

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
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Attachments: [Senate Maps Written Testimony.pdf](#)

Date: 2021-09-30
First Name: Raven
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Title: Testimony in response to State Senate Maps
Organization: Self
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City: Austin
State: TX
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice-Chair Hinojosa and Members of the Committee:

My name is Raven Douglas and I am solely representing myself in this testimony. I live in North Austin, near Mopac and 45, which is also very close to Williamson County. I moved to this area just six months ago and my move here is just a representation of the immense growth this area has seen over the past decade. Wells Branch is one of the most diverse areas of Austin, and not just by race. My community is filled with not only families but young working professionals, and young adults pursuing advanced degrees.

The proposed map is harmful to my community because there is an incredible dilution of communities of color. In my community of Travis County and the surrounding suburban areas, the proposed map packs Austin Democrats into SD-14 and SD-21. While Williamson County grew by 44% in the last decade and 77% of that growth came from diverse communities (including 26% from the Latino community, and 21% from the Asian community), but SD-5 and SD-24 cracks these communities into far-off, rural, non-diverse districts.

These might seem like simple lines, numbers and statistics, but to put this map into context, this map directly splits up my community which puts my best friend, partner, and I in three separate districts although I live less than 15 minutes away from both of them.

The aggressive manner of the packing and cracking communities of interest and communities of color in this proposed map demonstrates a clear intent to racially gerrymander the maps in Texas for the clear purpose of suppressing these communities' political voice in an effort to retain political power. While this is deeply disappointing, it is not surprising. The state of Texas has been found in violation of the Voting Rights Act in every decade since its passage. The Republican lawmakers on this Committee, and especially Chair Huffman, had an opportunity to change this shameful practice by the lawmakers of our state. They chose not to and Texans, especially Texans of color, will have the power of political voices diminished as a result. All Texans deserve fair maps and fair representation. This map does not do this and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to these maps.

Thank you.