

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:31:38 PM

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Title: NA

Organization: self

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Ann Smith and I am representing myself.

Having lived in the Great State of Texas for over two decades, nearly half my life, I would live nowhere else. I would like more than anything for Texas to finally establish a government that is representative of all its people.

I have resided in several places in Texas. First, in Matagorda County, where I worked at the South Texas nuclear plant, then briefly in Brazoria County where I worked as a CPS worker. I then taught in a Title 1 middle School in Houston Independent School District for ten years. And I have ended up here in beautiful Travis County where I also taught in a Title 1 middle school in Austin ISD for fourteen years.

Finally, I would also like to add that I worked as an enumerator in Travis County for the 2020 Census because it is important to me that everyone is counted and represented. The Census work felt rushed and disorganized. Ultimately my time in West Austin abruptly ended and instead I was offered a job enumerating in the rural counties of West Texas. All this mismanagement makes me suspect that certain areas were undercounted.

These maps that have been recently drawn I see as an incumbent protection plan, not a means to representative government. Ninety-five percent of the population growth reflected by the 2020 Census data (probably undercounted) were people of color and once again these three main areas of population growth have been divvied up so that these citizens' voices and thus their impact will be weakened and less united. It is my understanding that while a diverse population grew in Texas, this new map reflects the opposite, that white-majority seats increased. This is not representative government.

My whole experience living and working in Texas tells me that it is a richly diverse state in culture, ethnicity, and class. Teaching in majority minority schools, I witnessed families struggling in so many ways. I believe that these families' struggles need to be prioritized and do not seem to be by their elected officials. My short stint with the Census showed me that more young people, people who do not call themselves Anglo exist here now. But our government in Washington remains largely older white males. There is a huge disconnect. I read every day on the Next-Door platform how parents are outraged that their children are

expected to attend schools where masks are not mandated. Yet I am not aware of any substantive or compassionate response on this issue from our US representative. Neighbors and friends are stunned by his First Amendment response when a mass shooting takes place.

We have yet another golden opportunity to end all this unfairness. Let's do it this time around. I stand hopeful and expectant for a law-abiding, inclusive redistricting process. Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]