

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-06
First Name: Arthur
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Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Grand Prairie
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Texas, like much of the nation, is in the throes of transformative demographic change. And Texas's most populous metropolitan areas reflect that transformation - areas which have powered the state's diversified economy, and brought innovation and new energy to Texas business.

But what continues to burden Texas is what always has. The majority of Texas's population is now comprised of people of color; however, neither the Texas House nor the Texas Senate reflect the rich diversity of its people. These imbalances significantly skew policy, and have directly resulted in underinvestment (in health, education, housing, economic development, etc.) that will stymie the state's prosperity over the long term and are otherwise inconsistent with the preference of most Texans. Moreover, the legitimacy of Texas's experiment in representative democracy is eroded by predictable racial gerrymandering in the redistricting process, resulting in endless litigation and loss of confidence in elected leaders.

This Committee, and each of its members, must resist the impulse to draw bizarre gerrymandered districts, and to "crack and pack" Texans in these districts, for short-term partisan political advantage. This Committee should be singularly focused on ensuring that each Senate district enhance the voting weight of every single Texan, and not on what is the easiest path to circumscribe the electorate. This approach is the only justifiable path forward.

I appreciate your considering these comments.

[REDACTED]