

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:44:27 PM

Date: 2023-03-27
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Members of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting, I am a resident of U.S. Congressional District 21, Texas Senate District 25, and Texas House District 23. Of these, only House District 23 is coherent, following county line rules. The other two districts disregard communities of interest and established jurisdictions (cities and counties). New Braunfels, our county seat, is split among four U.S. congressional districts! There are various criteria that can define communities of interest, but I believe the overriding issue for the small cities and counties along the I-35 corridor between Austin and San Antonio is the rapid growth that is occurring. Yet it is these very counties and cities that are dissected into multiple districts not for the good of those communities but for political reasons. The result is that geographically and demographically defined districts have no voice representing their particular concerns and values because their representatives represent disjointed communities. Unfortunately, I see the same intentional manipulation of Texas Senate districts. The contortions the legislature has gone through to get Districts 19 and 21 to wrap around and dilute the vote along the I-35 corridor is shameful. Whereas population growth has been in the metro areas and predominantly attributed to people of color, the maps have been drawn to dilute the will of these voters with rural residents, therefore negating communities of interest. To compensate for these contortions, or as part of them, District 25 is less compact than it could and should be. I truly believe that fair representation would go a long way toward advancing the well-being of our state and healing our nation. Too many voters are disenfranchised. People need to feel that the process has been fair. A fair process of drawing maps would go toward restoring faith in the electoral process. I do not understand why the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting is again calling for virtual, regional public input hearings when the Senate plans to "ratify" the map already adopted. It suggests these hearings are nothing but a sham, giving an illusion of a fair and open process. Near the capitol building I've read a quote from the first constitution of the State of Texas: "All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their benefit." It is time for the Texas legislature to embrace that directive. Sincerely, Eva M. Silverfine Ott 1309 The Low Road San Marcos, Texas 78666-1821

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