

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-01-27
First Name: Daryl
Last Name: Fowler
Title: County Judge
Organization: County of DeWitt
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Cuero
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting:

Greetings. My name is Daryl Fowler. I am the county judge of De Witt County and have served in this official capacity since January 1, 2011. Prior to my first term I was the elected chairman of the De Witt County Republican Party and served in that capacity for approximately eight years. Prior to the position of chairman, I served as a precinct chairman of two separate precincts and was an election judge and poll worker of two separate precincts since 1986. I mention these political party positions in order to establish my credentials as a politically active resident of my county and a politically aware elected official.

I submit the following testimony to the select committee in support of a realignment of congressional districts, and more specifically, in support of the removal of De Witt County from any congressional district that has a population majority outside of the South Central Texas region. Aside from politics, there is very little, if any, affinity between the citizens and the needs of our respective counties. Politically speaking, there is no affinity. De Witt County citizens heavily favor conservative political candidates and the opposite is true for the population centers of Brownsville and McAllen. On a congressional and presidential level, our voters voice is never heard. We are compacted into a "safe Democratic district" which should not be allowed to continue.

The last two congressional district realignments placed De Witt County in congressional districts controlled by voting populations along the Rio Grande border and our citizens are ill-served by such an alignment. Our current congressman is a resident of Cameron County and his predecessor in office was a resident of Hidalgo County. The travel time between our county seat of Cuero and the county seats of Brownsville and McAllen is between four and four and one-half hours. Although each of the previous congressmen kept staffed offices in Beeville (one hour away), they rarely ever made a trip into the northern part of their district for much more than a fundraiser with Democratic Party partisans.

Therefore, to reiterate (in fewer words) that our voices are not being heard in the current alignment; our needs are not aligned with the Rio Grande border counties; and our representation lacks the logistical support to be effective.

Please realign De Witt County into a congressional district that makes our votes competitive which will allow us to choose a congressional candidate we believe will be in tune with our needs and responsive.

Thank you for allowing me to enter this plea into the record.

