

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Friday, September 10, 2021 9:03:04 AM

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Date: 2021-09-10  
First Name: Susan  
Last Name: Barzelay  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Colleyville  
State: Texas  
Zipcode: 76034  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you Chairperson Huffman and Committee for inviting testimony to advocate for fair maps. My name is Susan Barzelay and I live in Colleyville, a suburban community a few miles to DFW Airport, American Airlines headquarters and equidistant to Fort Worth and Dallas.

The airport has been a generator for economic growth and diversity. Our school district (GCISD) reflects this diversity with almost 50% of our students from different backgrounds. Over 25% are Hispanic, a vocal African American community and growing Asian student body. Recent census data demonstrates that there should be substantially more elected legislators reflecting this growth in minority communities.

As a person of faith, member of Congregation Beth Israel and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC TX) fair representation and promise of democracy are intertwined in our ethics and core values. Jews are instructed to speak for marginalized communities and not tolerate policies or systemic practices that sustain prejudice and injustice. Gerrymandered districts that crack and pack to enable one partisan group to dominate the election process prevent minority communities and the Jewish community from having leaders that serve our needs and hear our voices.

Texas has a long history of NOT complying with fair representation indicated by numerous court rulings, decade after decade, and now the 2020 census data that can't be ignored. Tikkun Olam is a Jewish value for healing the world. We implore the Texas legislature in this special session to remove gerrymandered districts and consider the needs of all communities of interest. Especially Hispanic/Latino, African Americans and Asians that now account for over 50% of the Texas population.

Maintain the majority minority districts now in place in Tarrant County. Add additional opportunity districts to represent the significant growth as shown in the new census data. And draw fair maps that don't consistency produce the same election results - by many times small margins - and

bring communities of interest together. Consider our school districts and major employers including the airport and help us fight voter suppression and make our voices heard. Protect democracy, justice and freedom — why Jews and other minorities seek safe haven in this great country and state.

