

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Attachments:** Testimony of Ben Brown before the Texas Senate Redistricting Committee 2-4-21.pdf

Date: 2021-02-01

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State: Texas

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Senator Huffman and Committee Members;

Please see the attached for my Feb. 4, 2021 testimony. As the data shows, there are discrepancies in the populations of Texas Appellate Court Districts. Like all other voting districts in Texas, the Appellate Judicial Districts must be examined and changed to obtain more-equal population per district.

Ben Brown

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Texas  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Testimony of Ben Brown before the Texas Senate Redistricting Committee, Feb 4, 2021

### Redistricting Issues Regarding Texas Appellate Judicial Districts

Thanks to Senator Huffman and this Committee for providing an opportunity for me to express my concerns about Redistricting. I could echo many of the testimonies about US and Texas Congressional Districts; however, my testimony today focuses on Texas Appellate Judicial Districts, where equal voting representation is very much out-of-balance.

In my written testimony, I provided the Committee a simple table that shows how out-of-balance the Appellate Judicial Districts are in Texas. The table presents the total population of each Appellate Judicial District in the 2010 Census and the corresponding 2019 population estimate by the US Census Bureau. Today, I will comment only on the 2010 Census data; however, my comments for the 2019 Estimates would be much the same.

Analysis of the 2010 Census data shows there are significant differences among districts. For example, the largest population is in Districts 1 and 14 with 5,440,223 people. The smallest population is in District 6 with 599,467 people. This is a difference of 4,480,756 and a ratio of 9 to 1, both of which are unacceptable.

The distribution of populations among the districts is equally alarming. The 2010 average Judicial District population is 1,913,821 which represents 7.1% of the total population. There are seven districts with populations greater than 7.1%. The populations in these seven higher population districts range from 9.1% to 20.4% of the total population and represent 77.2% of the total population. There are seven districts with populations less than the average 7.1%. The populations in these seven lower population districts range from 2.3 to 4.3% of the total population and represent 22.8% of the total population. There is not equal distribution among Texas Appellate Judicial Districts.

In addition to the population disparities among Texas Appellate Judicial Districts, there are two other issues the Redistricting Committee should address. First, Districts 1 and 14 function as a single voting district. The ballots in each of the counties in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Districts in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Election permitted a voter to vote for Appellate Justices in both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Districts. And Second, in Districts 5, 6, and 12, there are counties that share districts. Overlapping districts and sharing of counties between districts must be resolved.

I have pointed out today serious discrepancies with Texas' Appellate Judicial Districts. These discrepancies must be confronted and resolved during this redistricting cycle. I will not offer any remedies at this time since my time is limited. Plus, we should wait for the 2020 Census numbers to accurately address these discrepancies.

Thanks again for this opportunity to testify.



Ben Brown

Fairview, Texas

## Variation in Texas Appellate Judicial District Population

[County Population Totals: 2010-2019 \(census.gov\)](http://census.gov)

Current Judicial District	Population-2010 Census	% of Total	Population-2019 Estimate	% of Total
1,14*	5,470,223	20.4%	6,456,786	21.0%
2	2,935,940	11.0%	3,503,501	11.4%
3	2,446,829	9.1%	3,077,042	10.0%
4	2,713,678	10.1%	3,117,933	10.1%
5**	3,496,109	13.0%	4,096,824	13.3%
6**	599,467	2.2%	613,759	2.0%
7	837,974	3.1%	869,091	2.8%
8	903,639	3.4%	951,700	3.1%
9	1,063,852	4.0%	1,239,181	4.0%
10	1,139,868	4.3%	1,269,112	4.1%
11	732,847	2.7%	815,859	2.7%
12**	823,968	3.1%	861,386	2.8%
13	3,629,103	13.5%	3,846,479	12.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,793,496</b>		<b>30,718,652</b>	
<b>Average</b>	<b>1,913,821</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>2,194,189</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
<b>% Population Above Average</b>		<b>77.2%</b>		<b>78.4%</b>
<b>% Population Below Average</b>		<b>22.8%</b>		<b>21.6%</b>

\*1 & 14 Function as a Single Voting District

\*\*Includes Split Counties

Largest
Smallest

Summary by Ben Brown, Fairview Texas 02-01-21

