

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:20:44 PM
Attachments: [Plans2168SenateMap.pdf](#)

Date: 2021-10-05
First Name: Melissa
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Title: N/A
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State: Texas
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I am registering this comment against SB4 of the 87th Legislature Third Called Session. The proposed bill has been filed and is being considered contrary to the Texas Constitution which requires redistricting be held in the regular session after the Census is released, not in a special session. Furthermore the maps are draw to reflect intentional race based discrimination. It was drawn to specifically benefit the representation of those who affiliate as Caucasian and specifically denies population growth from non-white sectors of the population. These discussions about the maps were held in secret, not entered into public record and employed the consultation persons employed privately and not disclosed to the general public. The legislature has been previously shown to use intentional race-based discrimination in the drawing of their past maps and must show transparency in their process. The public has been given only 4 days to view these maps before it is being pushed forward in a special session. The arbitrary and targeted nature of these maps specifically divides and dilutes communities of color including my own in NorthWest Dallas county. The boundaries of proposed Senate District 12 divides our school district and even our cities. Even those that testified in support of this bill admit that multiple cities and small towns are divided and this map encourages political polarization. As I previously testified, Coppell, Irving and Coppell farmers Branch have strong thriving Asian communities. This map divides people from their temples, their mosques and churches. The legislature knew of this and has intentionally discriminated.

This results based gerrymandering increases political polarization and makes it so that neighbors are discouraged from talking with each other to solve their problems. Even among parties there have been increasing complaints of the polarization and extremism. It is the inevitable result of this exact type of gerrymandering and it will only embolden and increase incidents of political violence. We hold true to ideas of representative government because people have historically resorted to violence as the alternative. This legislature should not continue to use their power to deny equal representation to the people of Texas. Encourage people to work together. Draw fair maps that focus on the communities of Texas in the places that they live rather than how you can best finagled the numbers to insure your political power.

[REDACTED]



