

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:02:29 PM

Date: 2021-09-24
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Sabrina Sha, representing TX AAPI Redistricting Coalition. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I hope that this committee will continue to hold in-person and virtual hearings to allow public input from the entire state.

The census showed that 95% of all growth in Texas occurred in the African American, Latino, and AAPI communities. Any fair map must reflect the diversity of our state. The current draft maps do not allow any new opportunity district based on these census numbers in metroplexes, like Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin. Instead, they pack and crack our communities and dilute our votes. I urge this committee to comply with the Voting Rights Act and respect the reality of the new census by allowing people of color the opportunity to choose the candidates of their choice.

As an Asian American, the fastest growing demographic in Texas, I want fair districts because I want to be represented and I want my vote to count. We need better, more responsive representation and more opportunity districts for our communities, including in coalition with other people of color and immigrant populations with similar values and needs.

Where I live, the Asian population in Travis County grew by 76.5%.

Within my Asian American community of interest, we have shared cultural characteristics, countries of origin, languages and dialects spoken, and socioeconomic status. In short, we live, eat, shop, play, learn, work, and worship together. We deserve to vote together because it's essential that we advocate together.

This year the Asian community has seen an increase in AAPI hate crimes to an exponential level. From our former President Donald Trump conflating COVID-19 to the “China-virus” it is of utmost importance that we recognize the importance of the rapidly growing power of the Asian community.

Redistricting is important because it gives us the power to be in representative districts, where housing, education, voting, and climate change policies will influence our future generations.

I urge this committee to hold additional in-person and virtual hearings that allow public input from the entire state and to create a new Senate map that reflects our community input and the census data, as well as create fair districts for US Congress and TX House. In addition, please continue to allow a fair and open process by providing at least 14 days for the public to review additional maps, 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps, keeping a record of all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps, and providing analysis of how the new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color.

Thank you for taking the time to read these remarks.

