

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 13, 2021 4:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Attachments:** Testimony Field.docx

Date: 2021-03-13  
First Name: Megan  
Last Name: Field  
Title: N/A  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

Dear Committee Member,

My name is Megan Field and I am representing myself. I live in TX Congressional District 10, [REDACTED]

We can't ignore the context of race and systemic racism in our country and in our state, especially when we look at redistricting and the litigation of maps over many years because of intentional discrimination. Here we are again, drawing maps with no federal oversight.

Texas is changing rapidly and will have added approximately 4.3 million people in the last decade. 55% are Latin-X and 90% are non-white. Adhering to the Voting Rights Act is the only way to ensure fair representation in our maps.

The striking down of preclearance in 2013 made a lot of assumptions about Texas' progress, deeming federal oversight unnecessary. I ask, "HAVE THINGS REALLY CHANGED?"

Can we say with honesty that Texas has passed the test of preclearance? Do we just ignore things such as: the increase in stricter voter ID laws, the limiting of absentee ballot drop boxes, the elimination of straight ticket voting, the attempt to discount 127,000 Harris County ballots, to name just a few hurdles aimed at people of color? I think not. The time of racial reckoning has come to our state's doorstep and the drawing of FAIR maps is ground zero in that effort.

It is crucial that the rules and procedures the Senate adopt be fair and transparent. The following should be adopted BEFORE the release of the census data.

1. Public hearings and testimony must be held on any proposed maps before they pass through Committee. There should be 14 days' notice prior to a hearing along with the public release of maps.
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3. For any map submitted, there must be an analysis of how that map will affect the ability of historically disenfranchised groups to elect candidates of their choice.
4. Allow enough time at hearings for other legislators and the public to propose alternative map suggestions.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony.

\*Demographic info. provided by the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law.