

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:30:05 AM

Date: 2021-10-14
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I submit these written comments in opposition to HB 1, establishing new district boundaries for the 150 representatives in the Texas House.

My first issue with HB 1 concerns process. On a topic as important as the right of representation in the Legislature, the public needs more time to scrutinize and fully understand what is proposed in HB 1 as passed by the House. The public also should be fully and timely informed of the author's detailed rationale for significant changes proposed at each stage of the process in committee, on the House and Senate floor, and in conference.

The foremost substantive issue with HB 1 concerns its effect on minority representation. With 95 percent of the growth in the state's population over the past ten years attributable to minorities, HB 1 manages the unlikely feat of actually reducing the number of House districts with Hispanic and Black eligible-voter majorities and carves up Asian American population centers in a manner that minimizes their voting influence. This carefully crafted curtailment of the voting power of minorities makes HB 1 a clear example of the kind of redistricting that qualifies as intentionally discriminatory in violation of the federal Voting Rights Act and the equal-protection guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The author of HB 1 attempts to obfuscate the loss of minority voting power under this bill, by claiming it increases the number of districts that would have a "majority minority" voting-age population. However, as ample judicial precedent affirms, the relevant measure of voting power is the citizen voting-age population, i.e., those of voting age who are actually eligible to vote. By that true measure, HB 1 clearly diminishes the number of districts in which Hispanic and Black voters can elect the candidate of their choice. HB 1 also minimizes the political power of the rapidly growing Asian American segment of the state's population by carefully splitting up and diffusing among multiple districts the large concentrations of Asian Americans in major metropolitan areas like my home county of Travis.

[REDACTED]