

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 8:09:46 AM

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Date: 2021-09-23  
First Name: Daniel  
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State: TX  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Daniel Keeling, and I live at 1804 Altadena Lane in Dallas, Texas. Alpha Phi Alpha is a proud member of my fraternity.

Redistricting in Texas is still controlled by the state legislature, allowing politicians to draw their own districts and choose their own constituents with little public oversight. Both parties are guilty of drawing districts in this manner. This is a non-partisan issue. The term "gerrymandering" refers to the manipulation of a district for one reason or another. Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence who manipulated maps of his own state legislature, coined the term in 1812. Even here in Texas, a Republican and a Democrat in the Texas House agreed to swap areas on their adjoining maps so that they could both be easily reelected not too long ago in the recent past. Only the outcry of voters in those districts was able to put a stop to this backroom deal.

An open and transparent process is required. The Texas Legislature must end the secrecy surrounding legislators' work and do it in full view of the public. Legislators should require full and timely disclosure of all data and maps so that the public can review and comment on them well in advance of legislative votes. The requirement to testify 48 hours before a hearing is not only unjust, but it also prevents the average citizen from fully participating in the process. Also the lack of minority participation is a major problem I have.

These principles are simple to implement. No politician can reasonably argue that secrecy is preferable to transparency or that conflicts of interest inherent in the current process are irrelevant. Texas legislators in the House and Senate owe the state's voters a fair redistricting process and outcome.

Thank you

[REDACTED]