then. Gerrymandering often favors one party over another. Minority communities are often split to dilute their voices.

It is critical that we participate in the process to allow our collective voices to be documented. We all want our voices to be heard in determining the future of our families and communities.

In the interest of a richer, more responsive democracy I urge Texas to adopt an independent redistricting commission so that all our communities have the representation they deserve. Thank you for this opportunity to testify virtually, I hope you expand virtual testimony for every committee hearing for every bill going forward during this legislative session.

Best regards,

Shahthureen Khan

