

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 12:56:14 PM

Date: 2021-09-09
First Name: Rathna
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hi, my name is Rathna Prabhakar. I'm testifying on behalf of myself and I'm testifying because I want a 2021 redistricting process that is fair and transparent.

Representation in our government depends on how districts are drawn; therefore the redistricting process should ensure that communities are not artificially broken up in order to dilute the voting and advocacy power of the people within that community. For example, I live in Texas Congressional District 10, which is one of the 5 congressional districts that Travis County was intentionally broken up into. This partitioning of Travis County was purposefully done to dilute the advocacy power of its residents. So, there are hundreds of thousands of residents of Travis County that have been disenfranchised by this clever manipulation of the district maps. There are hundreds of thousands of us that feel like we don't have a voice in our federal government; that we don't have a representative to advocate for the issues that concern us. And, what is absolutely disheartening is that this lack of representation is not because we don't vote or are not engaged -- as you can tell by all the testimony that is being given today, we are engaged; it's because the district was unfairly drawn for political gain. It was not drawn to effectively represent the community; on the contrary, it was drawn to ensure that certain people, like me, had no voice in our government.

So, during the 2021 redistricting process I want to see fairness and transparency. I want to see public hearings with public testimony on any maps before they are passed. Also, I want the legislators who drew the maps to explain why they chose to draw the districts the way they did. Finally, I would like to ask the legislature to disregard partisanship when coming up with maps. Looking at partisanship leads to unfair districts in which the members of the district are from faraway communities that share few social and economic interests. This means that certain members of the district have effective representation while others are completely ignored. Please keep communities whole so that every Texan has the representation that they deserve; and so that our democracy can live up to its ideals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Rathna

[REDACTED]