

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:36 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Redistricting Comments by Marian Stanko 1-26-21.pdf

Date: 2021-01-27
First Name: MARIAN
Last Name: STANKO
Title: SREC SD-26 Committeewoman and Bexar Precinct Chair
Organization: Republican Party of Texas and Republican Party of Bexar County
Address: [REDACTED]
City: San Antonio
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
See attached. Thank you for considering my comments.

[REDACTED]

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Joan Huffman
Chair, Texas Senate Select Committee on Redistricting
PO Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711
Via <https://senate.texas.gov/redistrictingcomment/>

Re: Texas Redistricting

Dear Chairman Huffman:

Thank you for allowing comments about the 2021 redistricting process. Please share it with your committee.

All communities of interest should remain together wherever possible. These communities not only represent race, and socioeconomic interests, but also communities with similar water interests, transportation routes, as well as concerns regarding farming, industry, and education. Keep in mind that communities of today are not the same as a decade or two ago due to mobility. Please rely on current data so that a district's line does not end up with fingers just to comply with former data.

When drawing the new Congressional districts, the voting pattern throughout Texas should be taken into consideration because all twenty-nine statewide offices are held by Republican leaders. All of the new maps should reflect these voting patterns and the majority of Texans for the past decade.

The near-equal populations of the state districts are too lopsided. The Texas House and Senate districts may deviate by up to 10% from the ideal district population. Too often the districts that grew the most during the past decade (e.g. HD-122) are apportioned 10% above the average population and the districts that decreased in population the past ten years are apportioned 10% below the average residents. The large districts will continue to grow at a faster rate than other districts. It results in an inequitable distribution of one person – one vote. It doesn't make sense.

Packing and cracking now affect different classes of the population than in the past. Cracking is dividing large minority communities across several districts to weaken their voting impact (e.g. HD's 116-120 and HD's 123-125). Packing them into only a few heavily concentrated districts (e.g. CD-21 and HD's 121-122) is to avert their voting power from the remainder of the region. In many regions, the minority is now the Anglo/non-Hispanic ethnic class (e.g. Bexar County).

Even though Bexar County is philosophically competitive (purple, i.e. the average is 50-50), the lines are drawn that do not fairly represent the electorate. The Congressional Districts are currently 2 R's to 3 D's. The Texas House Districts are currently 2 R's to 8 D's. The Texas Senate Districts are now 1 R to 3 D's. The county and city districts are worse with 1 R out of 5 and 1 R out of 11, respectively. The previous formulae used in the VRA do not apply today.

Redistricting should not be an incumbency protection plan, even though the decennial map-drawing appeared to practice that procedure for many, many decades, especially prior to 1995. Gerry-mandering is neither fair nor equitable for the voters whom the representatives serve. The districts that get the most attention are targeted by both parties because they are competitive (e.g. CD-23). It would be nice if more districts were competitive so that voter apathy would lead up to a more informed electorate. It should be a Voter Involvement Plan! Wouldn't you like to see an increase in an election turnout everywhere and every election by educated legitimate voters?

We appreciate the committee's service in the Texas Senate and the transparency your committee provides. It is a difficult task to draw the districts of Texas in accordance with the United States and Texas Constitutions, the Voting Rights Act, the Texas Election Code, and Government Code.

Sincerely,

Marian Stanko

*SREC Committeewoman, Senatorial District 26,
State Republican Executive Committee, Republican Party of Texas
Precinct Chair, Precinct 2110, Republican Party of Bexar County

*Titles for identification purposes only