

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 4:59:58 PM

Date: 2021-09-10
First Name: James
Last Name: Bunch
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: 78759
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

A big thank-you to the Chairman and the Committee Members for providing an opportunity for voters to provide input to this process so fundamental to sustaining our democracy. I represent myself and my name is James Bunch.

I have been living in Austin, Texas for over 21 years in a community of like minded Democrats. Dividing the city of Austin into 5 districts means that our issues related to growth are never addressed because our voices are diluted by voters outside of our city. I am becoming disillusioned with the democracy I am experiencing in Texas as the congressional district maps appear to be constructed to weaken my voice.

As a result, my congressman, Michael McCaul, is not interested in my views or opinions as his constituent. I write to him about 5 times a year and have never received a response to my communication about my issues and concerns. We need a Congressional District in Austin where we can hold our representative accountable to address and listen to our specific needs.

More and more I am represented by elected officials from Ft. Worth and Houston that do not fairly represent me or my community on our views or beliefs about our growth issues or our elections. We do not want our community to be forced to abide by the representatives in far away cities who do not live here or even want to understand our way of life. Government representation needs to follow the community's geographic boundaries and not be divided unfairly by gerrymandering.

Recommendations for Redistricting Process:

1. Maps should be made public at least 14 days in advance of any public hearings or votes in order to allow sufficient time for the public to review the maps, prepare testimony and propose alternative maps.
2. We need at least 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps.
3. Keep all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps in order that redistricting is fully transparent to the general public.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Bunch

[REDACTED]