

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:57 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-11
First Name: Dorothy
Last Name: Byrd
Title: Chair
Organization: Black El Paso Democrats
Address: [REDACTED]
City: El Paso
State: Tx
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:
March 9,2021.

I appreciate your time and this opportunity to submit my public commentary, against redistricting taken away from the Voters. I am Dorothy "Sissy" M. Byrd the Chair for the Black El Paso Democrats. I am asking for your consideration to not change the district lines in El Paso Texas. I believe that the community should not be divided as the Senate Special Committee is asking to do. By manipulating the maps to be unfair by redistricting Texas. I am tired of legislation discriminating against the Black community, El Paso community and many other communities. Instead of following the Voting Rights Act and draw maps in a non-partisan method which will be a fair, a competitive way to represent El Paso and ALL of Texas. This form of gerrymandering will affect us for the next 10 years or more in the amount of federal funds which will be allocated to our districts, how the COVID-19 vaccine is distributed in our community and to include our education curriculums.

Also voter suppression against Blacks and other ethnic groups. El Paso is a border city and our city is connected to many cities because of our railroads and highways to provide transportation so that goods can pass through our city in route to all over parts of the country. We are connected to the Country of Mexico where our bridges provide the ability to trade across our borders. We do much shipping to other parts of the United States through our borders to Arkansas New Mexico, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Because of our location our 5 State Representatives will always be needed to accomplish the many tasks for our citizens of El Paso and the State of Texas. El Paso has the largest Military Base in the United States, a International Airport, and we are able to enjoy the Franklin Mountains which is the largest state park in the United States. I believe redistricting taken away from the Voters, is wrong. You will be taking so much from our community. We the people should have the right to elect our representatives and the right to vote on new district maps. We elect our 5 Representatives to honor and protect our rights and constitution. So that they can work for our community. Redistricting should be left to the citizens. Any form of gerrymandering is wrong.

Thank you so much,
Dorothy "Sissy" M. Byrd
Chair for the Black El Paso Democrats