

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 2:34:19 PM

Date: 2021-09-23
First Name: Luther
Last Name: Elmore
Title: President of AFSCME Texas Retirees Chapter 12
Organization: AFSCME Texas Retirees Chapter 12
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Luther Elmore, and I am President of AFSCME, Texas Retirees, Chapter 12. AFSCME Texas Retirees is an organization of almost 9,000 members who worked for the State of Texas and now receive a monthly annuity for their years of service. During our working years, we enforced the state's laws, patrolled the highways, collected the taxes, maintained the state parks, and cared for the elderly and disabled, among many other jobs. We did that on a professional and non-partisan basis. I am pleading with this committee and its members to go about the redistricting process with that same non-partisan stance with which we did our jobs, drawing fair and just district lines.

Texans deserve no less.

We all need to know that our votes count. Anything that brings that into question lessens our support for the political process and the nation's support as a whole. Often in the past, district lines were drawn – not with the interests of the citizens and voters of Texas in mind – but rather with partisan, personal interests of paramount importance. Many times those lines were drawn to protect incumbents and those drawing the lines. As many others have said before, "Voters no longer choose their representatives, but the representatives choose their voters." This process of gerrymandering must end.

Partisan, gerrymandered lines are unpopular across the political spectrum. According to a recent national survey by a majority of 2 to 1 Americans are opposed to unfair, unrepresentative districts. Citizens want their voices heard.

In a broader sense, partisan gerrymandered districts undermine our country itself. A survey by the Pew Research Center over several years revealed that in 1958 78% of Americans trusted the government to "do the right thing." Today it is 17%. Part of that erosion in trust – not all- is due to policies like gerrymandered districts which are drawn for blatant partisan interests. During this session of the Texas Legislature,

Texans are watching.

I implore you to do what's right for the citizens and voters of Texas and draw logical, fair, representative districts.

Thank you,
Luther Elmore
President of AFSCME Texas Retirees

