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From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Redistricting Testimony.pdf

Date: 2021-03-11
First Name: Vanessa
Last Name: MacDougal
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

[REDACTED]

I live in the Brentwood neighborhood in north-central Austin. The population of Austin has exploded in the last decade, I understand that we may get a new congressional seat.

The Austin area has been “cracked” into numerous districts that do not line up with any communities of interest, and do not align across different levels of government. There are 80 combinations of US House, State Senate, State House, and State Board of Education within Travis County. US House District 10, which stretches from west Austin to Katy, splits the town of Pflugerville in half. The SBOE district lines cut seven Austin ISD elementary school attendance zones in two. Our elementary schools serve cohesive neighborhoods, and there are only 15 SBOE districts in the state. There is no good reason why neighborhoods need to be split in two this way.

This cracking makes it extremely difficult for Austinites to engage in the political process. It is very difficult for us to figure out whom we are eligible to vote for, or who our elected representatives are. “Write your Congressman!” “Who is that?” “It depend, do you live in east or west Pflugerville?”

Creating so many districts that are “safe” for one party or the other encourages division. Candidates pander to their most extreme primary voters. We have a pandemic and an energy crisis, and our schools are struggling. We need solutions for all Texans, not pandering to a small population of extremists.

I ask that the committee draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent ALL Texans.

I ask that you work to end map manipulation and gerrymandering. I attached some maps so you can visualise the problems we have.







