

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: SenateTest 4827-1656-8533 v_4.pdf

Date: 2021-01-12
First Name: Joan
Last Name: Ridley
Title: Gerrymander Issue Chair
Organization: League of Women Voters
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Dallas
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you to members of the Texas Senate for your service, and, for your attention to this important topic of redistricting. Both Republicans and Democrats have been guilty of drawing voting district lines with the goal of maximizing their own power. That approach to governing is self-defeating in a representative democracy for several reasons. Here are a few:

- Partisan redistricting wastes tax payers' dollars to defend indefensible maps, over \$8M so far in Texas.
- Rapidly changing demographics will result in obsolete maps in a few short years.
- Backlash from disenfranchised constituents will result in unfavorable outcomes for the current legislators in future elections.
- This example of poor governance discourages desirable corporations with informed employees from wanting to relocate to Texas. This has a negative impact on our state's economic growth.
- Partisan Gerrymandering results in bills introduced and passed that tend to not reflect the will of the people, including both current residents of Texas and employees of corporations that are considering a move to Texas, especially in these areas: gun control, health care, drug costs, women's reproductive health, public education, climate change, opioids, voter suppression, criminal justice and negative impact on municipalities and small businesses.

Voters are well aware that:

- You draw maps to ensure that your political party will remain in power even when representation does not reflect the actual outcome of elections.
- You think partisan Gerrymandering gives you job security and therefore no need to be responsive to constituents' needs.
- You are more responsive to your financial contributors' positions than to your constituents.
- You focus a great deal of effort on remaining in office rather than serving your constituents.

- You have little incentive to conduct yourselves as statesmen, choosing to wallow in uncivilized behavior, reducing our pride as Texans.
- Campaigns attract candidates of questionable intent.

Please give serious and thoughtful hearing to all redistricting bills, especially those that would establish an independent citizens redistricting commission, and, those that would delegate the drawing of maps to a qualified group of Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Several other states have successfully established such a commission with high approval ratings after many years in effect by the citizens of those states.

Thank you

