

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 9:50:34 AM

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Date: 2021-10-04  
First Name: Bhavna  
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City: Farmers Branch  
State: TX  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Bhavna Vashisht and I am a resident in Precinct 2305 in HD 115, Congressional District-24 (TX). I am part of the South Asian community that contributes to the economic, social, and civic success of this area.

I worked in the Education industry for years as an Elementary School teacher and later as a school photographer and teacher for Elementary and Middle School. I have lived in TX for 22 years from Euless to Flower Mound to Farmers Branch. I remember a time when I used to drive all the way to Richardson for ethnic grocery stores, and I used to really have to be so well planned and strategic making those trips because of the distance. Over time, as the South Asian population started to grow, driving distances to those stores started to shrink as more stores and South Asian restaurants started to open in closer proximity. And of course those stores and restaurants didn't only serve the expanding South Asian population, but also a diverse group of population including caucasians, African Americans, Asians, as South Asian cuisine is much loved by all groups of people and it was so exciting that it was now so easily accessible to people who only experienced it in other places!

We have a strong community in the DFW area we love introducing our friends to cultural and culinary gems like 'Mughlai' in Dallas and Southlake, Indian Chilli in Flower Mound, Delhi 6 in Highland Village, India Palace in Dallas, Urban Tadka in Irving, to name just a few.

The South Asian Community has had a substantial impact in Texas in fields like healthcare, education, commerce and technology and yet we are not able to elect candidates that represent our voices. Some of the issues we are particularly interested in addressing are access to education, fixing the power grid, healthcare access for all, managing covid through Science and logic like masks and vaccinations and a fair representation for the South Asian community.

The current legislative proposals claim that they are "race blind", but they really seem to be illegally and systemically dividing up communities of color to dilute their voices.

For far too long, AAPI communities, which are the fastest-growing across Texas, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts and thus, have been prevented from having the ability to elect a candidate of their choice. All I ask is that we are given equal representation through fair legislative districting. We ask that you honor the Voting Rights Act which prohibits you from drawing lines that dilute our voices. Your maps are deliberately breaking up our community.

South Asians are the fastest growing minority population in Texas. District lines were drawn 10 years ago. Our community has grown exponentially since then. It is critical that we participate in the process to allow our collective voices to be documented. We all want our voices to be heard in determining the future of our families and communities.

By proposing to redraw lines in unnatural formations to splinter high density South Asian populations as in HD 108 and 115 and dilute it with more rural areas will ensure that there will never be fair representation of our voices. South Asian Americans have fueled the economic, community and educational growth in this area. Please do not silence our voices by drawing unfair lines.

Please respect section 2 of the Voting Rights Act which is a nationwide prohibition against voting practices and procedures (including redistricting plans) that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group.

In the interest of a richer, more responsive democrat, I urge Texas to adopt an independent redistricting commission so that all our communities have the representation they deserve. Thank you for the opportunity to testify virtually. I hope you expand virtual testimony for every committee hearing for every bill going forward during this legislative session.

Thank you!  
Bhavna Vashisht

