

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 12:57:10 PM

Date: 2021-10-03
First Name: Sheri
Last Name: Allen
Title: Cantor
Organization: RC-TX
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Ft. Worth
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Cantor Sheri Allen, and I lead a Jewish congregation in Arlington, and am also a member of RAC-TX, (the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism - the political and legislative arm of Reform Judaism in the United States.)

As a US citizen and a Jewish leader I have always been proud and grateful to live in a country that values democracy, equity, and the voices of each individual citizen, regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation and identity, religion, and ability. This mindset also reflects my Jewish values: that everyone is created "B'Tzelem Eloheem," in God's image, and thus deserving of equal treatment, opportunities and representation.

However, the recently released draft maps have upended everything this country, as well as my Jewish values, represent. Leviticus 19:14 states, "'You shall not insult the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind.'" This can be interpreted as meaning that we must not ever intentionally make it more difficult for any individual or group, especially those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable, to be heard and treated fairly and respectfully. The redrawing of political districts which brazenly disregards so many voices, specifically communities of color whose needs have yet to be served, is proof of intentional discrimination. Far from simply placing a stumbling block before the blind, the authors of these maps are erecting a concrete wall.

I respectfully request that you return to the drawing board and create Fair Maps that reflect the true make up of our entire population, and not just those of the privileged few.

It is paramount that everyone will have a voice in this democratic process. Isn't that what our country's foundation is built on?

Thank you.

[REDACTED]