

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 15, 2021 10:18 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-05-16  
First Name: Matthew  
Last Name: Williams  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Port Arthur  
State: Texas  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

To the members of the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting,

I did the best I could to educate myself about the process of redistricting in a single afternoon. The single most informative source I came across was How to Draw Redistricting Plans That Will Stand Up in Court. I came away with a general idea of the guidelines but all that case law pretty much eluded me.

The good news is I never intended to offer opinions concerning the specifics, or the mechanics of the process. I'm compelled to write you all because I am deeply troubled by the state of the American political scene and the direction we are heading. With respect to redistricting, a single word comes to mind: restraint.

Redistricting is the single greatest lever state legislatures possess to influence politics on a national level, and it is a very powerful tool. I don't think it is an exaggeration to suggest that lever and the fulcrum on which it turns may be a deciding factor with respect to the fate of our way of government. This is especially true during this turbulent time we find ourselves in.

Yesterday, 14 May 2021, the DHS National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) issued a Bulletin that includes the following: "The Homeland is facing threats that have evolved significantly and become increasingly complex and volatile in 2021. These threats include those posed by domestic terrorists, individuals and groups engaged in grievance-based violence..."

We are increasingly polarized and militant in our outlook and we soon may cross the threshold into political violence.

One worrisome narrative is the idea that the other party, Democrat or Republican, is the enemy we face. If we could somehow rid ourselves of them our country will once again achieve greatness. Whether or not they realize it, people embracing this idea are essentially advocating a one party state, the very antithesis of our American identity. This is nothing less than the death knell of our system of government.

On a national level, the parties continue to paint the screen door as the house burns down around us. In my lifetime I have never seen our system in a more fragile state. Our real enemies eagerly embrace any opportunity to exploit the narrow minded stupidity of our leadership. As yesterday's NTAS Bulletin states: "Nation-state adversaries have increased efforts to sow discord. For example, Russian, Chinese and Iranian government-linked media outlets have repeatedly amplified conspiracy theories concerning the origins of COVID-19 and effectiveness of vaccines; in some cases, amplifying calls for violence targeting persons of Asian descent."

We can no longer afford the ceaseless scramble for partisan advantage. Now is the time for generosity of spirit and radical inclusion. This time around, keep the partisanship on a short leash. If Washington can't provide the leadership we need then it's time for our state and local governments to show them how it's done.

Every day I encounter Americans who are convinced Nancy Pelosi is a greater threat than Putin, Xi, Khamenei, and Kim Jong Un combined. I'm not sure what happened to get us to this point but I'm quite sure where we will go if it continues. As Benjamin Franklin warned: "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

Sincerely,

Matthew S Williams

