

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 10:56:55 PM

Date: 2021-10-04
First Name: Martina
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Title: N/A
Organization: North Harris County Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

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

October 3, 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 Martina Samuels and I live in Harris County, Houston, Texas, House District 135 and Senate District 7. I am also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and serve on the North Harris County Alumnae Chapter Social Action committee.

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 at 281-98-1192 or at mms8@att.net.

Sincerely,

Martina Samuels

Soror Martina Samuels
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
North Harris County Alumnae Chapter

