

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 4:52:05 PM
Attachments: [As a resident of Senate District 13 redistricting.docx](#)

Date: 2021-09-25
First Name: Vincent
Last Name: Sanders
Title: Chairman
Organization: Senate District 13
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
See attached file

[REDACTED]

To the Senate Redistricting Committee

As a resident of Senate District 13, Sen. Miles' district, I am writing regarding the redistricting possibilities that are being discussed in the legislative special session. I am also writing with the specific focus on the makeup of Senate 13. This is a uniquely shaped region. Generally the area spans with a start in North Houston around the Beltway 8 and 59 goes south through downtown and midtown goes east and takes in Rice U, Texas Southern University and the University of Houston continues east hitting the historical neighborhoods of Third Ward, Sunnyside and South Park continuing west crossing Main St picking up the neighborhoods of Hiram Clarke, Braes Oaks and Alief then going south going into parts of Fort Bend County.

SD13 is currently made up of 12 House Districts and our State Senator and these officials serve on the various legislative committees and they keep us informed of what's happening in Austin. These committees include, Health and Human Service, Public Education, Higher Education, Criminal Justice Reform, Elections, and Transportation just to name a few. I know that they are working hard for us.

That being said, it is very disappointing to see the lack of new opportunity districts (districts that can elect candidates of choice for communities of color) in Harris County despite the record amount of growth from communities of color here. Instead of drawing new opportunity districts, the State has chosen to further "crack and pack" our communities to diminish our influence statewide.

It should also be noted that the Coronavirus pandemic has played a significant challenge in 2020 and is still delaying normalcy that we are all used to having. Because of the legal battles with the previous federal administration the virus delayed the U.S. census deadline. And although Texas has grown faster than any other state over the last decade and will gain a 2 additional US house seats, there may be an undercount of those living in the state, and thus there may be billions of federal dollars possibly left on the table that could pay for meaningful services and programs for all Texans.

I'm concerned that the 2021 redistricting cycle could mark the first time in nearly 50 years that Texas will be able to implement new legislative and congressional districts without having to prove ahead of time that the maps don't undermine the electoral power of voters of color. Partisan identification should not be used as a subterfuge for race based gerrymandering to suppress or dilute Black, Hispanic or Asian voters influence on the election of state legislators or members of Congress.

It is my sincere hope that the redistricting committees in both the Senate and the House can work together to redraw the maps fairly and equally. The purpose of reapportionment and redistricting is to ensure the constitutional standard of one-person-one vote while protecting against minority vote dilution. This goal can be achieved with a fair map that truly represents the communities that have been the driving force in the growth of our state population during the past 20 years as reflected in the 2010 and 2020 censuses.

In conclusion, every effort should be made to maintain and/or maximize the influence of Black, Hispanic and Asian voters to elect candidates of their choice in legislative and congressional districts. I write this letter in hopes that my senate district, will remain intact and that we continue

to have the type of strong representation that we have grown accustomed to and have worked diligently for our well-being.

In Highest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent L. Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vincent" clearly legible at the beginning.

Vincent L. Sanders
Senate District 13 Chairman