

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:01:52 PM

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Date: 2021-09-14  
First Name: Carol  
Last Name: Haywood  
Title: n/a  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: 78745  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I live in a very odd-shaped district and feel that my vote does not count and my voice is not heard or represented. I live in an urban part of Austin and am put in a US congressional district with ranchers in West Texas with whom I have very little in common. Urban dwellers have very different priorities from rural dwellers and I believe that we should be in separate districts that represent our interests. I would like district lines to be drawn so that neighborhoods are not broken up and communities that share common social, economic, and cultural interests are kept intact. People who share common transportation, education, work opportunities, and media outlets should be kept together when redistricting occurs. It makes it more difficult for a representative to get their message out and hear from constituents if they cover an odd-shaped area that has multiple newspapers and media outlets. It makes it difficult and expensive for elected representatives to communicate with their constituents if they represent several large cities since they must have multiple offices in distant locations and speak with multiple media outlets. It is important for future districts to be compact and representative of communities with common interests. I realize that Texas districts must be drawn to keep counties intact, if possible, and I think this should also apply to US representative districts. It would be beneficial for constituents and representatives alike if districts were "nested" so that the Texas House district was within the TX Senate district that was within the US House district. It would certainly make it easier to communicate as well as keep communities together. In the past, both parties have drawn district maps where they choose their voters instead of the other way around. Voters can not hold their legislators accountable if the election outcome is determined before the election. Voting is critical to a well-functioning democracy and if voters feel their vote does not matter they will stop voting and our democracy will be lost. I encourage the redistricting committee to allow future proposed maps to be viewed by the public in a timely manner before they are approved. The people who draw future lines should answer any questions about how they drew the lines, why any voting precincts were split, and what they considered when drawing the lines. Transparency is most important and only works if there is integrity in the process. Thank you for your time in reading my concerns.

[REDACTED]