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From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Against Gerrymandering.docx

Date: 2021-01-28

First Name: Parker

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Title: N/A

Organization: Self

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

In this redistricting process, we MUST not participate in the anti-democratic practice of gerrymandering. I urge my representatives and fellow Texans to act fairly and in good faith for the entirety of this process.

The “Why”

- Our legislative district lines should be drawn in a way that is transparent, fair and community driven.
- Our final district maps should represent our diverse communities, reflect the will of the people, and afford everyone equal and fair representation. They should not be drawn to predict election outcomes.
- A redistricting process that requires the use of past election results lays the foundation for partisan gerrymandering—the manipulation of district lines to favor one group over another.
- Language that allows for partisan gerrymandering in our state does not belong in our Constitution.
- Complicated calculations that use a decade’s worth of election data do not belong in our Constitution.

Fair Districts

When legislators feel secure in gerrymandered districts, they are less likely to listen to voters and are harder to hold accountable. This contributes to voter frustration and voter apathy.

When partisan gerrymandering occurs, it’s always at the expense of the political voice of communities of color.

When voters go to the polls, they should have trust and confidence in the system. They should not feel as though their votes don’t matter because their district lines have been manipulated by party politics.

District lines should not be manipulated in the name of competitiveness. We should not rely on metrics that ignore the will of the people and allow our diverse communities to be broken apart in the name of “competition.”

Gerrymandering would not give Texans the meaningful redistricting reforms that are needed to produce “fair” maps. In fact, these proposals would make our legislative redistricting process worse.

States across the country have passed meaningful redistricting reforms to protect their residents from partisan gerrymandering. Continuing to participate in gerrymandering would take Texas backwards.

In short: Voters should be choosing their politicians, not the other way around.

Thank you,

Parker Sams

Denton, TX