

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 8:48:40 AM

Date: 2021-09-25
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Redistricting Committee,

Please accept this letter in lieu of testimony at the Redistricting Hearing in Austin, Texas scheduled for September 25, 2021. I am asking the Committee to oppose plans 2018 from the amendment by Senator Joan Huffman to SB 4.

Political districts should unite communities of interest and allow citizens to collaborate. Hays County residents, and especially San Marcos residents, share much in common. San Marcans and Hays County residents were hoping to share a single senatorial district, but Huffman's proposed amendment would take us in the opposite direction. Instead of the current two districts, her amendment divides Hays County into three State Senate Districts, including Senate District 25, 21, and 19.

As a tenth-generation Tejana born in Austin, I remember the efforts of my parents and the Mexican American and African American communities to do away with Jim Crow era practices such as poll taxes and literacy requirements, designed to suppress voting rights prior to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I believed we had entered a new era of freedom and fairness. Instead, politicians in both parties have developed sophisticated methods to gerrymander districts and allow them to choose partisan voters. Huffman's amendment expands gerrymandered districts, suppresses minority voting power, and segregates San Marcos and Hays County communities by both race and class.

Residents of one small county should not have to navigate three senatorial districts. This map would draw senate district lines through several school districts, several County Commissioner Precincts, and several cities.

Moreover, Hays County is the fastest-growing county in the state, and residents of San Marcos, Buda and Kyle are part of a region known as the Central Texas Corridor. These sister-cities share many characteristics, interests and challenges. As small but fast-growing towns that blend into each other, we are all concerned with developing good jobs, providing affordable housing, protecting our water resources and environment, and improving our criminal justice system, roads and transportation. To effectively work together and develop the region, we need one senator, not three. We need to keep our neighbors, sister-cities and communities of interest together in order to facilitate our engagement with the democratic political process.

Finally, new districts must adhere to all principles outlined in the Voting Rights Act in order to counter current and historical discrimination against Texas' minority communities. As you know, most of the growth in Hays County can be attributed to Latinos, and that growth is centered around the Central Texas Corridor. This corridor must be kept whole. We request that the Corridor remain represented by Senate District 21, that this amendment be voted

down, and that the committee return to the previous map of Hays County in 87(3) SB 4 (plans2101).

Respectfully,

Ana M. Juárez, PhD
Member, League of Women Voters of Hays County

