

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-08-05
First Name: Laurie
Last Name: Stelljes
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Fort Worth, TX
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Laurie Stelljes and I am a resident of Fort Worth, which is located in Senate District 10 & Congressional District 97. I am writing today to urge you to vote against the state's redistricting efforts.

Do not submit to Trump's request. You should be spending our tax dollars on worthwhile efforts, like how to salvage lives after natural disasters, such as the flooding in Mystic or how to better financially support our public schools. This effort to racially gerrymander our state is unjust & discriminatory. Cracking and packing by race is an intentional effort to discourage & weaken the black & brown voice and worse yet, discourage them from bothering to vote.

Texas just redrew the maps in 2021 making this process rushed, without transparency, heavily partisan, and one that excludes public input. These few meetings hastily scheduled do not fit the intent of gathering public input, it only checks a box. You haven't even shown us the new maps! It is absolutely unacceptable for both the House and Senate Redistricting Committees to be holding hearings without having maps visible to the public. Without a doubt, there will be lawsuits if this passes and that is a further waste of OUR tax dollars!

Texas is already the worst gerrymandered state in the nation & has a long history of passing discriminatory election laws. I should know; I was part of Beverly Powell's state senate district until it was redrawn to include a tiny part of the city of Fort Worth and the rest is rural countryside. I contend that Phil King only won that seat because it was gerrymandered to ensure the seat went to a republican. The tragedy is that we who lived in the district 10 no longer have a voice in our government and we did not have a say in who was elected – our vote was watered down by the rural voters. Rural and urban needs are very different but that matters not to those of you who wish to move ahead with redistricting.

If you are intent on moving forward with redistricting, this Committee must commit to holding public hearings after the maps have been drawn but before they pass through committee. You must give the public time to review the maps before the hearings. Legislators who drew the maps must also explain why they chose to draw them the way they did. I would hope that this time you actually do your job and un-gerrymander the districts so all constituents have a voice in our state government. After all, that is what real government is supposed to do. If the only way to get ahead is to cheat by redrawing boundaries that discriminate by race to

benefit one party, take a hard look in the mirror and ask yourself about your level of integrity. A tarnished reputation is a shameful legacy to leave those who follow you. You were elected to represent all of your constituents, not just a subset that belongs to your political party. Vote NO to redistricting.

