

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 11:52:20 AM

Date: 2021-09-09

First Name: Holly

Last Name: Bell

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Austin

State: TX

Zipcode: 78704

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Holly Bell and I live in the south-central area of Austin, within walking distance of the capital. I've been there for 27 years.

Thanks to Republican redistricting in 2003, this largely Democratic area was divided into multiple congressional districts. I am now part of an appendix of progressive Democrats running through central Austin and down I-35 into San Antonio that is attached to the large square of rural, Republican voters that make up District 21. As far as I'm concerned, District 21 is a textbook case of gerrymandering. As a result, I feel like I have no voice in the U.S. Congress. I regularly write to my U.S. Representative about issues I care about, like protecting voting rights, COVID relief and public health measures, the impeachment of the last President, and policing, and it is clear from his replies and newsletter that he doesn't represent my views in Congress. I respect his right to have different views and different facts. However, I don't see why he is representing me and my neighbors.

Feeling voiceless in a supposed democracy leads to cynicism and political apathy. As a retired white woman, I have the time and resources to continue to try to make my voice heard. But I am concerned about the millions of Texans who do not have these resources and who bear the brunt of policies made under this gerrymandered system.

I am writing today to ask that the Senate consider the long-term consequences of extreme partisan gerrymandering on the health of our democracy. I would ask that you create districts that are fair, competitive, and allow for genuine representation of all Texas citizens.

Thank you for considering my concerns as you draw district maps.

[REDACTED]