

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:35:29 PM

Date: 2021-09-29
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Dear Committee Members,

I write with serious objections to the inclusion of Fort Bliss in the San Antonio-anchored 23rd Congressional District. Fort Bliss, founded in 1849, has been at the heart of El Paso's economy for well over a century. Its many military families live INSIDE El Paso and are served by the representative from El Paso's 16th Congressional district. In the current and future years, such families SHOULD be served in the same district where they work.

The 23rd Congressional district has long been featured as one of the worst examples of gerrymandering in the United States in government textbooks. Its long distance--stretching over a ten-hour drive from San Antonio to eastern El Paso County--makes a laughingstock of reasonable district boundaries to the rest of the country, at least to those that believe in some semblance of geographic integrity, representation, and fair maps in the construction of district borders.

As a forty-year veteran professor of teaching government, including political geography, I believe in the importance of a competitive party system for democracy and accountability. This bald, A-historical, and blatant attempt at 'incumbency protection' is beyond an outrageous outlier among examples of the republican party's short-term agenda. For long-term viability, the party ought to work to make reasonable compromises. Many civil society groups, such as the League of Women Voters (in which I have been a member for decades), have worked hard to interview people about their 'communities of interest' at local and state levels while also taking into account numeric population targets within districts. More and more, the general public knows what is going on and will hold the republican party responsible for the decline in democracy and representation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Staudt, PhD
Professor Emerita of Political Science
University of Texas at El Paso

