

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-12

First Name: Carol

Last Name: Burrus

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Houston

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Dear Congress,

There are ways to use modeling to determine when a district has been gerrymandered and no longer creates fair representation. Some of these come out of studies from Tufts University. These models are using either the shape of maps and/or the percentage numbers in districts. These should be used going forward, to ensure that the citizens of the state are properly represented in congress. The power to create districts should move to a third party or bi-partisan, equally represented committee and should not be given to those currently in power to be manipulated to stay in power. Currently our country is deeply divided. Gerrymandering makes it worse or can even create such extreme division. When a representative is guaranteed re-election by only representing his or her own party and not listening to those from the other party in their district, the need for compromise is obliterated and the tendency to move farther away from center has been shown again and again. This has not served our country. In fact it has caused huge problems for safety and well-being.

I believe deeply in democracy as a framework for government, for making community work as best it can. The kinds of rules we have to make sure democracy is honored and that each person truly gets their voice to be heard is essential. Voting gives each person a tiny bit of power. That bit of power should not be taken away through manipulation or power hoarding by those who currently hold power.