

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 1:53:26 PM

Date: 2021-09-30
First Name: Alene
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

My name is Alene Levy. I am a native Houstonian and have resided in Houston/Harris County all my life.

The Congressional maps that have been proposed in Harris County are grossly inadequate given the huge increase in voters of color over the last decade. The obvious patterns of packing and cracking of Black, Latinx and AAPI communities in Harris and surrounding counties is undemocratic and clearly reveals racial gerrymandering. The obvious manipulation of these communities of color negates the impact of their votes and their voices.

I am appalled that the proposed maps put Congress members Sheila Jackson Lee and Al Green, both the preferred elected representatives of their respective districts, into the same district. Pitting these representatives against each other forces their constituents into a no-win situation. Likewise, Congress member Sylvia Garcia, who is the elected representative of her current Congressional District, has been placed in the same majority-Republican district as Congress member Dan Crenshaw with the obvious intention of defeating her. Al Green, Sylvia Garcia and Sheila Jackson Lee currently represent historic districts that have worked hard over the past half century to gain representation. It is shameful that the State is deliberately working to defeat their preferred candidates of choice.

The proposed Congressional maps threaten the very infrastructure of our democracy. I plead with you to end gerrymandering and map manipulation of US Congressional districts.

- Draw maps that are fair and represent all Texans – including Texans of color, who represent 95% of our state's population growth since 2010.
- Do not artificially distort maps for racial or partisan purposes.
- Do not manipulate maps in support of one party or one politician.
- Do not discriminate against people of color.
- Do not diminish the ability of minority groups to elect the candidates of their choice.
- Respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act.
- Make the redistricting process in Texas transparent.

I am a member of Congregation Emanu El in Houston and a volunteer with

the Religious Action Center of Texas (RAC-TX). The Religious Action Center is the political and legislative outreach arm of Reform Judaism in the United States. My personal beliefs and the core values of my faith are aligned in advocating for the alleviation of systemic injustices that impact marginalized communities.

Our democratic system calls for citizens to pick their elected officials, not for our elected officials to pick their constituents.

