

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 7:40:21 AM
Attachments: [Redistricting Written Testimony 10-4-2021.docx](#)

Date: 2021-10-04
First Name: Beryl
Last Name: Shorter
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:
See attached document.

[REDACTED]

The Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Todd Hunter, Chair
House Redistricting Committee
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

October 4, 2021

Dear Chair Huffman & Chair Hunter,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of myself and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, regarding SB 6 and HB 1 relating to redistricting in Texas.

My name is **Beryl Shorter** and I live in Harris County, Houston, Texas, House District 147th and Senate District 13. I am also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and serve on the Bay Area-Houston Alumnae Chapter Social Action committee.

Census data definitively shows people of color fueled 95% of Texas population growth over the past decade, stated the Texas Tribune article that can be found [here](#). As an African American woman, I fundamentally believe that communities of interest should continue to reside in the same district to ensure African American and other minority voices are not diluted. Texans, particularly Black Texans, have already suffered at the hands of previous gerrymandering and the consistent attack on our voting rights, along with a list of other items negatively impacting the Black community. These items include such things as the lack of healthcare resources, over-policing, and food deserts.

As Texans we request that the Texas Legislature works to decrease barriers for inclusion in the process including:

- Providing meaningful procedural access to the process,
- Increasing committee hearings notification to provide significant time to prepare to deliver testimony,
- Providing increased access to Red Apple (redistricting mapping software) and longer time for proposed map review.

Remember, you must follow the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution and Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 while creating these maps. Further, we would ask that the aforementioned requests would also apply to all redistricting related legislation.

I pray that the Legislature will lead a fair process in creating fair maps that appropriately represent the changing demographics of Texas.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Beryl Shorter

Soror Beryl Shorter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Bay Area - Houston Alumnae Chapter