

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 1:57:55 PM
Attachments: [Testimony on Redistricting.pdf](#)

Date: 2021-10-03

First Name: Gayle

Last Name: Evers

Title: Reverend

Organization: Self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Round Rock

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I am the Reverend Gayle Evers. I serve a faith community not far from where you are sitting today. And I am concerned about issues of justice—specifically today about justice for people whose voices who are being diminished or silenced altogether.

And like any preacher worth her salt, I have three primary concerns to bring before you today:

1. Product
2. Process, and
3. Priority

I am concerned that the Product—the map proposal before you—reduces the representation of POC while amplifying the representation of whites, even though POC represent 95% of the growth in our Texas population since the last redistricting. This Product—this map proposal—will add 6 predominantly white districts while removing representation from 6 districts that are predominately POC. This makes no sense.

And that brings us to the second concern—the Process. We, the people of the great State of Texas, need you, our elected leaders, to be utterly transparent about the data you use to create these maps. We need you to explain why the changes result in better representation of actual communities—both the physical neighborhoods and precincts, and the communities knit together by common needs.

A fair and open Process like this takes time. More time than is being allowed. I would suggest that the drawing of these redistricting maps every ten years is the single most important activity taken on by the House and Senate each decade. All else follows from the districts drawn on these maps. These are not just lines on a page—these maps control the volume of the voices of the people. Without fair and representative maps, there is no fair or representative vote.

And that is why we must focus on the third concern—Priority. It must be a priority to ensure that maps are nonpartisan and not rooted in racism. We must make it a priority to allow public input over a reasonable period of time, after the maps are drawn and before they are passed thru committee. Providing a 4-day window after the map has left

committee, and scheduling the House and Senate hearings simultaneously, is neither reasonable nor just.

And so, I ask that you, our elected leaders, reconsider the Product and the Process, and make changes a Priority to ensure that redistricting changes are just and well-considered and reflective of the actual composition of our neighborhoods.

Thank you.



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