

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
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Regarding: Senate

Message:

The people of texas are outraged at the partisan gerrymandering proposed in the new district maps. We must have representatives who represent the people of texas, who are increasingly not white. We must stop all measures that disenfranchise people of color. We must have mapping that is fair and equal for every texas voter. Don't kill our democracy with a tyrannical one party system.

The proposed TX House maps are yet another example of unfair maps drawn by the Texas Legislature that intentionally discriminate against communities of color in Texas, diminishing the power of their votes.

Despite the State's overwhelming growth in communities of color over the past decade, which accounted for 95% of the State's increase in total population, lawmakers are shamefully trying to take away representation for communities of color in an effort to maintain the governing party's power.

Instead of giving Texas' diverse communities a voice of representation, the map proposal diminishes their power, and instead, increases the voice of incumbents.

The grim reality is that the proposal takes away districts that represent communities of color; it gives fewer Hispanic majority districts, takes away any Black majority district entirely and sharply splinters AAPI communities.

We were concerned that something like this would happen, now that Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is no longer in place. Texas was the only state in the nation not to gain preclearance of their maps in 2011, and, in fact, the federal court charged with reviewing those maps found them to be intentionally discriminatory against voters of color. The newly proposed maps seem to double down on that 2011 gerrymander, taking away more representation for communities of color.

Once again, any opportunity for competitive districts is essentially obliterated.

The push towards drawing districts that combine urban, suburban, and rural areas in one district will group communities together with vastly different needs. This goes against the grain of input from Texans on the need for their communities to be kept whole.

The map proposals ignore public input, take away power and representation from communities of color, and work hard to guarantee easy re-election for incumbents who want to stay in office over the next decade.

Like previous proposals, this is another incumbent protection plan.

Despite the fact that the growth in Texas came almost entirely from people of color, the map actually increases the number of majority-white districts.

Currently 83 of the chamber's 150 districts are areas in which white residents make up a majority of eligible voters; 33 are districts where Hispanic voters make up the majority, while Black residents are the majority of eligible voters in seven districts. The current map does not include a district in which Asian residents make up a majority and 27 districts have no majority racial group.

In the proposed maps, white residents would make up the majority in 89 of those 150 districts, while Hispanic residents would make up the majority in 30 districts. Black residents, meanwhile, would make up the majority in four districts.

Again, Texas lawmakers have failed to provide Texans with an open, fair, and transparent process that affords time for proper deliberation and community input. The House map proposal was released a mere four (4) days before the hearing, making it extremely difficult for the public - the PEOPLE of Texas - to take time to analyze how the proposed maps will impact their communities as well as make preparations and take time away from work to testify.

Overall process:

The Texas Legislature has consistently shown levels of intentional discrimination and retrogression in their proposed maps. By reducing the number of Hispanic and Black majority districts and by furthering the dilution of voting power for AAPI communities, while preserving and even increasing the number of white majority districts, these map proposals target and negatively impact opportunities for fair representation for Texas communities of color.

Intentional discrimination in n diminishes the power of the vote for all Texans, particularly for people of color.

The racial makeup of the new districts does not accurately reflect the racial makeup of the state of Texas and the 95 percent growth from communities of color that we've seen. These maps do not show us who we are as a state but rather the way our lawmakers would like us to be.

All of these maps further the cycle of systemic oppression that silences the voices of communities of color. Robbing BIPOC communities of the power of their vote does lasting violence to the American idea of a more inclusive democracy for us all. These proposed maps stifle the voice of communities of color, silencing the power of their vote.

Drawing maps "race blind" does not insulate Texas from intentional discrimination and causes retrogression, decreasing the power of the growing diverse population. Lawmakers need to accurately see us to fairly represent us.

Time and time again, Texans have urged lawmakers to provide for sufficient time to review and assess these maps but we are again facing a matter of a few days between the release of this map and its hearing.

This does not allow enough time for Texans to get in front of their lawmakers to share important feedback on these districts and the impact.

Texans have also asked lawmakers to provide analysis of how these new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color and in the days leading up to this hearing, lawmakers need to #ShowTheirWork.

