

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 2:11:59 PM
Attachments: [LULAC REDIST STATEMENT Sept 2021 \(2\).docx](#)

Date: 2021-09-11
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

League of United Latin American Citizens
Testimony
House /Senate Committees on Redistricting

(September

10, 2021)

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino membership organization in the United States and the State of Texas. LULAC advocates on behalf of Hispanic civil rights, equality and equity and equal representation under the law. LULAC, is a non-profit, a non-partisan organization, founded in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 17, 1929. LULAC operates through District Chapters and local Councils, members of whom are your constituents throughout the state. LULAC's principle is: "One- Person, One - Vote".

Texas State LULAC urges the Senate and House of House of Representatives ensure that districts subject to redistricting are drawn in compliance with the Fourteenth Amendment and the Voting Rights Act. District lines must meet two criteria outlined in the U.S. Constitution and federal law: equal or near-equal populations and preservation of the right to vote regardless of race, color, or language.

In 2003, LULAC filed litigation challenging Texas' redistricting process in *LULAC v. Perry*, 548 U.S. 399 (2006). The U.S. Supreme Court held that the Texas redistricting process violated the Voting Rights Act in part, in drawing a district in such a way as to deny Latino voters as a group the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choosing. LULAC will be working in conjunction with the Mexican American Legal Defense Association Fund (MALDEF) to achieve fairness and ensure Hispanic voting rights representation.

Compliance with the Voting Rights Act

Recently released U.S. Census data confirms that Hispanic and minority population growth has resulted in Texas gaining two congressional seats. Compliance with the Voter Rights Act requires that the Legislature take into consideration this growth in drawing district boundary lines. Compliance with the Voter Rights Act should necessarily result in an increase in Hispanic and minority representation and an increase in minority opportunity districts at all levels. Further, compliance with the Voter Rights Act requires

preservation of existing minority voting strength without packing or dilution of districts.

Fairness and Transparency

The redistricting process should be fair and transparent. This includes scheduling hearings to allow opportunity to comment on the proposed maps, filed bills and committee substitutes throughout the redistricting process.

Protection against Gerrymandering

The Voting Rights Act does not protect re-election of incumbents or the dominance of any political party. Racial and political gerrymandering for the protection of incumbents and to predetermine partisan electoral outcome will be scrutinized. Consistent with existing law and precedent, district lines should also take into consideration communities of interest, natural boundaries and relevant local/regional characteristics including contiguity.

Both National and State LULAC will monitor redistricting proceedings and take all appropriate action to ensure and defend the voting rights of Hispanics and minorities in the state of Texas. Thank you.

Respectively Submitted on behalf of Rodolfo (Rudy) Rosales, Director, State LULAC:

Gloria Leal

Attorney at Law & Consultant

State LULAC Redistricting Committee Chair

LULAC Council 650 President

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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