

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:53:59 PM

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Date: 2021-09-08  
First Name: Melissa  
Last Name: Wiedmann  
Title: Mrs.  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I am a registered voter in the State of Texas, and a property owner who diligently pays my annual property taxes, the rates for which are set by the Texas Legislature. Representation of my interests in the state and Congress - financial, educational, cultural or otherwise - is important to me, as is my ability to vote in a safe and impartial manner. Unfortunately in Texas, gerrymandered districts make it easier for politicians to select their voters than the other way around.

I vote in TX-35, HD-51, and SD-21. It's a well-known fact that Representative Lloyd Doggett's Congressional seat is one of the most gerrymandered seats in the state. It is plain to see that many districts have been cracked and packed as it pleases the mapmakers.

Therefore, I call upon the members of the redistricting committee to do right by the voters of our great state and commit to establishing an independent non-partisan redistricting commission to apportion seats and districts in such a way that is fair and equitable and for once, makes sense.

The population in the metro areas, including mine, has grown by leaps and bounds this past decade. My interests are urban interests in our capital city and it's not fair to me or to my elected representatives for him or her to have to split their focus between Austin, San Antonio and a bunch of rural areas in between when we all know there is enough population right here to fill a single Congressional seat in this area. My interests aside, the interests of Black and Latino communities are harmed most by map manipulation and I stand with my fellow Americans in calling for equitable representation of these communities.

The entire redistricting process is rife with deficiency, starting with public hearings. A cursory glance at the public input received and published thus far is not indicative of the public's interest in this matter, but rather seems to indicate that our elected representatives prefer that the process take place behind closed doors with minimal public input. Given the gravitas and lasting impact that redistricting has on our state, one can only wonder if cutting out millions of Texans from the process isn't intentional.

Additionally, I lived in Germany for 10+ years, during which time I owned property in Texas, upon which I paid annual taxes. Your requirement that Texas voters currently reside in the state in order to even comment upon these proceedings amounts to taxation without representation.

Gerrymandering and map manipulation have no place in our democracy. Please see to it that the maps are fair and impartial.

