

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 5:24:01 PM
Attachments: [Robyn Honig Public Comment Senate Districts 2021.pdf](#)

Date: 2021-09-23
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Please see attached.

[REDACTED]

I oppose the Senate-district map that was released this week. It's heavily gerrymandered with few competitive districts.

My neighborhood includes a portion of Williamson County that is also located in the City of Austin and the Round Rock school district; I live about a mile away, still in the City of Austin and the Round Rock school district, but in Travis County.

Under this proposed map, my elementary-schooler's classmates would not be in the same Senate District as us (SD-14), nor the same Senate District (SD-5) as most of Williamson County, where a significant portion of our school district is located.

My neighbors would instead be at the tip of a little, snake-like protrusion on the corner of the proposed SD-24 that extends along the southwestern part of Williamson County, near the Travis County line. While most of the proposed SD-24 is rural, the neighborhoods in the snake are fairly dense—at least several include the City of Austin—and far more diverse.

Williamson County, which grew by nearly half over the last decade, owes 77 percent of its growth to people of color. While many of those residents live in and around the City of Round Rock, many live in and around the City of Austin. Yet they have been split. I wonder why.

A fair map would put the SD-24 snake in SD-14 or SD-5. But those districts are problematic, too.

Travis County, which includes all of SD-14, is also split among two additional districts that extend much farther away.

Williamson County, on the whole, is extremely suburban and includes major employers, and many people move there because they cannot afford to live in northern Travis County. Yet any Senator who represents fast-growing, diverse Williamson County in SD-5 would also have to represent rural, non-diverse counties northeast of there. That doesn't make sense unless you're a mapmaker who's trying to delegitimize elections.

This Senate map doesn't promote free and fair elections. It's time to start over.

Robyn Honig, [REDACTED]