

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 6:32 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-09
First Name: Ellen Janet
Last Name: Whitfield
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Conroe
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
E. Janet Whitfield
[REDACTED]
Conroe, Texas [REDACTED]

March 8, 2021

RE: Opposed to an appointed non-elected redistricting committee Dear Senator Huffman and Distinguished Members of the Texas Senate Redistricting Committee, My name is Ellen Janet Whitfield.

I live and vote in U.S. Congressional District 8, represented by the Honorable Kevin Brady; Texas Senatorial District 4, represented by Senator Brandon Creighton; and Texas House District 15, represented by the Honorable Steve Toth.

Today, I am representing myself to express my concern about redistricting and reapportionment.

Every 10 years, after the U.S. Census is counted, the Texas Legislature redraws the voting district maps in Texas. This is known as "redistricting".

Some liberal groups argue that since seven states have adopted independent, unelected redistricting commissions, Texas should follow suite. I strongly disagree. These seven states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, and Washington. These states are not like Texas.

Texas won its independence from a Mexican dictator. Texas established its own national government. Texas joined the union of the United States as an independent country. Texas is different and is under not obligation to follow California's lead. Texans want elected officials to do their jobs and draw the redistricting maps.

I support the Constitutional principle of "one person, one vote". This emanates from the equal protection clause and requires legislative voting districts to have about the same population. It allows everyone to impact lawmaking to approximately the same degree. It also makes "double voting" illegal.

The U.S. Census also impacts reapportionment of Congressional seats. Reapportionment is triggered by large shifts in population. Texas will likely gain three new Congressional seats raising our total in the U.S. House of Representatives from 36 to 39. These new districts must be drawn fairly and consider "all persons" in the district.

Senators, the issues of redistricting and reapportionment are vital to the future of our families and generations of Texans to come. Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Please do NOT allow an appointed non-elected redistricting committee to redraw the voting district maps in Texas.

E. Janet Whitfield

