

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 9:25:23 AM
Attachments: [SWRJB- SEIU TX Written Testimony re Texas Congressional Maps.pdf](#)

Date: 2021-09-30
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I am submitting comments on behalf of Jean Hervey with Workers United- Southwest Regional Joint Board and Elsa Caballero with the Service Employees International Union- Texas.

[REDACTED]

Texas Congressional Redistricting Proposed Map
Senate Hearing- Written Testimony/Statement
9.29.21

Dear Texas Senate Special Committee on Redistricting,

On behalf of the members of SEIU Texas and Workers United-Southwest Joint Board today we denounce the proposed Congressional map that clearly is another attempt to disenfranchise and weaken the voices of our Black and brown communities and call upon the Senate to redraw the maps to reflect our communities and their priorities.

The Texas Legislature has an opportunity to undo current gerrymandering and draw a fair map that reflects the 2020 census data, but instead it is proposing a gerrymandered map that clearly ignores community input and the census data. Unfortunately, despite the fact that the growth in Texas came almost entirely from people of color, the proposed map being considered today actually increases the number of majority-white districts.

No matter what we look like, where we come from, or how we vote, every person has the right to say who represents our communities. The district lines that are drawn today impact what resources working families will have today and in the future. This proposed map confirms Texas Republicans did exactly what we expected they would do - eliminate all competitive seats, ignore the growth and influence of communities of color, and gerrymander the map for their own partisan power.

SEIU members, worker leaders in the Fight for \$15 and a Union and our allies will not let self-interested politicians carve up our communities for their own benefit. We will continue to speak out for fair districting to make our communities whole and deliver what our families need for decades to come.

The Southwest Regional Joint Board was formed in 1965 and represents workers in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas. Our members work in Manufacturing, Food Service, Laundries, Distribution and Xerox Graphics. We also represent workers in the Public Sector, City of Dallas. Our members work diligently on issues affecting them every day: Immigration Reform, Health Care, Fight for \$15, Organizing new members, Racial and Economic Justice, Building Coalition Partners, Educating members and much more...

SEIU Texas unites more than 6,000 health care workers and janitors in Corpus Christi, El Paso and Houston who have secured better wages, benefits and working conditions through their union. Contracted municipal security officers joined together in SEIU Texas and won the first security officer union in Texas in June 2019. Subcontracted passenger service workers at Houston airports are fighting for their right to form their union with SEIU TX and a \$15 an hour minimum wage.