

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 4:21:59 PM

Date: 2021-09-11
First Name: Taylor
Last Name: James
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: 78723
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

My name is Taylor James, and I live in Austin, TX, 78723. I am representing myself.

I moved to Austin from Eugene, Oregon in 2019, less than a year before COVID hit hard in March 2020. Coming from a rapidly-overpopulating city — and watching the even more rapid overpopulation of Portland just north — I was impressed by the availability and affordability of housing in Austin. I started a new job as a recruiter with a local commercial staffing firm and was impressed, too, with the local job market's efficient but fair pace. Traffic was bad and public transportation was impossible, but the culture, opportunity, and community in Austin made that worthwhile.

My community has changed drastically over the last two years. Many more people have moved here, like I did, driving up the cost of both buying and renting a home. When I applied to lease my current home in June, my agent warned me that the market was so competitive that many renters were now offering above asking price. Meanwhile at work, I watched my contractors and candidates face evictions, rising childcare costs, and a constant cycle of COVID-driven layoffs and temporary plant closures — all while employers offered almost exactly the same wages they had in 2019.

Though some of these issues have affected all Texans, their manifestations are intensely local. I urge you to keep communities of interest together in this redistricting session. Our representatives cannot adequately advocate for their constituents if their districts are split too broadly - the solution to Austin's high cost of living and poor housing market, for example, would make no sense for rural and less-populated areas. Please keep Austin whole; though it is too large for one district, it should comprise no more than three districts in the final map. Now is the time to end gerrymandering so that all Texans can be heard.

I also urge you to make proposed district maps available to the public after they are drawn, and to provide at least two weeks for residents to review and provide input on those maps.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

Taylor James



Austin, TX 78723

