Date: 2021-09-09
First Name: Judy
Last Name: Van Cleve
Title: N/A
Organization: Retired
Address: 
City: Pflugerville
State: TX
Zipcode: 
Phone: 

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
My name is Judy Van Cleve, I am a volunteer for All On the Line, I live in Pflugerville, TX and my concern is that the current legislative maps do not provide representation that meets needs of Travis County, especially how it relates to decisions being made about development and our finite water supply.

The drought of 2011 and resulting restrictions on water use made it clear to my community, Travis County does not have enough water, especially during drought. Yet, Tesla is building a water intensive auto plant in southeast Travis County, a large water park has opened in northwest Travis County, Samsung may potentially build a chip factory in northeast Williamson County and a large Amazon distribution center has just been completed in Pflugerville.

This industrial development will require the construction of new housing, schools, and hospitals, as well as recreation, shopping, and dining facilities. All require water, all the underground and surface water that a future drought could deplete during any dry Texas summer.

Despite the rapid population growth in Travis County, representatives of the current legislative districts have allowed San Antonio to build a pipeline to rural Central Texas to increase San Antonio’s water supply while local landowners say their underground wells are running dry. There is even talk of San Antonio taking water from Lake Travis rather than building a reservoir to deal with their city’s needs.

The State of Texas must redistrict large urban population communities so the people who live in these high growth areas have representation when decisions are being made about their community’s limited water resources. Additionally, rural communities must be represented when cities with uncontrolled growth take resources that are needed for rural communities to survive and thrive.

It makes no sense that US House District 35 includes a portion of 5 counties from Travis to Bexar County in a small strip down Interstate 35 from one large urban area across several rural areas to another large urban area. It makes no sense that that US House District 10 which is my voting district includes 9 counties stretching from Travis County, an urban county, across 7 rural counties to Harris County, another urban county.
The goal seems only to split large voting populations for political gain rather than serving the needs of either urban or rural communities.