

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-02
First Name: Michael A.
Last Name: Beck
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Blue Ridge
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

The Texas apportionment limits should be expanded. The original Texas House and Senate representative member numbers were set in 1876. Representation has been diluted by rapid population growth to the detriment of our citizens. House Representatives or Senators are so far removed from the general public as to be barely known to most. Now is the time, with the regular redistricting process to make a much needed change to bring the elected representatives closer to their constituency. This is common sense, and long overdue.

In 1900, the Texas population was near 3,055,000. There were approximately 20,400 citizens to every House Representative, about 98,500 for each Senator. These would seem to be large enough groups for any one person to respond to or deal with, but look at what has happened since.

By 1950, with the Texas population at 7,775,000, the representation had been diluted to one House Rep, for every 51,800. For each Senator the number had increased to 250,800.

Now we are yet further removed. Now however, we have approximately 30 million Texans, which means each House member works for around 200,000. A Senator over 960,000.

As you can see, this progression only diminishes and silences the voices of those who have elected you to represent them. In our current structure, our rapid population growth will only further this alienation. It would be an easy thing to say that only those wealthy and powerful can and are heard on a regular basis. Large lobby or advocacy groups drown out the individual further isolating the people from you. Now is the time for Texas to set an example for not only other states, but for the federal government as well. I urge you to consider, and take up the cause, to amend the Texas Constitution and add representation to not only the House but the Senate. I believe the House should number at least 210, and the Senate be increased to 59. With a provision to revisit these levels every decade. This would bring us back to somewhere close to the 1990 numbers, and while I don't feel this may be enough, it would allow for more participation, more involvement, and more Texan's voices to be heard. It would bring you all a little closer to the people you have asked to represent.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]