

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-12

First Name: A.J.

Last Name: Angus

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Plano

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

I'm A.J. Angus and currently reside in Plano.

I'm a life-long Texan. I realized recently that my entire voting life I have never been represented by someone that shares my lived experience. This is the impact of creating districts with a home-field advantage. It doesn't allow for real competition in elections. Think of that word - competition. In many circles, this is the way we judge our society and shout to the world that we have the best economic system. But in our political system? We create monopolistic structures that don't cater to a competition of ideas that will advance our state & nation.

Let's take the issue of smog and air pollution. In North Texas, we have high smog and ozone days. In fact, the American Lung Association's 2020 State of the Air report gave Collin County a F rating for the level of our ozone. High ozone affects everyone but especially minority populations, the elderly, and those with asthma.

At the state level, when I go to my representative Jeff Leach's website, it's a surprise that he has served 4 terms in my district, but I couldn't find any indication that this is something that he has taken seriously. I do see him playing the partisan politics game in increasing penalties around baseless election fraud claims and creating government involvement where it's not needed with a woman's right to choose. As a voter in his district, where he spends his time with legislation does not represent the actual needs of our district.

My US representative Van Taylor is not much different. Our district has been under single party control since 1968. That's 50+ years without real competition. Mr. Taylor has no mention in any of his core issues about anything related to air quality, the environment, or pollution and its impact on our health.

Coming back to my example on smog: we know we have a bad smog problem in North Texas, we know it affects people's health in a negative way, we know the more that you are exposed, the worse your long-term health outcomes are. My representatives, who have frequently run unopposed in the past and rarely see a competitive election are silent on this issue. They are silent on this issue because this body has created the political structures without competition and demographically do not represent our changing state.

Gerrymandering is an act as old as our republic, but it doesn't have to be. Please create competition in my district by designing it in a way that's devoid of the political process and in the future designed by an independent body.

