January 28, 2021

My name is Cathy Murphree, and I live in Richardson, Texas, in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

To accurately and fairly serve Texas’s rapidly growing population will require a well-executed census process, followed by an equally well-planned and executed redistricting process.

I know that the redistricting process is a complex one, but it must be fair and effective, so I would ask the Legislature to commit to the following:

1. Ensure that the census is fair and accurate. I am disappointed that Texas did not support funding for this funding as rigorously as other states.
2. Determine then publish the criteria with which districts will be drawn. When proposed maps are later drawn then presented, explain how the maps were drawn and how the maps match the previously communicated criteria. The criteria should include:
   a. Apportioning districts on equal population
   b. Not diluting the voice of minority populations
   c. Not favoring a particular political party or incumbents
3. At each stage, provide opportunities for public review, and provide adequate notice to all hearings as well as an opportunity to preview any proposals to be presented at the meetings. Require that all meetings and hearings concerning redistricting be open to the public as much as possible and disclose information about any non-public discussions.

Finally, I realize it’s likely too late for cycle, but looking ahead, support an Independent Citizens’ Redistricting Commission. I have read about such a commission in at least eight states—Texas would benefit by creating such a commission that would limit legislators’ role in both the congressional and state legislature redistricting process.

Thank you.

Cathy Murphree
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