

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 12:45:39 PM

Date: 2021-09-29
First Name: Robert
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Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I am Robert Norris, Austin, Tx [REDACTED] I represent myself, and am commenting on SB 6, third called session, related to the proposed congressional district map.

The proposed congressional district map, under SB 6, reflects continued gerrymandering to ensure more white Republican incumbents or majorities are elected to congress. It is quite clear that the map would further dilute the voting power of urban communities, reduce opportunities for representation reflective of the population, and doesn't benefit Texans.

The map in fact reduces the number of districts dominated by people of color, even though Texas gained two additional congressional seats and the population of Asian, Black and Hispanic Texans outpaced white Texans over the last decade. (1)

Republicans in the Senate developed the map with incumbent protection in mind, including protection for vulnerable GOP seats. It would also strengthen Republican positioning overall in Texas, going from 22 to 25 districts that would have voted for Donald Trump in 2020. The number of congressional districts that voted for Joe Biden would have shrunk by one, from 14 to 13. (1)

The map adoption process is also egregious. One Senate committee meeting to receive public input on such an important and far-reaching map is completely unfair to Texans wishing to provide this input.

A more equitable map would instead be based on the new ethnic and racial distributions across the state that are reflected in the recent census report for Texas; and allow voters to pick their legislators, rather than legislators picking their voters. The adoption process would also include several Senate committee hearings to receive public input on the congressional map.

(1) Source: Texas Tribune, 9/27/21.

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