

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 7:43:10 PM

Date: 2021-10-04
First Name: Rekha
Last Name: Shenoy
Title: Dr
Organization: SAAVE (South Asian American Voter Empowerment) Tx
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Plano
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Hello, my name is Rekha Shenoy and I am a resident of Precinct # 121 in Plano, Collin County. I am part of the growing South Asian community that contributes to the economic, social, and civic activities of this growing area, where more people want to move to.

I am a Dentist and a Public Health Professional working for a non-profit, community-based organization in the Dallas Metroplex area.

I belong to a thriving South-Asian Community that contributes to the Collin County area extensively. We have a significant presence in the health-care sector, Information Technology, higher education and small businesses-to name a few. We are Americans that enjoy everything American and also enrich the communities we live in by sharing our traditions and culture. We have several temples in Allen, Plano and Frisco, where we worship as a community. My family also likes to go to Indian restaurants in Allen, Plano and Frisco to enjoy traditional foods occasionally.

Our community has had a substantial impact on Texas and Collin County. We contribute significantly in taxes and to the local economy. Our numbers are growing exponentially and yet we are not able to elect candidates that represent our voices. Some of the issues we are really concerned about are women's reproductive rights, current gun laws, public education and of the more recent COVID response in Collin County and the mismanagement of the power grid- to name a few. Both my state house representative, Jeff Leech and Senate representative, Angela Paxton do not represent my views on most of the issues that are important to me, my family and my community.

For far too long, AAPI communities, which are the fastest-growing across Texas, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts and thus, have been prevented from having the ability to elect a candidate of their choice. I am looking at the proposed maps and am appalled that instead of rectifying this issue, you are worsening it. I see a common theme in my HD 67, Sen 8 and CD-3 maps, where existing Anglo minority is being changed to make our districts Anglo- majority. In every single map, the Asian vote is being further diluted by re-drawing some parts of our districts with rural areas of Collin, Grayson and Hunt counties, with whom we have very little in common- as far as issues and activities are concerned. Sen Dist-8 is going from having 47.3% Anglo, 52.7% non-Anglo and 21.3 % Asian to 54.3 % Anglo, 45.7 % non-Anglo and 15.7 % Asian, when the population growth was actually in

the opposite direction. This is such a travesty.

If this is not gerrymandering along racial lines, then what is it ??? Your maps are deliberately breaking up our community.

All I ask is that we are given equal representation through fair legislative districting. We ask that you honor the Voting Rights Act which prohibits you from drawing lines that dilute our voices.

Rekha Shenoy

