

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 6:35:16 PM

Date: 2021-09-14
First Name: Tim
Last Name: Dowling
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Corpus Christi
State: TX
Zipcode: 78414
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
September 14, 2021

It is a positive development that both Senate Redistricting Chairwoman Huffman, and House Redistricting Chairman Hunter, recently publicly committed to having opportunities for the public to comment on each proposed map for the Texas Senate, the Texas House, Texas Congressional seats, and the Educational Service districts before their committees vote to approve any redistricting map based on the 2020 Census. See Chairwoman Huffman's comments at the beginning of the September 7, 2021 redistricting committee hearing, and Chairman Hunter's comments immediately after the first witness who testified on September 9, 2021 at the House's redistricting committee hearing.

But no details were provided about HOW the public input will occur. In order for the public to be able to most meaningfully comment on each map, there needs to be at least ten, and ideally fourteen, days available to the public to review each map. Thereafter there needs to be 2-3 days allocated for public comment on each map. This maps may well last until the 032 election. Your committee needs to take the time necessary to do it right.

No "surprise," last minute, "committee substitute," or similar shenanigans maps should be considered. Each proposed map must satisfy the notice and comment procedures stated in the immediately preceding paragraph.

However merely releasing a map will not be enough for the public to make the best informed comments regarding it. When each map is released, whether by the majority party or by the minority party, the proponents of the map should provide the following information:

1. Provide a 5-10 page summary stating why the proposed map is proper. Why do its proponents believe it should be adopted?
What do the proponents of each map believe are the strengths of each map? Fully explain the reasons for this belief. What does the opposite party believe are the weakness of each map (and provide a 5-10 page summary justifying that belief).
2. Provide the following information for EACH DISTRICT in each map (therefore 38 evaluations for the Congressional districts, 31 for the Senate, 150 for the House, and 20 for the educational service districts):
 - a. Is the district projected to produce a Republican or Democratic winner in the 2022

election? State the confidence level for the prediction. For example, “With this map for this district the map’s proponents believe there is a 70% probability that the winner of this district will be a Republican in 2022.”

b. Alternatively, if the map’s proponents believe the district is “competitive” (meaning it is legitimately difficult to predict who would win the district in 2022), so state. Clearly state the criteria that were used to label a district as “competitive.” Is it, for example, that 52% of the voting age population in the district are Republican and 48% are Democrat? Or some other percentages? Some of metric (registered voters by party for example)? Fully explain the reasons for the “competitive” label with the specific data points used to justify this conclusion (and not glittering generalities such as “Who knows what will happen with the Texas and national economy between now and election day in November 2022?”).

c. For each district provide the following information regarding the voting age population of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

d. For each district provide the following information regarding the registered voters of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

e. For each district provide the following information regarding the voting age population of the district: Republican, Democrat, other party, or no party.

f. For each district provide the following information regarding the registered voters of the district: Republican, Democrat, another party, or no party.

3. Do the proponents of the map believe that the district in question is a minority opportunity district? If so, fully explain why.

4. Disclose the names of the specific people that drew the map, and their connection to any member of the Legislature, political party, or interest group. Also provide the current resumes of each such person.

5. Provide communications received from all sources (from human beings, not from Census data) asking that any map or district be drawn in any particular way (not including oral or written comments to either redistricting committee; that information is already publicly available).

6. Disclose if the proponents of the map believe there is any credible risk (although they may contend they would defeat the argument) that any district in the map would violate the federal Voting Rights Act, the federal Constitution, any other federal law, or any Texas law.

7. Provide the digital data used to draw the map in a form on the committee’s website that the public can easily download to run simulations on each proposed map. For example, if the western boundary of District X was moved 5 miles further west, how would that change the partisan and demographic makeup of the district?

Just as a doctor would not tell a patient to “figure it out yourself” when showing him an X-ray or an MRI image, so each political party must disclose the above information so that the “patient” (here the citizens of Texans) can more meaningfully evaluate “what they are looking at” when shown a map proposed by either political party.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Dowling

