

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Sunday, September 26, 2021 7:11:42 PM

Date: 2021-09-27
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Texas Senators:

As a resident of Senate District 13 (SD13), Senator Borris Miles' district, I am writing regarding the redistricting possibilities that are being discussed in the legislative special session.

I am also writing with the specific focus on the makeup of Senate 13. This is a uniquely shaped region. Generally the area spans with a start in North Houston around the Beltway 8 and 59 goes south through downtown and midtown goes east and takes in Rice U, Texas Southern University and the University of Houston continues east hitting the historical neighborhoods of Third Ward, Sunnyside and South Park continuing west crossing Main St picking up the neighborhoods of Hiram Clarke, Braes Oaks and Alief then going south into parts of Fort Bend County.

SD13 is currently made up of 12 House Districts and our State Senator and these officials serve on the various legislative committees and they keep us informed of what's happening in Austin. These committees include, Health and Human Service, Public education, Higher Education, Criminal Justice Reform, Elections, and Transportation just to name a few. I know that they are working hard for us.

That being said, it is very disappointing to see the lack of new opportunity districts (districts that can elect candidates of choice for communities of color) in Harris County despite the record amount of growth from communities of color here. Instead of drawing new opportunity districts, the State has chosen to further "crack and pack" our communities to diminish our influence statewide.

It should also be noted that the Coronavirus pandemic has played a significant challenge in 2020 and is still delaying normalcy that we are all used to having. Because of the legal battles with the previous federal administration the virus delayed the U.S. census deadline. And although Texas has grown faster than any other state over the last decade and will gain two additional US house seats, there may be an undercount of those living in the state, thus there may be billions of federal dollars possibly left on the table that could pay for meaningful services and programs for all Texans.

I'm concerned that the 2021 redistricting cycle could mark the first time in nearly 50 years that Texas will be able to implement new legislative and congressional districts without having to prove ahead of time that the maps don't undermine the electoral power of voters of color.

It is my sincere hope that the redistricting committees in both the Senate and the House can work together to redraw the maps fairly and equally. I write in hope that my senate district, will remain intact and that we continue to have the type of strong representation that we have grown accustomed to and work diligently for our well-being.

Respectfully,
Linda Bell-Robinson, Ed.D.
[REDACTED]
Houston, TX [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]