

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:58 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-25
First Name: laura
Last Name: marcantoni
Title: Ms.
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

To Senator Joan Huffman, Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, and to the Members of the Committee.

My name is Laura Marcantoni; I live in Houston, in Senator's Huffman district to be precise, I am a citizen and registered voter.

Before starting my testimony, I want to thank you for your time and tell you how pleased I am to be able to express my views and my concerns about the redistricting process.

I am really grateful to have this opportunity, but I have a few qualms about it too.

First of all, if the Census data will only be released in April, how can we be talking now about a process that will be based on those data? Pour parler? How can we have a serious conversation on redistricting without data you need to do the job?

I am aware that the Texas Legislative session is very brief, that legislators must be working at top speed and start early, but having to offer our testimony now deprives citizens of the opportunity to offer an informed opinion and sound suggestions.

Our testimony to have a sense and a weight should be given after the Census results have been published, because only with data in hand communities can express their needs, wishes and demands.

Our testimony would be worthwhile if given after the drafting of the maps, because only this way we would be able to say if we think that the choices of the Committee are sound or disappointing and why.

Texans should be given time to examine the redistricting maps before the vote and, still before the vote, Texans should be given a few days to express their opinion and suggest amends to the work of the Redistricting Committee.

At this time all we can say is that it would be good if our districts would fit into each other instead of being barely overlapping as it is the case of my districts: Texas 134, 17 and 7. Having all our representatives lined up would help them to coordinate their work for our communities and to focus on them and on their needs instead of having to spread themselves thin trying to work with different constituencies and realities.

Finally, Texas is entitled to transparency. Consequently all the minutes, all the drafts, the entire body of work by this Committee should be made available to the public so we would be able to understand the reasoning and logic guiding the work of this Committee and its result, i.e. how the maps are drawn and why they are drawn in such a way.

I feel that giving a testimony now is like writing to Santa. The communities voice concerns and wishes hoping to see them reflected somehow in the new districts maps that will be drafted and come out without any real feedback from Texans.

And what does our testimony amount to, without being able to contribute meaningfully and to express our opinion on the drafts of the maps? Does it amount to lip service to the democratic process or to an exercise of futility?

Thank you for your time,

Laura Marcantoni

[REDACTED]
Houston, TX, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]