

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 12:07:59 PM

Date: 2021-09-11
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Honorable Representatives:

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the ongoing redistricting deliberations. It is a very serious matter with far-reaching consequences. With that in mind, I am writing to urge you to think hard on the long-term political health of both the state and the country and place partisan considerations aside while determining the new district boundaries. The citizens of Texas must have real choices when they vote, and that means districts that are as compact and free from Democratic or Republican lean as much as legally possible.

Gerrymandering is a serious problem across the country, and has done more than its fair share to elevate the most extreme, intolerant, and unserious voices on the far-right and far-left into public office. When a district is drawn to protect a party, and we all know how easy it is to do these days with the massive amounts of data and intelligent computer programs, it changes the relevant election to be the primary election instead of the general election, and gives all the power to the hyper-partisans most likely to vote in that election. Centrist voters in both parties and independents have little influence as a result.

The consequences of this arrangement are clear, and the divisions gerrymandering helps create by elevating extreme political positions are tearing this country apart. Moderation is tossed out the window and people feel helpless and angry because they suffer either from no legislation, or extreme legislation. Too many people come to feel that they have no real influence and political representation, which is the situation we fought a revolution to free ourselves from. Given the anger and tension so prevalent these days in America, I fear another bloody conflict if we do not step back from extreme political positions and seek the center once more.

These are not typical, peaceful times, and we cannot keep acting like democracy in America will be fine on its own. We all have to take our system of government seriously and act like serious, wise people with the needs of our entire country foremost in our minds. This is something we have been able to do in the past, voters and elected officials alike, and we must do so again. It's time to recommit ourselves to the democratic process by drawing competitive districts.

Thank you for your time and attention.

- Crispin Lawson

