

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 9:36:27 AM

Date: 2021-09-25
First Name: Emlyn
Last Name: Lee
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
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City: Austin
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Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

As a second generation Chinese-American, I want fair districts because our children need to grow up in a society that they feel included and that they belong. We need better, more responsive representation and more opportunity districts for the AAPI communities, including in coalition with other people of color and immigrant populations with similar values and needs.

Within my Asian American community of interest, we have shared cultural characteristics, countries of origin, languages and dialects spoken, and socioeconomic status. In short, we live, eat, shop, play, learn, work, and worship together. We deserve to vote together because it's essential that we advocate together.

The racial discrimination has definitely heightened during the Coronavirus when former national and current state leaders kept referencing it as the "China virus" and "Kung flu". It is immature, embarrassing, and a hit to me and my community. I am much more on-guard when I am in public in fear that others may respond in a bigoted way. This is not how one should feel in the "home of the brave and land of the free."

SD25 had grown to 46.9% people of color (POC) based on the 2020 census, and yet they have redrawn it to be only 41% POC. The district has been drawn to include more of Western Travis County, lumping together those urban and suburban areas with much more small town and rural counties like Kendall, Comal, and Blanco. These maps are maintaining and furthering the erasure of our voices district by district. They serve only to dilute our votes.

SD25 had a 62.01% increase in African American, 54.5% increase in Hispanic/Latino, and 76.6% increase in Asian populations. This is compared to just a 16.56% increase in White population in the last 10 years. Our maps need to reflect the growth of POC communities, not divide them further!

I urge this committee to hold additional in-person and virtual hearings that allow public input from the entire state and to create a new Senate map that reflects our community input and the census data, as well as create fair districts for US Congress and TX House. In addition, please continue to allow a fair and open process by providing at least 14 days for the public to review additional maps, 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps, keeping a record of all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps, and providing analysis of how the new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color.

Thank you for receiving this statement. I hope and pray that everyone's full humanity will be exposed as we move our nation forward to represent ALL the voices and people properly, respectfully, and honestly.

[REDACTED]