

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 3:01:06 PM

Date: 2021-09-10
First Name: Toby
Last Name: Myers
Title: Dr.
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: TX
Zipcode: 77030
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

My name is Toby Myers. I live inside the 610 Loop in Houston, which I now hear is the most diverse city in the country, near Hermann Park and the Texas Medical Center.

Having completed the 2020 census, our country and state are in the redistricting phase. Gerrymandering is now a relevant concern. Gerrymandering because of race is illegal. Dividing districts on the basis of partisanship is not illegal. Racism and partisanship overlap and create a problem. Both Black and Hispanic communities typically favor Democratic candidates giving impetus for the oppositional manipulation. This redistricting cycle has fewer protections than those after the 2010 census. Harris County and Dallas County are going to be contentious as there are heavy minority areas in each.

As a result of the 2020 census, Texas looks to gain 2 Congressional seats. Changes will occur in the Texas legislature also. Map manipulation should not be allowed or condoned no matter how it gets dressed up. We are still a democracy, albeit more fragile. Remembering this is not a zero-sum game, I ask you to see to it that our redistricting does have not racially drawn lines that may not be presented as such.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Toby Myers.

[REDACTED]