

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 5:17:41 PM
Attachments: [Edwards-Redistricting Testimony SB 6, HB 1.pdf](#)

Date: 2021-10-04
First Name: Georgia A
Last Name: Edwards
Title: N/A
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Address: [REDACTED]
City: San Antonio
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Testimony has been uploaded.

[REDACTED]

The Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Todd Hunter, Chair
House Redistricting Committee
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

October 4, 2021

Dear Chair Huffman & Chair Hunter,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of myself and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, regarding SB 6 and HB 1 relating to redistricting in Texas.

My name is Georgia A. Edwards and I live in Bexar County, at [REDACTED], San Antonio, [REDACTED] Texas, House District 124 and Senate District 26. I am the proud president of the San Antonio Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Our chapter presently boasts 313 members.

Census data definitively shows people of color fueled 95% of Texas population growth over the past decade, stated the Texas Tribune article that can be found [here](#). As an African American woman, I fundamentally believe that communities of interest should continue to reside in the same district to ensure African American and other minority voices are not diluted. Texans, particularly Black Texans, have already suffered at the hands of previous gerrymandering and the consistent attack on our voting rights along with a list of other items negatively impacting the Black community like over-policing, food deserts, and lack of healthcare resources.

As Texans we request that the Texas Legislature works to decrease barriers for inclusion in the process including:

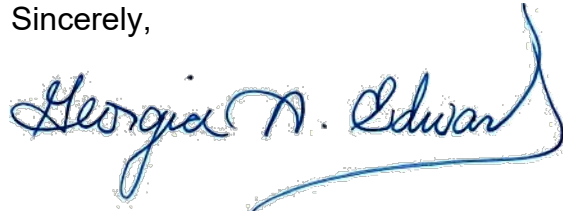
- Providing meaningful procedural access to the process,
- Increasing committee hearings notification to provide significant time to prepare to deliver testimony,
- Providing increased access to Red Apple (redistricting mapping software) and longer time for proposed map review.

Remember, you must follow the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution and Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 while creating these maps. And we would ask that the aforementioned requests would also apply to all redistricting related legislation.

My final prayer is that the Legislature will lead a fair process that will create fair maps that appropriately represent the changing demographics of Texas.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone [REDACTED] or email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Georgia N. Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chapter President
San Antonio Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.