

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:31 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-11

First Name: Bill

Last Name: King

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Austin

State: Texas

Zipcode: [REDACTED] 6

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Good morning, Madame Chair. Thank you and your committee for listening to ordinary Texans today. My name is Bill King. I was a judge for 23 years, retiring in 2014.

Since then I have worked on issues of good governance. In the courtroom, it is important that all people be treated fairly. Even if I didn't like someone's attorney or didn't agree with an argument, it was critical that everyone trusted that the system was fair; that it was not rigged for one side or the other. The same should be true for redistricting. Texas has a very low voter turnout rate. Part of that is because voters feel that their vote doesn't matter. Politicians of both parties are allowed to create safe districts that either protect incumbents or one political party. That is just not right. Voters in like circumstances should be able to listen to candidates and decide who best represents their views. Instead, in Texas, we have elected officials choosing their constituents. This turns democracy on its head. Please move redistricting to an independent commission that will be transparent and less susceptible to personal and partisan desires. Thank you.