

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, May 1, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-05-01

First Name: Pius

Last Name: Wong

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Austin

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Hello, concerned Texans and representatives. I live in Northwest Austin, Congressional District 17. Since the last major redistricting efforts 10 years ago, I've lived in 3 different districts here in Texas.

10 years ago I lived in District 10 in Austin off Mopac and went to school in District 25 but officially my fellow Congressional constituents were in faraway Houston suburbs to the east. Later, in 2011, I moved to District 21 in Austin, on the other side of Lady Bird Lake But my fellow district neighbors were suddenly parts of San Antonio now, and Fredericksburg.

Later, in 2013, I moved back to District 10 in Austin, renting a place just 4 miles away from where I am now. And since 2018 I've lived in District 17 in Austin, again off Mopac, fortunate that my partner and I could get a home here. My fellow district constituents are now in Waco and College Station.

This fragmented district map in Austin has negatively affected me and my community.

At each point in time over the last 10 years, my Congressional Representative didn't have to know or care about either my home, my work, my school, my family and friends, or my daily life or values, because the district maps separated all of that. My work, home, and school were always in different districts. My reps didn't know about where my family spends its time and money, whether it's the IKEA area in Round Rock, or its my favorite Asian grocery store and barber and Asian American restaurants we've been going to for forever, some of which are closing. As a math teacher at Austin Community College, I normally work directly in districts 10, 31, and 35, and none of my reps had to care about the needs of my students and campuses outside their districts. How can I communicate to every Congressional rep in Austin just to voice my concerns with work and education?

Every time I've moved just a few miles away, Texas districts have unfairly cut down my political voice and power. It's forced me to reset the process of connecting to representatives and political groups fighting to get heard. My political geographic area changes drastically, and my reps haven't had to live where I live, let alone visit the important parts of my my community.

So to fix these problems, my requests are to:

1. Districts at all levels should be drawn more along county lines and school district lines so reps actually know about constituents' needs for daily living, housing, work, and school, and not piecemeal.
2. Texas, including the city of Austin, should have a fair map of district shapes that don't have strange cutups.
3. The Asian and Asian American community around Austin is currently totally cut up at the US Congressional level, and our voice is diluted there for no good reason.

Thank you.

