

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: CoS-Senate Redist_ Testimony.docx

Date: 2021-03-11
First Name: Ricardo
Last Name: Armendariz
Title: N/A
Organization: City of Socorro, Texas
Address: [REDACTED]
City: El Paso
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Please see attached.

[REDACTED]



Texas Senate Redistricting Committee
March 12, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the City of Socorro, located in El Paso County.

Socorro was established in 1680 by local Manso and Piro tribes fleeing the Pueblo Revolt in northern New Mexico. It took its name from Socorro, the town in central New Mexico from which the Piros had originated, which had been given the name Socorro.

The City of Socorro is located on the north bank of the Rio Grande southeast of El Paso, and on the border of Mexico. Largely a rural community, our city of nearly 35,000 has seen many of the challenges that other cities have seen regarding the need for infrastructure and housing along with the challenge of preserving the agricultural communities within our boundaries. Socorro is El Paso County's second-largest municipality and has a council-manager type of government with five city council members.

The City of Socorro supports maintaining the current makeup of our representation of five state House members and one Senator from El Paso County. These six members of the Legislature have focused efforts that address the diversity of our community and allowed us to grow and contribute to our great State.

Most important to our municipality is to maintain the current level of representation in the Texas House. Our City is represented by Dr. Mary Gonzalez, who understands our unique small city needs and most of her district is populated by other similar small communities. We would like to maintain the existing boundaries to the degree possible and continue to be served by someone who is from our area, truly understands our unique needs and fights for us in the Texas House.

We urge the committee and the Legislature to maintain the five House members and one Senate seat wholly located within El Paso County and not dilute our representation outside of our county lines. We believe that we can continue to contribute to the diversity of our unique border county and our state of Texas.

We thank the Committee for its time today.