

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 10:48:19 AM

Date: 2021-09-09
First Name: Eva
Last Name: Silverfine Ott
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: San Marcos
State: TX
Zipcode: 786661821
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Members of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting,

I am a resident of Congressional District 21, Texas Senate District 25, and Texas House District 23. Of these, only House District 23 is coherent, following county line rules. The other two districts disregard communities of interest and established jurisdictions (cities and counties). New Braunfels, our county seat, is split among three congressional districts! There are various criteria that can define communities of interest, but I believe the overriding issue for the small cities and counties along the I-35 corridor between Austin and San Antonio is the rapid growth that is occurring. Yet it is these very counties and cities that are dissected into multiple districts not for the good of those communities but for political reasons. The result is that geographically and demographically defined districts have no voice representing their particular concerns and values because their representatives represent disjointed communities.

I am writing to ask for an open, honest, and fair redistricting process, including the following:

1. Hold hearings on maps after they have actually been drawn. Any fair and open process should include the ability for public comment before a map is passed to a final vote of the legislature.
2. Allow enough time at these hearings for other legislators and the public to introduce alternative map suggestions.
3. Don't look at partisan data (data showing which political party people vote for) while drawing maps.
4. Explain how the maps were drawn, why there are deviations from traditional redistricting principles, including county and precinct splits and population deviations. Given Texas's history of racial discrimination and Voting Rights Act violations, an explanation of how a map affects the ability of minority communities to elect candidates of their choice is especially important.
5. Make all communications regarding proposed maps open. Any map considered should have a fully transparent history regarding how and why it was created.

I truly believe that fair representation would go a long way toward advancing the well-being of our state and healing our nation. Too many voters are disenfranchised. People need to feel that

the process has been fair. A fair and open process of drawing maps would go toward restoring faith in the electoral process.

Near the capitol building I've read a quote from the first constitution of the State of Texas: "All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their benefit." It is time for the Texas legislature to embrace that directive.

Sincerely,
Eva M. Silverfine Ott

