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From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-09
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

These comments were compiled by another but accurately and fairly represent my views.

Any new map should fairly represent the voting patterns of Texas. Texas is expected to receive three new Congressional Districts. In representing the voting patterns of Texas it is important to remember that every statewide elected official is Republican. Allocating these all to Democratic seats on the basis of race is neither Constitutional nor representative of the voting patterns of Texans.

In general, districts should reflect commuting patterns. Transportation funding in particular is greatly impacted by which Congressional district a person lives in. For instance, if persons living in Washington County (Brenham), commute to Houston along 290, a district along 290 linking that rural county to suburban and urban jobs in Houston would be appropriate. The same holds for Dallas and Tarrant where a number of persons enjoy residential lives in rural communities while commuting into urban cores via I-35 and I-40.

It is important for legislators to take into consideration future suburban growth when drawing the maps so as to avoid the disproportionate representation that we experience at the end of the ten-year cycle. For example, the House districts in suburban DFW and Harris County are overpopulated now; where discretion on population is allowed, such as Senate and State House Districts, these urban and suburban districts should be underpopulated in proportion to the median population to account for increased growth expected during the decade.

Communities of interest should be respected. Generally, bridges between urban areas should be avoided. Districts should be as compact as possible. To the extent possible, each of the top urban counties should have its own district, irrespective of racial or other impermissible factors.

No Independent Panel

- We are a Republic and as such you are elected and accountable to the people of Texas. There is no such thing as a neutral panel.

- This panel would be made up of people who are appointed by someone, and every person on there would be coming at the situation with a viewpoint, with past experiences, and possibly with their own agenda.

- They would be unelected by the people and therefore unaccountable to the people of this state, taking away our voice in this very important process.

One person, one vote

- Sec 2 of Article 1 of the US Constitution and the Equal Protection Clause of Section 1 of the 14th Amendment requires the construction of legislative districts that are substantially equal in the total population. According to the Supreme Court of the United States. Taken together they establish the constitutional guarantee of one person, one vote, or the idea that all voters have approximately equal voting power.
- There are several people who are ineligible to vote - Felons, non-citizens, minors, people currently in jail, and those deemed mentally incompetent.
- If there are substantially more people ineligible to vote in the population of one district versus another, the result could be that citizen votes could be diluted, especially in the rural districts, violating the premise of 1 person, 1 vote.

