

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: 2021 Redistricting Testimony.pdf

Date: 2021-01-28
First Name: Carol
Last Name: Wheeler
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Katy
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:
See attached file

[REDACTED]

The Texas Senate Special Committee on Redistricting

By Carol Wheeler

[REDACTED], Current residence: CD-10, TX SD-17,
TX HD-132
January 27, 2021



To: Chairman Senator Joan Huffman and Committee members: Sen. Carol Alvarado, Sen. Paul Bettencourt, Sen. Brian Birdwell, Sen. Dawn Buckingham, Sen. Donna Campbell, Sen. Kelly Hancock, Sen. Bryan Hughes, Sen. Nathan Johnson, Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr., Sen. Jose Menendez, Sen. Robert Nichols, Sen. Angela Paxton, Sen. Charles Perry, Sen. Royce West, Sen. John Whitmire.

My name is Carol Wheeler and I have lived in Katy for 20 years.

- Has anyone been to Katy lately?
- Has anyone has driven I-10 to Austin recently? There are now 9 exits off I-10 into Katy.
- Katy is no longer an insignificant dot on the map. The area is dynamic and deserves more attention from the Texas legislature than in the past when it approaches redistricting in 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment online regarding the redistricting of Texas in 2021 and we all hope that you will consider our suggestions.

The Katy area is confusing. There is the City of Katy or "Old Town Katy" incorporated and has a mayor and city council. The greater Katy area includes the city of Katy as well as very large sections of unincorporated land (can't vote for Katy or Houston mayor or city councils): Cinco Ranch, Green Trails, Grayson Lakes, Seven Meadows, Pine Mill Ranch, Silver Ranch, Firethorne, Grand Lakes, and Cane Island. It also includes suburban developments in the 1980's Memorial Parkway, Kelliwood, and Nottingham Country. Old Town Katy's new upscale communities include Pin Oak Village, The Falls at Green Meadows and the Enclave.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katy,_Texas

The heart of Katy is its school district. Most people move to Katy for the outstanding school district. KatyISD's mission statement: Katy Independent School District, the leader in educational excellence, together with family and community, provides unparalleled learning experiences designed to prepare and inspire each student to live an honorable, fulfilling life ... *to create the future.*

- Katy ISD was rated #2 Best School Districts in the Houston Area this year. Last year we were #1. (In 2021 Katy Tigers won the UIL State Championship in football.)

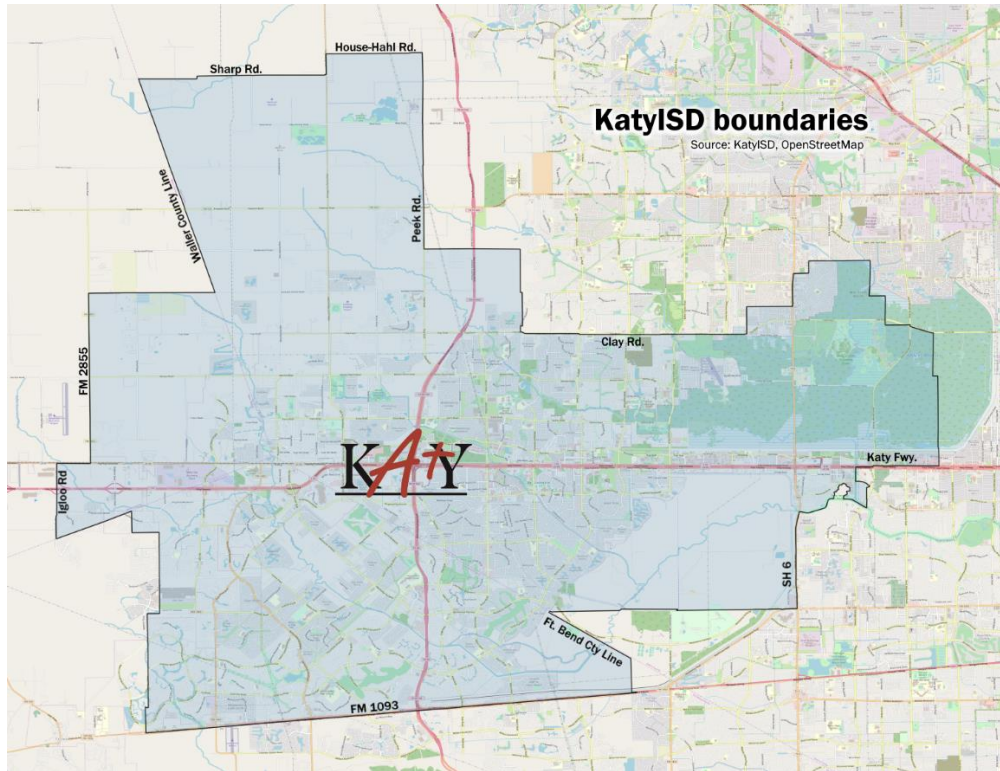
Source: <https://www.niche.com/k12/search/best-school-districts/m/houston-metro-area/>

- Katy ISD had the greatest change in enrollment from Fall 2012 to Fall 2017 in Houston Metro Area
- Katy ISD had the greatest change in enrollment from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017 in Houston Metro Area
- Katy ISD had the greatest change in enrollment from Fall 2012-2017 in Houston Metro Area
- Katy ISD is the 3rd Fastest Growing School Districts in Texas from Fall 2016-2017

Source: http://www.katyisd.org/abm/Documents/KatyISD_Demographic_Update-October2018.pdf

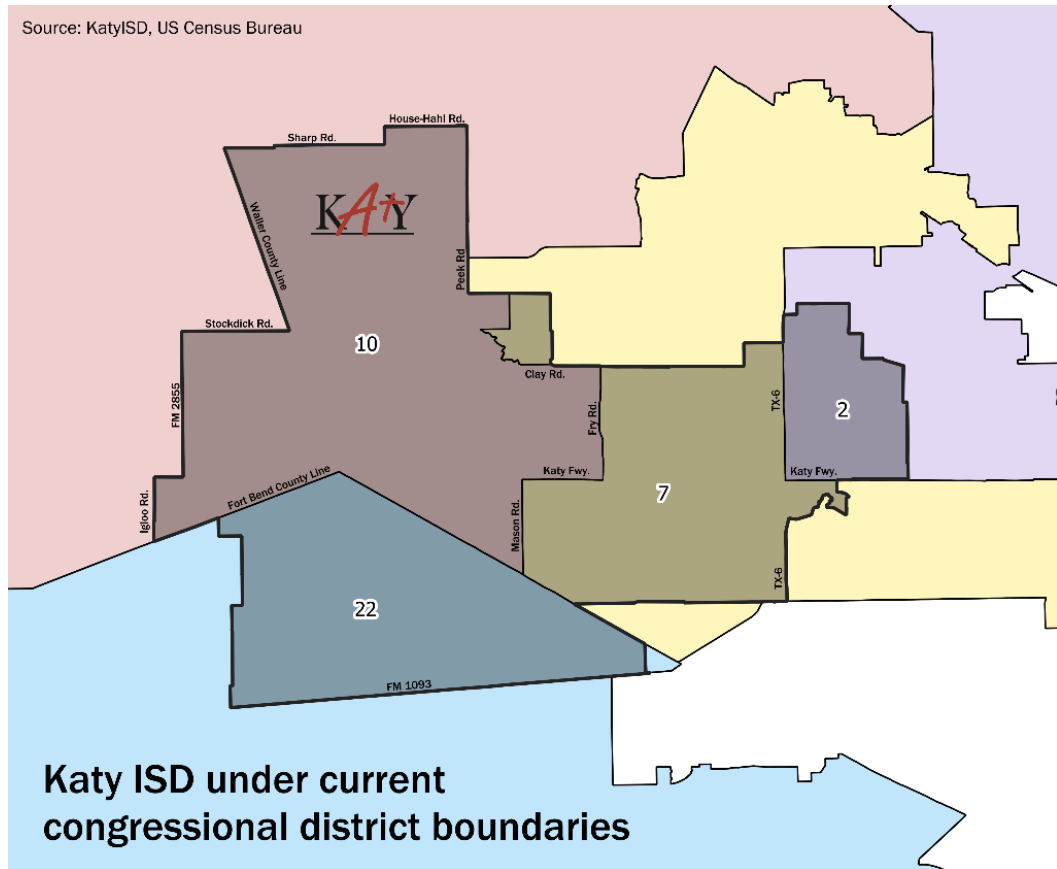
The district is projected to continue to increase housing units, both single family and multi-family units for the next 10 years in the study by PASA (Population and Survey Analysts). The Katy district is 170.8 square miles and a projected population of 371,878 in 2021. (www.bit.ly/3t3QJd6)

Map 1: Shows the boundaries of Katy. Sharp and House-Hahl Rds on the north; FM 2855 and Igloo Rd on the west; FM 1093 on the south, and North Eldridge and Hwy 6 on the east.



Map 1

The KISD school district stretches into three counties: Harris, Fort Bend, and Waller. Map 2 shows how the four Congressional Districts: 2, 7, 10, and 22 divides up Katy. The darkened areas represent Katy within the Congressional districts.

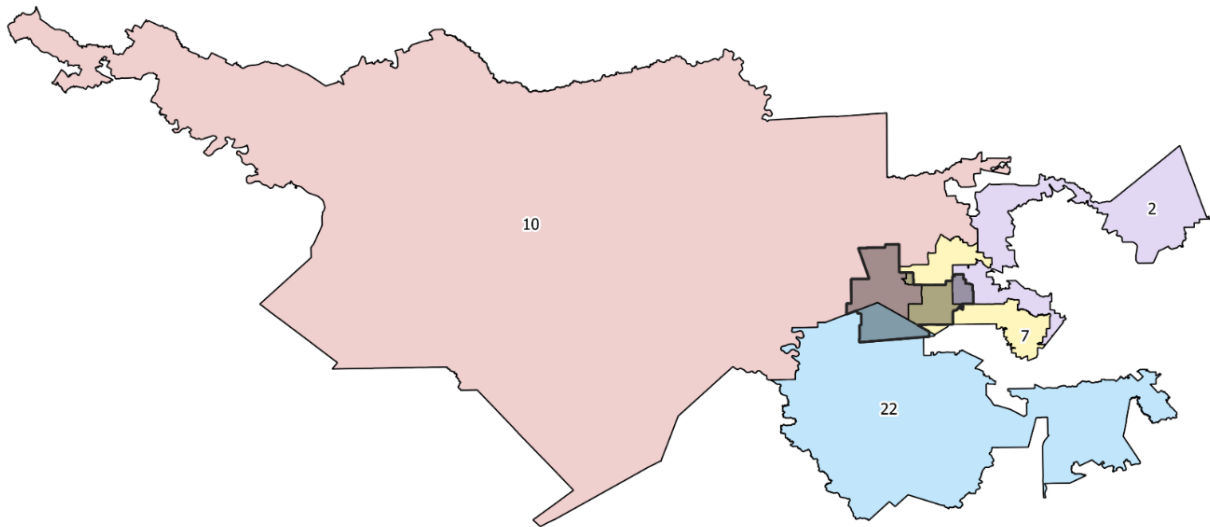


Map 2

How can we possibly have an influence in Congress when we need to address **FOUR** US Congressional Representatives? I live in CD 10, Texas SD 17, and House District 132. Only our House Representative focuses on Katy.

Map 3 shows that Katy is a very tiny part of CD 10. I can't see any justification for parts of Katy to be included in CD 10, except to dilute the Democratic majority in Austin. Katy has few interests in common with Austin or the residents in the area between Austin and Katy. The distance from Austin to Katy is roughly 134 miles.

Map 3 also shows how little Katy is represented in Districts 2, 7, and 22.



KatyISD under current congressional boundaries

Source: KatyISD, US Census Bureau

Map 3

A stated goal of redistricting is to respect cities, communities of interest, and neighborhoods where possible. A community of interest is a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of that population's effective and fair representation.

1. Remove any Katy area from Congressional District 10.
2. Include all Katy residents in one US Congressional District.
3. Considering that Katy is such a small portion of CD 10, 7, 22, and 2. The solution would be to carve out the population of KISD and area from the existing from the needed to make the 711,000.
4. Consider Katy as one of the NEW Districts in 2021.

District	Square Miles	Population
CD-2	308.8	803,041
CD-7	162.1	775,198
CD-10	5,072	896,798
CD-22	1,033.5	935,386
Katy ISD	170.8	371,878

Acknowledgment and thank you to our mapmaker, Matthew Mohn, a graduate of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy.