

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:41 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Date: 2021-01-28  
First Name: Hannah  
Last Name: Evans  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Nolanville  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

To the esteemed members of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting:

I intended to present this orally today, January 28, 2021, as part of the Central Texas committee hearing, but I was unfortunately unable to participate in the entire hearing.

I write as a constituent who moved to Bell County, TX in June 2020. I am part of the growth!

I recognize that the task ahead of you is both exciting and daunting. As a new resident, I have inherited both the consequences and advantages of the last process. I am writing to urge this committee to ensure that this upcoming redistricting process is transparent, accessible, and equitable for all Texans.

This is particularly front of mind for me because my community is diverse, wonderful, and growing; however, the current districts do not capture this diversity particularly well. According to the Texas Legislative Council and the 2010 census, Bell County is the most diverse county represented within Texas Senate District 24, which includes 13 other complete counties, seventy percent of Taylor County, and just five percent of Travis County. In 2010, Bell County was around 50% White, but the voting population in the entire Senate district was 70% White. This clearly has shortchanged many of my Black, Hispanic and Asian neighbors in our representative democracy. Beyond demographics, the far western and southern areas of both my Texas House (54) and Senate districts carry very different geographic and economic concerns than the areas immediately surrounding Fort Hood, where I live. Within Bell County, the Killeen, Nolanville, and Harker Heights area has grown exponentially over the last 10 years and the 2020 census data will likely reflect growing racial and economic diversity. I urge the committee to ensure that this diversity is captured more accurately and equitably across both the House and Senate districts in the upcoming proposals.

This year, it is up to us to hold ourselves accountable. I urge this committee to require that each map proposal include a public, written explanatory statement for how it adequately accounts for equitable representation of Black, Hispanic,

and minority Texas populations. I ask that you encourage community input on these proposals as they are considered. I know many of my neighbors were either unaware of, or are unable to make any of these scheduled hearings or submit testimony considering their work and family responsibilities. Maps, and the process by which they are developed, are not meant to be purely political. They are meant to be representative. Let Texas lead by example on how fair redistricting can and should be done.

You all have an opportunity to engage Texans in a new way, and I implore you to do so as you develop maps that will affect many future generations of Texans.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony.

[REDACTED]