

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:44:31 PM
Attachments: [Houston in Action Testimony on Proposed Congressional Maps.pdf](#)

Date: 2021-09-30
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

September 30, 2021

Honorable Joan Huffman
Texas Senate Committee on Redistricting, Special
1100 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Redistricting Process and Senate Bill 6

Dear Chair Huffman and Members of the Committee,

Houston in Action is a collaborative of people and organizations throughout the greater Houston area who promote community leadership and break down systemic barriers to civic participation. Our member organizations work on a host of issues. Each of our members count on their elected representatives to include their voices in critical discussions impacting their communities. For this reason, we recognize the significance of redistricting and we have engaged in redistricting conversations since 2019.

We write to express grave concern over SB 6, the proposed, redistricted U.S. Congressional map. Overall, this map fails to create a competitive seat across the 38 districts. It is well known that the population growth in Texas was spurred by individuals who identify as Hispanic, Black, and Asian, 95% of the growth. However, the map increases the number of majority-white districts, creating two new majority-white seats.

As it relates to our Houston community, the votes of people of color are drastically diluted. There is an aggressive split amongst communities of color in northwest Houston and Fort Bend County - between Congressional District 08, Congressional District 22 and Congressional District 38 - pairing communities of color with white voters in an effort to dilute those communities' voting power. CD 8 extends from West Harris County into rural counties. Also, the map dilutes the Asian community's voting power by splitting them into three separate congressional districts, CD 07, CD 09, and CD 22. Alarming, the proposed map dilutes Black voting strength by pairing CD 9 and CD 18. These are communities that in their present district boundaries have afforded Black voters the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice for 50 years in CD 18 and 30 years in CD 9.

Furthermore, the process by which this map is being considered wholly disregards testimony submitted over several months by individuals, communities, and advocates requesting that the Senate undertake a transparent process that engages the public in good faith. These maps were released on Monday, September 27 with a notice issued for a single public hearing merely three days later, September 30 at 9:00am. One day to testify, during a work day, with a few days' notice does not constitute good faith public engagement..

We respectfully request that the Committee consider the above concerns, go back to the drawing board, and hold additional hearings to receive public input.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, I may be reached at the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Juan Cardoza-Oquendo
Director of Policy
Houston in Action

