

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:16:41 PM

Date: 2021-10-04
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Limiting the time and opportunities to comment on Senate maps is not okay – e.g. most recently, Monday, October 4th allows no virtual testimony. We are still in a pandemic and folks are working. Hearings at 9 am on Monday morning with no virtual hearings pretty much says it all. You are clearly reluctant to hear from your constituents.

Texas redistricting maps are not only unfair, they appear to be intentionally discriminatory. So partisan gerrymandering is legal, but racial gerrymandering is not. (Sec 2, Voting Rights Act). However, all gerrymandering is just plain wrong. You can and should do a lot better for the Texans who elected you.

The maps themselves, beyond being rife with both partisan and racial gerrymandering, just say out loud – we are protecting incumbents and we are staying in power. These maps do not reflect a party at all interested in working broadly for the people of Texas.

Looking at racial gerrymandering, these “color blind” maps have done an amazing job of eliminating opportunities for voters of color. You can say color blind, but these maps do not say that at all; again, they actually look quite intentional and discriminatory.

I was particularly struck by the attack on historically black districts – quite egregious. I don’t need to tell you that 95% of the growth in Texas has been from people of color and yet these maps clearly ignore facts. The reality is that you have significantly increased majority Anglo districts and decreased majority Latinx districts; you have reduced African American majority seats and split apart AAPI communities. I would point out specifics, but this abuse of power is widespread.

I do not see any good faith in the maps – they split Communities of Interest (COIs), they are partisan at nearly every turn, and they do not honor the racial realities of Texas. As I see it these maps intentionally divide and polarize Texans strictly for political gain. Although Texas has a long history of racial discrimination, the aggressive display of partisan power politics has been truly egregious recently. None of it is okay!

[REDACTED]