

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 1:16:37 PM
Attachments: [87th-TxLege-testimony-redistricting .pdf](#)

Date: 2021-09-30
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Sandra Thomson
WrittenTestimony

Bexar County Precinct Chair 4099

September 30, 2021

Senate Redistricting Committee - 87th Texas Legislature

The Senate Redistricting Committee has contorted the State Board of Education districts representing Bexar County in a way that defies all logic. Bexar County currently is divided between Districts 3 and 5. District 3 swings from Bexar County through 11 rural counties down to the Rio Grande. District 5 is at least more compact, joining north Bexar County with Comal, Guadalupe, and Kendall Counties, with which Bexar County shares a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) are delineated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget as having at least one urbanized area with a minimum population of 50,000. Metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is the formal definition of a region that consists of a city and surrounding communities that are linked by social and economic factors.

Under the proposed Texas Senate Redistricting Map 2103, Bexar County now is divided between SBOE Districts 1 and 3. This puts Bexar County at the tail-end of two highly rural districts, with District 3 now encompassing 16 mostly rural counties from Bexar County to the Rio Grande. This proposal will weaken Texas' ability to create 21st-century students. Let's keep Texas strong and proud by serving our future patriots without prejudice.

The principles of redistricting are to create districts that are compact and to incorporate communities of interest, meaning that people in the district are linked by social, economic, and cultural factors. Those goals are not accomplishable by joining Bexar County's large urban school districts with those of very small communities. Furthermore, the 2020 Census showed that minority populations are

declining in rural areas while those populations are growing in urban areas. Beyond that, the geography that one representative would need to cover to serve their communities?—is unsupportable.

Let me propose this alternative. Keep Bexar County intact as one SBOE district. The Legislature prescribes that the ideal population per district is 1,943,034, with a maximum of 1,952,470. The population of Bexar County is 2,009,324—less than 3% over of the maximum prescribed by the Legislature. The district would be far more manageable if it were contained in one county, to the point that an additional 3% in population would be better served in Bexar County than if that population is spread out over several sparsely populated counties. And containing a district in Bexar County would meet the redistricting goals of creating a district that is linked by social, economic, and cultural factors.



Written Testimony

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