

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:00:09 PM

Date: 2021-09-24
First Name: Alene
Last Name: Levy
Title: N/A
Organization: RAC
Address: [REDACTED]
City: HOUSTON
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Alene Levy. I reside in Senate District 17. I have lived in Harris County my entire life – more than 70 years. During those years I have seen our county and the surrounding counties prosper economically and explode in population. As the 4th largest city in the nation, greater Houston is the most ethnically diverse metropolitan area in the United States. I love the diversity of our community and want all diverse voices to be heard. I do not want to see our communities of color gerrymandered in order to squelch their voices. This is exactly what the racist Senate maps do. They are a direct attack on voting rights to ensure that these communities of color have no voice. Western Harris and Ft. Bend counties are sliced and diced apart to prevent new, high growth communities of color from having a voice in Senate District 17, which has become increasingly competitive. Senate District 17 is also the home district of Committee Chair Joan Huffinan. In order to ensure Senator Huffinan's safe re-election, the new SD17 map cuts across western Houston to include her house in a rural district which has little in common with the urban area where she lives. The infrastructure of our democracy is being threatened. I plead with you:

- Work to end gerrymandering and map manipulation at ALL levels, including the Texas House, the Texas Senate, and US Congressional districts.
- Draw maps that are fair and represent all Texans – especially Texans of color, who represent 95% of our population growth since 2010.
- Do not artificially distort maps for racial or partisan purposes.
- Do not manipulate maps in support of one party or one politician.
- Do not discriminate against people of color.
- Do not diminish the ability of minority groups to elect the candidates of their choice.
- Do not crack and pack the voters to gerrymander districts that favor

your re-election.

- Respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act.
- Make redistricting in Texas fair and make the process transparent.

I am a member of Congregation Emanu El in Houston and a volunteer with the Religious Action Center of Texas (RAC TX). The Religious Action Center is the political and legislative outreach of Reform Judaism in the United States. My

personal beliefs and the core values of my faith are aligned in advocating for the alleviation of systemic injustices that impact marginalized communities.

The citizens of Harris/Ft. Bend Counties want solutions not division. We want our voices to heard, not smothered.

Despite the State's overwhelming 95% growth in communities of color over the past decade, there are no new districts drawn that reflect that growth. Communities of color have instead been "packed and cracked" to even further subvert their influence statewide.

Our democratic system calls for citizens to pick their elected officials, not for our elected officials to pick their constituents.

Thank you
Alene Levy

