

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, September 6, 2021 2:27:55 PM

Date: 2021-09-06
First Name: Judith
Last Name: Williams
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Bedford
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you, Chairman and Committee Members.

I am Judith Williams. I am representing myself.
I live in Bedford. My community of interest is Bedford, Hurst, and Euless.

Our School District is extremely diverse. Some 75 languages are represented. Over half the students are economically disadvantaged.

The community is next to DFW Airport, and many people in the community are employed in some aspect of aviation.

And yet, my current Texas Senate District 9 does NOT represent my community.

- Senate District 9 looks like a gerrymandered claw. Cracking and packing: Exhibit A.
- It stretches north to include the hyper-wealthy cities of Westlake and Southlake, which do not share our community interests.
- The central core of Bedford, just a few blocks away, is hollowed out, and placed into Senate District 10, which stretches down to Burlison and includes rural voters, who have their own interests.

Here are issues I care about:

- Freedom to vote
- Medicaid expansion
- Women's rights
- The power grid
- Gun violence
- Covid-19

These are issues that a majority of Texans care about. Yet the legislature spent a LOT of time talking about bathrooms and making life harder for us.

This happens because of gerrymandering and map manipulation. Politicians pick their voters and answer only to their selected sliver.

I ask you to

- Work to end gerrymandering and map manipulation at ALL levels.

- Hold virtual public hearings once maps are proposed, with at least 2 weeks public notice.
- Publish straightforward registration procedures for testimony.
- Draw maps that are fair and represent all Texans – especially Texans of color, who represent 95% of our population growth since 2010.

The most important thing for this Committee to do is to respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act. Do not use my testimony to justify diminishing the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice, or distorting maps for racial or partisan purposes. You are smart people and can draw fair maps if you want to.

I am a member of Congregation Beth Israel and a volunteer with the Religious Action Center of Texas.

Thank you.

