

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 3:48:03 PM

Date: 2021-09-29
First Name: DIANA
Last Name: DURON
Title: n/a
Organization: League of Women Voters
Address: [REDACTED]
City: EL PASO
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you Senators and the Special Committee on Redistricting

I once again and writing to you to address my personal comments to this redistricting that has come up. 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 tied to Fort Bliss, TX and installation, 2nd largest military installation in the country. My city's population is 865,657 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 relativey poor with a poverty rate of 23.4% (national average)

Fort Bliss has been in our Congressional District 16 since my birth and never has been placed on redistricting table. There is no reason Fort Bliss installation should be with San Antonio since they are not even physically there. 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 be the language 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 Latino votes. Our city, El Paso had on curbside ballot box. Now our Congressional District 16 is being brought up to be redistricted only for the mere satisfaction to manipulate those votes to one party. My understanding is that Gov Abbott is doing everything possible to make it even harder on future elections for Black and Latino voters and are looking at removing districts (not only El Paso) to make it easier for the Conservative side to gain voters. Why redo an audit in those counties that had the most Latino votes again. It's totally understandable what the plan is – to manipulate those districts and votes to one party.

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

I expect legislators to follow the Voting Rights Act (LBJ) and NOT discriminate against people of color. I urge 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 now that the Census results are out and show all Voters how the redistricting was concluded without keeping the results to yourselves.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

