

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Senate Committee redistricting.docx

Date: 2021-03-03
First Name: Diana
Last Name: Duron
Title: Senate Committee redistricting statement
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: EL PASO
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Good afternoon - i have signed up to speak on March 12, 2021 and have submitted my statement below thank you

Diana Duron
El Paso, TX

[REDACTED]

My name is Diana Duron and I represent myself; I reside in El Paso, Texas and my city is close to Juarez, Mexico and Las Cruces, New Mexico My neighborhood is close to Fort Bliss Installation, 2nd largest military installation in the country. My city's population is 951,000 a 1.28% increase since 2019. My city's ethnic groups in El Paso comprise of 81.4% Hispanic 12.8% White and 3.2% Black.

70% of El Paso speak Spanish making it one of just 22 U.S. cities with more Spanish speakers than English speakers. The medium income is \$40,800 so it is relatively poor with a poverty rate of 23.4% (national average)

What I would like to add is no one has been harmed more by map manipulation and voter suppression than our EL Pasoan community (as you can see from the ethnicity and incomes El Pasoans have). Because we also are in the far corner of the Texas map we are easily forgotten and ignored to be represented by the State, in the ballot box and in Congress. It has taken a Latina Congresswoman to be our voice and our representative for our city to be heard and seen.

I am deeply concerned about the deep division in our country. Gerrymandering and map manipulation continues to increase in our State with the cultural and political divide worsening by disenfranchising the minority population. This was evident during the 2020 election when Gov Abbott reduced the curbside ballot boxes to one per county which disenfranchised counties like Harris County which should have had 11 boxes and wanting to affect Black and Minority votes. Our city, El Paso had one curbside ballot box. My understanding is that Gov Abbott is doing everything possible to make it even harder on future elections for the Black and Latino voters and are looking at removing districts to make it easier for the Conservative Side to gain voters.

I ask that you do not manipulate maps in support of one party or one politician. I want redistricting in Texas to be fair and the process Transparent.

I expect legislators to follow the Voting Rights Act and NOT discriminate against people of color.

I ask the committee draw maps that are fair, competitive and represent ALL Texans.

I expect our elected officials to find a way to come back to us with maps once the Census results are released and show all Voters how the redistricting was concluded without keeping the results to yourselves

Thank you for your time.