

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-10
First Name: Krista
Last Name: Keosheyian
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

The upcoming redistricting decisions are very important to me and my community!

I live in the Wells Branch Municipal Utilities District area of north Travis County. We are in the city of Austin but also very independent. Our community is close knit & thriving.

Currently, we are in Texas U.S. Congressional District 17. Our district was gerrymandered a decade ago to ensure a Republican would be elected, because most of district 17 is now rural and/or small towns which vote overwhelmingly Republican.

Wells Branch is comprised of four precincts: 215, 216, 225, & 229. In these four precincts are roughly 15,000 registered voters. In our last election, more than 70% of voters in the Wells Branch precincts voted for Joe Biden. The Democratic party leaning of our community is consistent for all our representation, not just presidential.

Voting for Democrats reflects the demographics & values of our community. Wells Branch's 4 precincts have higher percentages of non-white voters, and apartment dwellers, than many Travis County precincts. We love our parks, schools, & WB library. For 30 years we've had a progressive church, with a popular food pantry, in our neighborhood. I am a member of that church & so are many of my neighbors.

Because Wells Branch has much more in common with Austin than with Waco & more rural areas of Texas 17, I feel like we are ignored by our congressional representative whose priorities are much more aligned with counties that are significantly different than our suburban slice of Travis County. The sad truth is that our representative in U.S. Congress ignores us & does not care about our votes because the district 17 representative does not need our votes to win.

Fair maps decided with engaged communities MUST be a priority for our Texas democracy to be healthy and for all Texans to be represented, not just those of one political party. Please hold additional hearings so more Texans can voice opinions about this important process!

Thank you!

