

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 1:09:20 PM
Attachments: [Redistricting testimony 9 5 21 Michael Curry.docx](#)

Date: 2021-09-07
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Curry
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: 78703
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Census

Message:
Please see attached testimony.

[REDACTED]

Thank you, Madam Chair,

My name is Michael Curry and I am here on my own behalf. I am asking for a redistricting process that results in fair maps ensuring equal voting rights.

As you know, the purpose of redistricting is to account for any newly apportioned seats and to equalize the population among districts in service of the principle of one person, one vote. Unfortunately, this State has repeatedly drawn districts for other purposes: to protect incumbents and to gain partisan political advantage. This is an abuse of the redistricting process.

For example, Austin has been Gerrymandered into five congressional districts to ensure that the majority of its citizens have no chance to elect someone who shares their policy positions. My District 25 clips off a small part of Austin and combines it with a sprawling rural district that extends to just this side of Fort Worth. The district, as drawn, is not compact and does not represent a community of common interests and the issues and concerns of people in one part of the district often conflict with people in other parts.

The United States Supreme Court has recognized partisan Gerrymandering as quote inconsistent with democratic principles, unquote, even though it concluded that it does not have jurisdiction to remedy it. So, it is left to your honor and your commitment to democracy.

Manipulating voting districts to stack the deck or diminish the vote of a segment of the population degrades our democracy. It promotes polarization, undermines our Constitution, and impairs everyone's right to free and fair election. Looking the other way while others violate democratic principles is how democracies die.

I am here today to ask you to commit now to drawing compact districts of equal population based on shared community interests without considering party affiliation and voting histories.

Finally, after you release the maps and supporting data, I request that you schedule additional hearings to allow public input. You have an opportunity to comment on a bill after its introduction; the public deserves the same chance.

Thank you.