

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2020-12-16
First Name: Marilyn
Last Name: Kortum
Title: N/A
Organization: Tarrant County Precinct 2520
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Arlington
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Marilyn Kortum
[REDACTED]
Arlington Texas [REDACTED]
Precinct Chair 2025

Hi, I'm Marilyn Kortum. I live in Arlington, Texas, and I'm a precinct chair of 2025. And I have been going to Represent Us. It's a bi-partisan group, that's a national group, to get our representatives to represent us. About gerrymandering, there is a study that I looked up from the University of Southern California, the Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policies, and they basically are following the worst partisan gerrymandering in the U.S. state legislations. And what they were looking at was where the popular vote was less than 59.9% total for one political party, and yet the minority party yielded more than 50% of the legislative seats, following the 2018 elections. And what they found out were 10 of the most egregious ones. You'll recognize these because these are States that are having in the news, polarization between the legislation and the executive branch in the state. One's Michigan, one is Wisconsin, one is Pennsylvania, and one is Tennessee. And you can see why it is so important to avoid gerrymandering so that our State can go ahead and continue to do what the majority of the Texans want us to do.

So I'm really pushing for partisan fairness, whether you're Democrat, independent, Republican. Because when you get into a minority rule position, the representatives aren't going to be concerned about us. They're going to be concerned about their own party. And as a citizen, we want to be seen, and we want to be heard. And understand that redistricting is so important to our vote, because when I vote, I'm going to be voting for my community. Like I said, I'm a precinct chair. I'm worried about the health care delivery system in Fort Worth.

We just passed some bonding to improve our triage unit, which really does cover for four counties. So that was really important. We also have to worry about disaster funds. We have to worry about transportation. And we need our district to be representative by the municipality that we're in. There is a policy that you can do for your procedures in the redistricting committees. And that would be if there was a minority rule that existed following a state legislative election, that it would trigger another meeting so that we could get the minority rule out. So you could go back and

redo the redistricting. And you could possibly do that as a procedure rule. You can also do it as a law. As a citizen, we are going to monitor if there is a minority rule. We're also going to look for violations in compactness. We're also going looking for unnecessary splitting, I mean of municipalities and communities of interest.

I personally would like to see some of these laws about the data mining on social media, so that we don't get labeled something and then we get counted that way. Because our opinions might change, we're very fluid people, and something we might understand a policy differently, and we want it to be represented by what we are at that moment in time. There's been talk about a constitutional amendment for Texas. And then also we'd like to possibly see if the election laws can go back to where in the primary, you don't have to label yourself.

You can just go in and vote for people. You can do like a choice rank voting. Anyway, I really appreciate that you are listening to me. I really do want Texas to get more progressive, less polarized and so that we can work together. Thank you so much, Stephanie.

Thank you for having me.

