

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-27  
First Name: Kaye  
Last Name: Leidy  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Lost Pines Republican Women  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Cedar Creek  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

By way of background, I am a Republican precinct chair, former vice-chair of the Bastrop County Republican Party, member of Lost Pines Republican Women, Austin Republican Women, Fayette County Republican Women, Bastrop County Republican Club, and election judge.

I emphatically do NOT want an "independent" commission (appointed by whom?) deciding on the redistricting map. I want legislators, who are accountable to the voters, doing their job. SD 14 is severely gerrymandered to favor Democrats.

Redistricting must create districts that balance population patterns, and include ALL ethnicities, ages, and walks of life. Splitting the districts into tiny enclaves based on ethnicity makes a mockery of the virtue of "diversity" and results in racial silos. We are all AMERICANS.

Geography is far less important since travel is not necessary to contact one's representative

Bastrop County is a rural/small town county. A drive through Bastrop on Hwy 71 is not representative of the rest of the county, which is largely farm and ranch. Even our "suburban" areas tend to be on large acreages. The interests of rural counties are quite different from urban. Bastrop County is lumped with Travis County, which makes it certain that our votes are overwhelmed by the largely leftist Austin voters. We are therefore disenfranchised. For example, our current Senator, Sarah Eckhart, did not even bother to campaign in Bastrop County, since even if every registered voter in Bastrop County voted for her opponent, she knew she was a shoo-in based on Travis County.

A number of rural issues as opposed to urban include:

Water - many households are on wells, and selling our groundwater out from under us affects farmers and ranchers - who feed those urban residents. As our Agriculture Commission emphasizes, you may need a doctor or plumber occasionally, but you need a farmer three times a day.

Growth management for a rural area that abuts an urban area gets ignored.

Fiber optic - Austin has it, Bastrop County doesn't.

Public services - fire, law enforcement, medical facilities, etc, are far more accessible in an urban area, and stretched thin in our urban areas.

In short, urban areas should be in a congressional district with other counties of similar make-up, e.g. Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, so that our representative will be focused on our needs, not Austin's.

Please give us back Senator Donna Campbell.

