

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:58 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Attachments:** Field Hearing Testimony jPA v2.docx

Date: 2020-12-10  
First Name: judy  
Last Name: Ackerman  
Title: N/A  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: El Paso  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Members of the Redistricting Committees, my name is Judy Ackerman and I live in El Paso, TX. Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective on redistricting.

First, general comments on redistricting and then a few specifics about El Paso.

Gerrymandering is a threat to Democracy. You have the power to draw fair maps. That is what we need you to do. When candidates have no opposition in the general election, and their only challenger comes for the extremes of their own party, then the political divide deepens. Chances for dialog, compromise and progress of any kind are eliminated. Gerrymandering must end. You can do it. Please do!

Thank you for participating and listening to virtual public testimony.

As stated by Senate Select Committee on Redistricting Chair, Joan Huffman, we need a "fair, legal, and open legislative redistricting process." Also, we need to "maximize public participation throughout this process."

Please hold more public hearings. Especially, Ensure the public has a change to comment on any maps BEFORE you vote on them in committee.

Allow enough time at hearings for the public to introduce alternative maps.

Please ignore the residential address of the incumbent or any political candidate. Draw maps that make sense for the physical geography and the communities of interest not maps that favor a particular candidate.

Use Nesting of political districts. All persons who live in a particular State House district should be in the same state Senate District.

Now, Some specifics about El Paso. I live in Texas State House District 78 (Joe Moody's district). On a two-dimensional map, it looks quite reasonable. BUT if you have ever been to El Paso, you know we have mountains that rise up 3 thousand feet, right in the middle of the city. Our Franklin Mountains are beautiful. BUT they are a major impediment to movement and therefore divide distinctly different communities of interest. People who live in Northeast El Paso avoid traveling across the mountains to the Westside. And people from the Westside have absolutely NO reason to visit Northeast. Please draw district 78 so that it is ALL on one side of our mountains or the other.

YOU have the power to fix the maps. Please do. It is the right thing to do. Please make it happen.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration of fair maps.

