

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 13, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-13  
First Name: Carlos  
Last Name: Vazquez  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Cypress  
State: Texas  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts and comments regarding the redistricting process being undertaken this year. It is vitally important, especially in light of our most recent election, that redistricting in Texas considers the voice of every voting Texan, and the impact the process can have for future Texans to be allowed to have truly representative elections. To that end I respectfully submit:

- 1) Any new map should fairly represent the voting patterns of Texans. In representing the voting patterns of Texas it is important to remember that every statewide elected official is Republican. Allocating these all to Democratic seats on the basis of race is neither Constitutional nor representative of the voting patterns of Texans.
- 2) In general, districts should reflect commuting patterns. Transportation funding in particular is greatly impacted by which Congressional district a person lives in.
- 3) It is important for legislators to take into consideration future suburban growth when drawing the maps so as to avoid the disproportionate representation that we experience at the end of the ten year cycle.
- 4) Communities of interest should be respected. Districts should be as compact as possible. To the extent possible, each of the top urban counties should have its own district, irrespective of racial or other impermissible factors.
- 5) There should be no "independent panel". We are a Republic and as such you are elected and accountable to the people of Texas. There is no such thing as a neutral panel, Texans expect our elected officials to represent us accordingly.
- 6) Adhere to the principle of one person-one vote. Sec 2 of Article 1 of the US Constitution and the Equal Protection Clause o Section 1 of the 14th Amendment requires the construction of legislative districts that are substantially equal in

total population, according to the Supreme Court of the United States. Taken together they establish the constitutional guarantee of one person, one vote, or the idea that all voters have approximately equal voting power.

There are several people who are ineligible to vote - Felons, non-citizens, minors, people currently in jail, and those deemed mentally incompetent. If there are substantially more people ineligible to vote in the population of one district verses another, the result could be that citizen votes could be diluted, especially in the rural districts, violating the premise of 1 person, 1 vote.

Texans are counting on you to redistrict fairly and in accordance with our voting history.  
Thank you for your time and service to our state. Sincerely,

Carlos Vazquez

