

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Sunday, September 19, 2021 12:10:48 PM

---

Date: 2021-09-19  
First Name: Angela  
Last Name: Orr Heath  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Dallas  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Angela Orr Heath, and I am testifying on why the 2021 redistricting process needs to be fair and transparent on behalf of myself.

How districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education. If politicians are elected from districts that don't reflect the population, you end up with situations where politicians support policies that the vast majority of people oppose, or they won't support policies that the vast majority of people support. When politicians manipulate maps for personal or political gain, it prevents residents like me from having our voices heard on all of these policies that affect us.

Purposefully breaking up communities takes away the community's ability to come together and advocate for important issues. For example, here in Dallas County we are artificially broken up in several house, senate, and congressional districts extending way off in every direction and some that jump and combine communities that have vastly different demographics and needs. This means that no representative at these levels is fully committed to listening to our concerns. I care about issues like affordable housing, gun control, universal healthcare, voting rights, civil rights, and urban infrastructure. When maps are unfairly rigged, you end up seeing a legislature that represents special interests and politicians, instead of representing the people.

We the people have had very limited time to view, understand, and comment on proposed maps. In the past as well as in the present, state legislators have made this worse by doing everything behind closed doors, discriminating against communities of color, and not giving

the public enough of a chance to comment on what is happening.

In order for our democracy to function, we need the legislators to draw the maps in a fair transparent way that does not disenfranchise Texans. Once the maps are drawn, we need the legislators that have drawn them, to explain why they chose to draw them the way they did, and to not hide any communications they have had regarding drawing the maps. I ask that the maps not be unfairly manipulated, using partisanship. The people should choose the representatives, they should not be picking the voters.

This is an opportunity for the Texas Legislature to finally get this process right and avoid millions of taxpayer dollars and years of lawsuits, so I hope that you will take this testimony to heart. Thank you for taking the time to read my perspective.

