

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Sunday, September 26, 2021 1:56:51 PM

Date: 2021-09-26
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I am new to redistricting – I’ve never paid specific attention to what goes on with gerrymandering. That changed on September 21, 2021, when I started educating myself. From that Tuesday to Saturday, September 25, 2021, when I presented oral testimony to the Redistricting Committee, I learned a lot and none of it reassured me about the future of our Democracy. In fact, it infuriated me and strengthened my resolve to be heard and to involve others in standing up for what they believe.

I will present what I learned about my specific location. I live in Magnolia, Montgomery County, District 4. I am in opposition to SB 4. I know and understand that I live in what is one of the most conservative, Republican-voting counties in the State of Texas. Although that means my voice is never heard in local elections – from my experience, there is only one elected official in Montgomery County that understands, listens to, or considers viewpoints other than their own party voters. Democrats in Montgomery County are ridiculed and attacked causing incredible fear in my like-minded neighbors (and Republicans should be worried about how many of us there are). The division is toxic and getting worse here. I know all of this, and I know my vote is a minority vote and I accept that as the reality. I choose to live here because I love my home and its location, not because of politics.

When I looked at maps at the beginning of my journey into seriously partisan politics, I saw that my community had been moved into District 7 which is in Harris County. I wasn’t sure what that meant – did it mean my vote would have a better chance of actually counting? I wasn’t happy to see the change because I want to make a difference in Montgomery County which is my community and home.

But clarity came in an interesting way. While watching live testimony on Friday September 24, 2021, I learned that during the previous night the map had been redrawn to return my community to District 4. Interesting - the only explanation I could figure out was that District 7 had become more competitive than was comfortable to the incumbent and since Montgomery County is so heavily and reliably Republican, pulling those votes into District 7 wouldn’t threaten District 4 but would help District 7.

Then I heard the testimony of a woman from Pinehurst who was enraged that her strongly Republican community who had worked hard to elect Trump had been moved into a Harris County district. There is definitely an anti-Harris County sentiment in Montgomery County. And it

was clear to me from her testimony that the Republicans in District 4 that had been moved to District 7 felt wronged and their voices were heard somehow during the previous days or hours and, voila, the return to the status quo!

I heard person after person testify about what is going on in Tarrant, Ft Bend and Travis counties, especially District 10. It seems when minority majority districts are enraged about what is going on in their communities, there are no late-night changes to address and rectify those issues.

To me, what happened in District 4 was a blatant political move of politicians selecting their voters rather than voters selecting their representatives. However, the actions in Tarrant, Ft Bend and Travis counties seem racial. When does politically motivated gerrymandering become racial? In my view it's when minority voices are silenced. I hope consideration will be given to all oral and written testimony.

I would love to have someone who is in support of the proposed redistricting maps contact me to let me know whether I have correctly interpreted these events that directly impact me and my voting options. If I do not hear from anyone I will assume my testimony has not been read or that I am correct (maybe both).

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony – both oral and written.

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