

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2023 2:51:24 PM

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Date: 2023-03-27  
First Name: Julie  
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Title: N/A  
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State: Texas  
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Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: House

Message:

My name is Julie and I live in the 77433 zip code. Maps generated by the redistricting committees must represent ALL Texans. They must be fair. They must ensure that there is no racial discrimination based on constitutional law. Princeton Gerrymandering Project rated the map as an F. The House map proposal would reduce the number of districts in which communities of color could elect candidates of choice by 6, possibly more. We need to start calling this what it is: intentional discrimination. • The proposed House map bears all the hallmarks of intentional racial discrimination. • The House map proposal reduces the strength of numerous districts. The map adds six more districts where white residents make up the majority of eligible voters while the number of Hispanic and Black districts would each drop by 3. • Even without the preclearance provision of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) being in place, Texas must still abide by Section 2 of the VRA and the Fourteenth Amendment. • According to the 2020 Census, 95% of population growth in Texas came from communities of color in suburban and urban communities. The proposed map does not reflect this fact. • Texas is a very diverse state. Racial data must be taken into consideration when drawing districts that uphold the VRA and 14th Amendment. • The State has violated the VRA or intentionally discriminated against voters of color in every decade for the past 50 years. Therefore, it is not appropriate to draw maps “color-blind”. Racial data must be taken into consideration when drawing districts that uphold the VRA. • Judge Rodriguez’s remarked during the Section 3 bail-in hearing held in 2019, when he asked if the Texas AG’s office could guarantee that lawmakers would not repeat abuses the court had criticized in the 2011 redistricting effort and warned, “that, given the record produced in 2011, the State must implement a process that, by any reasonable definition, is ‘fair and open’.” The Court also stated, “Even without being subject to preclearance, Texas must still comply with the requirements of the Fourteenth Amendment and Section 2 of the VRA in the upcoming redistricting cycle...”. • Lawmakers have failed to provide us with an open, fair, and transparent process that allows for proper deliberation and community input. The House map proposal was released a mere 4 days before the hearing, making it extremely difficult for the public to evaluate and comment on the map. • The committee should be able to provide written explanations showing the demographic and statistical basis for its reasoning. I request that such an explanation be provided in advance of any future public hearings, so the public can comment, and certainly before any committee vote. In short, these maps violate the VRA and 14th Amendment laws regarding racial discrimination. They also do not represent the will of the citizens of

Texas. They are clearly gerrymandered.

