

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 12:27:56 PM

Date: 2021-09-11
First Name: Bill
Last Name: King
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: Texas
Zipcode: 78756
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you committee members for listening to ordinary Texans about the redistricting process. My name is Bill King. I was a judge for 23 years, retiring in 2014. Since then, I have volunteered on issues involving good governance.

In the courtroom, it was critical that all parties believed the system was fair. I might not have liked a litigant or a lawyer or a particular argument that was made. But it was vital that everyone was, and believed that they were, treated fairly. If the process was perceived as being rigged, then the legitimacy of the entire system would be undermined. The same holds true for redistricting.

Unfortunately, in Texas the system is rigged. Elected officials draw the district lines that benefit incumbents or one political party. Instead of the voters choosing their officials, the officials choose their constituents. Democracy is turned on its head. This is not fair and you know it is not fair.

Creating a non-partisan, independent redistricting commission removes many of the unfair influences in the current system. IRCs are not perfect, but they are much better. If creating an IRC is impossible now, then please take the best features (transparency, fair representation, inability of one party to control the outcome) and establish a legislative group to handle redistricting. Texas voters deserve an election system that is fair, regardless of the temporary political winds.

[REDACTED]