

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

Hearing Date: September 18, 2021 11:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: - 2020 Census data for all areas of the State

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Gaylene Chrystie  
FOTT WIRTH ISD  
Arlington, TX

Given the rising cases of Covid 19 among students, teachers and admin. staff, this bill puts lives in danger of getting this deadly disease.

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gelo pisam  
st2  
Seattle, TX

Redistricting September 18, 2021 - 11:00 AM [Capitol Extension Auditorium, E1.004]

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Angela Gillispie  
Self  
Buda, TX

When redistricting, please keep the Kyle/Buda and adjacent neighborhoods together.

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Joanne Hawley  
self  
Austin, TX

Please fix the gerrymandering that occurred during the last redistricting session. I live in 78747 one of the most gerrymandered districts in the state and US. My vote is completely washed out which is wrong! Please draw the lines based on the population in the actual geographic area and how we normally vote. Stop washing out Democratic votes!

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robert sheaks  
self  
Irving, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. My name is Robert Sheaks and I am here to represent myself.

I live in south Irving in Dallas County. My neighborhood is working class with many Spanish speakers. I have worked as an election clerk or judge at both Lamar Middle School and Otis Brown Elementary. The people here deserve fair voting district boundaries.

Democracy should embody fairness. Everybody has a voice, everybody is at the table. Redistricting should not unfairly maximize

the political power of a minority, or dilute the power of a majority by manipulating boundaries.

Please do not gerrymander us for partisan purposes. It is undemocratic.

Thank you for letting me submit this testimony.

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Henry Lessner

myself

Fairview, TX

District 12 of the SBOE has grown significantly in population. I think it would be a good idea to make this district represent all of Collin County as opposed to splitting it between Collin and Dallas County.

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Cheryl Dillard, Retired

Self

Conroe, TX

Karen Bryant was to the point and well thought out on the subject. Her statements were accurate and compelling. Let's get this done! This problem needs attention now. Thank you.

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gloria guzman

self as a Texas voter Lic Realtor

Dallas, TX

concerned re the redistricting of the State being done fairly so there is a balance in election for voters and the balance being done so that one party cannot dominate a district with only one sided voting. The voting lines drawn should only include cities that are in the county. Some cities are divided between 2 counties that in itself sets up a disadvantage and in totally inappropriate in the division. Dallas County should include only Cities and towns that fall in the division lines and not be split down the center or one side of the area. Tarrant count divides the city of Grand Prairie into Dallas county and Tarrant county. The city of Richardson is divided between Collin County and Dallas county in a disproportionate division. The same situation applies to Carrollton being in both Denton County and Dallas County. Rowlett is both Rockwall Co. and Collin County. These are just a few mentioned, The whole state is cut up this way and it is lopsided. Creating an unfair weight in the ballot boxes.

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Sue Ann Anderson

Self - Retired

Lakeway, TX

My name is Sue Ann Anderson and I currently reside at 118 Lone Cedar Ct.. I am over 18 years of age and I am a registered voter. I live in the Lakeway area of the current HD 47, SD 24, and Congressional District 25. The testimony I give today is based upon my personal knowledge from my experience in my community and as a citizen of the State of Texas.

I want any new district map to fairly represent the voting patterns of Texas. In Texas, all of our statewide officials are Republican. Therefore, any new Congressional seats awarded to Texas as a result of the increase of the Texas population should represent the voting pattern of the state of Texas which is Republican.

I want the new map to reflect one person, one vote as provided in the US Constitution. It is important to me that districts are created so that there is approximately equal voting power in each district, and by "equal voting power," I mean equal voting power of people legally eligible to vote.

I want to emphasize that I believe it is important that redistricting is accomplished by our elected officials, like you, who are accountable to the people of Texas. I strongly oppose any so-called "Independent Panel" that is not elected by the people of the State of Texas. Allowing redistricting to be done by an appointed panel takes away my voice and the voice of people like me in this very important process.

The people in the Lakeway and Steiner Ranch communities enjoy not being caught up in the craziness of the City of Austin. The residents of the Lake Travis and Leander school districts travel the same corridors to work and school and have similar economic and educational backgrounds. It makes sense for these communities to be included in the same legislative or Congressional districts. The areas further west from the Lakeway area toward Marble Falls are less dense in population, but also share many of the economic and educational characteristics of my part of Travis County.

I hope that my testimony, based upon my personal knowledge of the community in which I live, is helpful to you in the redistricting process.

Thank you.

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James Bunch

self retired

Austin, TX

A big thank-you to the Chairman and the Committee Members for providing an opportunity for voters to provide input to this process so fundamental to sustaining our democracy. I represent myself and my name is James Bunch.

I have been living in Austin, Texas for over 21 years in a community of like minded Democrats. Dividing the city of Austin into 5 districts means that our issues related to growth are never addressed because our voices are diluted by voters outside of our city. I am becoming disillusioned with the democracy I am experiencing in Texas as the congressional district maps appear to be constructed to weaken my voice.

As a result, my representatives are not interested in my views or opinions as their constituent. I write to them about 3 times a year and have never received a response to my communication about my issues and concerns. We need a Congressional District in Austin where we can hold our representative accountable to address and listen to our specific needs.

More and more I am represented by elected officials from Ft. Worth and Houston that do not fairly represent me or my community on our views or beliefs about our growth issues or our elections. We do not want our community to be forced to abide by the representatives in far away cities who do not live here or even want to understand our way of life. Government representation needs to follow the community's geographic boundaries and not be divided unfairly by gerrymandering.

Recommendations for Redistricting Process:

1. Maps should be made public at least 14 days in advance of any public hearings or votes in order to allow sufficient time for the public to review the maps, prepare testimony and propose alternative maps.
2. We need at least 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps.
3. Keep all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps in order that redistricting is fully transparent to the general public.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Bunch

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Lindsay Curington

Self

Kyle, TX

I live in Kyle, Texas. New houses and business are going up all around us. Local representation is important for us to have the needs and experiences of our town in the state house. Please keep my neighborhoods as a cohesive whole - just the way we live! Don't gerrymander our districts. It's unconscionable and is the literal opposite of democracy. In a gerrymandered district my communities' voice is intentionally diminished to ensure the outcome of the party you favor. Boo!!! Don't do that to us!

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Bhuvanesh Bhatt

Self

Austin, TX

Our democracy is fragile, as recent events have shown, and it needs to be protected and strengthened. We have to come together as Texans and Americans and put our state and country ahead of party. Voting is our most fundamental right in the sense that all of our other rights depend on our right to vote and easy access to voting. It must always be voters who pick their representatives, not the other way round, so when we work on redistricting we must draw fair maps regardless of which party is currently in the majority. With redistricting software these days it is easy enough to draw both fair and unfair maps. Gerrymandered maps can help the majority party in the short term, but when the other party comes to power such maps would come back to bite the original majority party, and they would also further erode confidence in and participation in our democracy. The word "democracy" comes from two Greek roots: demos (people) and kratos (power). If you choose gerrymandered maps, the people you represent will become passive and will relinquish their power, and our democracy will die.

As a citizen who believes in the promise of America and worries about its future, I urge you to choose fair maps in the redistricting process for Texas.

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Rio Renaud

Deeds Not Words

Austin, TX

My name is Rio Renaud. I am the daughter of an immigrant, and a first-generation American. I was the first person in my family able to pursue higher education and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, all because of my mom's courage. She risked so much moving here from the Philippines, and was scrutinized constantly for being "other". "FOB". "Foreign." "Alien.". Still, this was the better option. This was the price for a better life for herself and her children, and my mom was so willing to pay it to live in the "land of opportunity".

I learned so much in college, the value of diversity, the power of democracy, and the importance of having a voice. Casting my first vote in college felt like a rite of passage. This was what my mom's sacrifice was for, so I could use my voice. However, the deeper I got involved in politics, the more I learned of the predatory systems that keep people like her down. I am deeply concerned with the history of voter suppression in Texas. Shameless gerrymandering is exactly how you make people like my mom feel like they have to pay a price to live with less dignity, less choice, less voice: by discounting them.

Census data shows that Texas added 4 million people this past decade, and Texans of color accounted for 95% of that population growth. Diversity is our strength, and we deserve maps with districts that reflect our growing communities. We deserve to choose representatives that have our interests at heart. Gerrymandering is a poorly disguised way to say that some people matter more

than others. That is not a land of opportunity.

This is why public participation is vital. I am grateful for the chance to testify today. Constituents deserve the chance to join the conversation on decisions that impact our lives. If district lines are not drawn fairly, the foundation of our democracy is weakened and windows of opportunity shrink. We have a real chance to shape our democracy into an inclusive one where all citizens matter equally. Thank you for your time, for the space to exercise my civic duty, and for the opportunity to share why a fair and transparent redistricting process is crucial.

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Cynthia Cole  
AFSCME 1550  
katy, TX

Questions to the committee as it relates to the consideration of the areas that will be amended as a result of the redistricting map efforts.

What impact will the public presentations make in the final decision on the drawing of the new redistricting map?  
Will the request of the constituents of the various Texas districts be treated with unbiased consideration?

Thank you  
AFSCME 1550  
Cynthia Cole  
Executive Director

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Theresa Ybanez, Mrs.  
Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association  
San Antonio, TX

My neighborhood is predominately low to middle income Hispanic families. The redistricting the Republican representatives are trying to achieve blatantly creates more obstacles to fair and equitable elections. The Republican party does not want communities like mine to vote. They do not want us to have the power of our vote. Gerrymandering must stop! Remember that we remember!

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Dianna Biscan  
Self retired  
Plano, TX

Please keep Pam Little in Collin County because of our tremendous growth and for our school district needs. It looks like each year our status is going down due to over crowding in schools and new families flooding our institutions. She needs to be removed from District 12 in Dallas because of her work load in Collin.  
Pam Little is a terrific champion of the State Board of Education and we need to keep her in Collin County. This re-districting needs to remove her from District 12.

Dianna Biscan

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Mohan Rao  
self

Austin, TX

Both Republicans and Democrats, all of us, want to see the democratic process as a legitimate process. And with good reason. When trust in the democratic process erodes then the legitimacy of our elected officials is questioned and, indeed, the legitimacy of the entire government is questioned. No one, no business, no nonprofit, no school wins when elected officials lose the trust of their constituents.

I can say from personal experience that the current extreme partisan gerrymandering erodes trust in the democratic process. The congressional district I live in stretches from east to west Austin (where in some places the district is less than ten city blocks wide) and then extends all the way to the suburbs of Ft. Worth in north Texas. As best as I can tell, our representative appears to have no interest in representing the interests and values of my corner of Texas Congressional District 25. It does not have to be this way. Drawing fair electoral maps is a well-established process in many parts of the world. It is not rocket science.

I urge you to step away from the current highly partisan redistricting process and allow non-partisan groups to draw future electoral maps. Let the voters choose their elected officials, not the other way around. Thank you.

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Paul Farmer

self, retired

Austin, TX

I am an urban dwelling citizen in Congressional District 21. My District has been Gerrymandered with 10 rural counties in Central and West Texas to CANCEL the votes of citizens like me by. I think this is called "splitting". Even with the politically motivated dilution of the votes of people facing the problems of urban governance, our current Representative, Chip Roy, won his seat by a narrow margin. Congressman Roy has gotten a few Post Office buildings named for deceased people, and not done much else for his Constituency. He has roiled the news, and City of Austin and Travis County by famously stating "NO" to local initiatives in Public Health (masking) and housing policy (homelessness).

In my experience, I am NOT being represented by my Congressman. My Congressman has NO INTEREST in Urban Renewal, public housing, local governance, and Public Health. I know this because he has voted NO each time a sensible, considered piece of legislation has come before him for a floor or committee vote.

Please change my South Austin area of residence (Stassney and Menchaca Road) to another District with voters who share my concerns. And a District represented by ANYONE but Chip Roy or his ilk.

Thank you,

Paul M Farmer

512-787-1637

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Carol Haywood

self, retired

Austin, TX

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 who 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.

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Kimberly Robertson

Self, Project Manager

San Antonio, TX

My name is Kimberly Robertson and I’m a Project Manager. I live in the Alamo Ranch area of Bexar County. My neighborhood is close to Taft High School where the minority enrollment is 82% of the student body (majority Hispanic), which is higher than the Texas state average of 72% (majority Hispanic).

No one has been more harmed by map manipulation and voter suppression than Black and Latino communities whose voices have been minimized at the ballot box and in Congress.

I ask that the Committee draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent ALL Texans. I ask that you work to end map manipulation.

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Georgena Askew askew

self children's entertainer

El Paso, TX

Gerrymandering is basically a tactic to deny citizens of their rights to vote. When the districts are broken up to represent a particular group I am voting with a group who I do not identify with. If my vote is not going to the person or issue I want I am being denied the right to vote which is the heart of our democracy. If people are not allowed this right, we lose our democracy.

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Richard Cook

SELF

Dallas, TX

I live in Dallas but my representative District includes just a few blocks of my neighborhood and several (more than 6) counties south and east of here. Anyone can see this is not contiguous. Lets divide Texas up fairly so anyone can have a chance to win. Thanks

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Christopher (Chris) Cruz, Precinct Chair

Self and Precinct 243

Austin, TX

Mr. Chairman (Rep. Todd Hunter) and Committee Members thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony for the Redistricting Hearing.

My name is Chris Cruz. I am the Chair of Precinct 243 and I am here to represent both my Precinct and myself.

Precinct 243 is a homogeneous community of families with parents who are hard-working professionals raising young children and retired seniors living in quiet neighborhoods with safe parks, play grounds, recreation areas, and the Gullett Elementary School which is an academically recognized school. In my Precinct, there is the Allandale Neighborhood Association which has a very active registered voter constituency of Republican, Democratic and Independent voters—in the 2020 elections we had approx. 2,103 registered voters of which 1,670 (79.41%) voted.

The Precinct (including Allandale) has seen in the past 10 years a continuing increase of people and families moving into Austin from out of state. I, like my constituents (especially the seniors, the disabled, the handicapped, the mothers of young children, and those struggling economically due the pandemic or otherwise) are concerned about the following laws recently passed and signed by Governor Abbott: the open carry of weapons in Texas without background checks or training and the increasing restrictions on the right to vote in Texas. The voters in my Precinct want to be safe from the misuse of guns and fewer restrictions on their right to vote. And they need the expansion of Medicaid plus Medicare to include coverage for dental care, vision and hearing. They are also very concerned about the need to address Austin's degrading infrastructure, the ongoing impacts of climate change, and the way the current state leadership is not adequately addressing the spread of the COVID-19 variants especially among the children.

And on top of all of these issues, the same majority of the Texas Legislature is going back to a Special Session on September 20, 2021 to gerrymander another round of maps favored intentionally to the majority to establish another 10 years of gerrymandered districts that do not fairly or equitably meet the current and future needs of the citizens of Texas including seniors, the disabled, the handicapped, people of color, and those struggling economically due the pandemic or otherwise.

First, I ask that the Legislature stop manipulating the boundaries of the districts by gerrymandering the maps in favor of only one political party.

Second, I ask that a non-partisan board be established to map the boundaries of the districts without bias or manipulating the Census data.

The intended goal of redistricting was to elect legislators that would better represent and address the meaningful community interests of their constituents rather than the current redistricting process being about one political party using gerrymandering to have more power over the other party.

Thank you sincerely for this opportunity to testify.

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James Boyer

self

Austin, TX

I am deeply distressed about how divided we are as a country. Gerrymandering has only made that partisan divide worse. I ask that you support redistricting reform, specifically, that you allow for an independent commission to draw the district lines that uses objective criteria so that the commission can draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent all Texans.

Legislators and political parties should not be allowed to draw their own district lines. I believe that, in so doing, politics becomes more divided, special interests get more influence, and my vote matters less. An independent commission will give legitimacy to the process and ensure all voters are represented fairly.

For the love of Texas, I implore you to support redistricting reform and create an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

With gratitude,

\_\_James C Boyer

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Parnia Razinobakht

Deeds Not Words



Houston, TX

To whom it may concern, my name is Parnia Razinobakht, I am the Digital Manager for Deeds Not Words and live in Harris County, in one of the most diverse counties in the nation.

The Census data clearly draws a picture of a reality that Texans like myself are noticing everyday— Texas is more diverse than ever, with record numbers of new young voters, and massive growth in all of our major cities and suburbs. This is a great sign that Texas is growing and has potential for an even greater future, but that can't happen if we don't draw fair maps that accurately reflect this growth.

Texans deserve a fair and transparent redistricting process that makes sense for our population for the next decade. Gerrymandering harms our people in so many ways— from voting access to the resources our communities can receive. Please stand for a fair democratic process this redistricting session. I also strongly urge you to share information about current and future hearings more widely and give a minimum of a two week notice to allow Texans to participate in this important process.

This is a matter of upholding our democracy and setting aside partisan politics to ensure Texas can achieve the bright future we're set up for now. Thank you for your time.

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Sarah Terrell

self

Houston, TX

My name is Sarah Terrell and I live in Houston, in a neighborhood near downtown called Norhill Heights. It is in CD 18, represented by Sheila Jackson Lee.

I am happy with Ms Lee's representation of me in Washington. I am less happy with the gerrymandered lines of District 18. It is shaped like a pinwheel, with downtown Houston at the center and various lobes extending from there. The district includes many inner city areas and a large area north of Beltway 8 around Greens Bayou. It includes most of Fifth Ward, a minority neighborhood northeast of downtown but it excludes the near Northside (the area just east of I 45 inside the Loop) which shares many features with Fifth Ward and the Heights.

Similar inner-city neighborhoods are split between Districts 18 and 29. The near Northside, excluded from District 18, is nearly identical to Fifth Ward, its neighbor to the east that is in District 18. Neighbors in these two similar areas must address their issues with two separate congresspeople and cannot aggregate their voices effectively. My neighbors just across North Main, zoned to the same elementary school as I am, are not in my District 18, but in 29. That makes no sense and is inefficient.

Another issue is lumping the outer Beltway suburbs with the inner city. The large area north of the Beltway has little in common with the inner-city District 18 neighborhoods. That northern area is suburban, with parts even semi-rural, while I live in a dense area with completely different demographics and needs. That northern area is near Greens Bayou, and has terrible flooding and crime issues, yet our congressperson does not have an office there. Although she has four local offices, it is difficult for her to be responsive to everyone's needs when she represents such widely spaced geographic areas. For comparison, Dan Crenshaw represents District 2, an even more severely gerrymandered district including parts of inner-city Houston, the town of Humble in east Harris county, and far west and northwest Houston suburbs. Crenshaw has only two local offices, in Spring and Humble. Congresswoman Lee, working in good faith to represent all her constituents, can only staff so many local offices. Representative Crenshaw's solution is to only be available to certain parts of his district, an even worse solution to the problem of responsibility for such widely spaced dissimilar areas.

I ask that the committee make Congressional and State representative districts that aggregate similar communities in a relatively compact geographic area. I urge you to expand opportunities for public review and testimony. Please hold further public hearings, open to speakers like me, with sufficient notification for participation. Such hearings should be after you publish each set of maps, before you vote on them.

Thank you for your considering these issues.

Sarah Terrell

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Bradley Wilson

Self

Austin, TX

I live in the Springdale Hills neighborhood of Austin, Texas, where the only nearby places to buy food are a dollar store and a gas station, neither of which sells fresh produce. The nearest park is miles away, as is the nearest emergency room. My urban neighborhood is one of the most racially diverse in Austin but it has been represented by the same white Fort Worth suburbanite since 2013, despite the fact that most of my neighbors and I have consistently and overwhelmingly voted against him every time he has run. It is clear to me that the gerrymandering of the 25th Congressional District has effectively disenfranchised my neighborhood, which is mostly populated by working class people of color. The only thing Springdale Hills has in common with an ethnically homogeneous bedroom community like Cleburne, Texas is our U.S. Representative. But unlike that mostly white Fort Worth suburb, our Congressman has never set foot in Springdale Hills in East Austin. It seems obvious that we do not want him any more than he wants us. Why not give everyone what they want and divide Travis County into three congressional districts that share common interests? I ask that the Committee draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent ALL Texans.

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ALETHA HUSTON

self

Austin, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Redistricting.

My name is Dr. Aletha Huston, and I represent the children of this state, who have no votes.

I live in Travis County. In the midst almost unprecedented prosperity, more than ¼ of Central Texas children in Black and Hispanic families live in poverty. In a family with one parent and two children, that means their family income is less than \$1830 per month. Children growing up in poverty have innumerable barriers to healthy development. For example, even before the pandemic fewer than 40% of children from low-income families were ready for the challenges of kindergarten. The disparity is even greater after a year with little opportunity for early education.

Children of color are the majority in our state. They are the future of Texas. When their interests are not protected by our elected representatives, they suffer and we as citizens suffer as well. Our economy as a state depends on raising healthy, educated citizens of all races and ethnicities. That means we need programs for early care and education that prepare children for school and for citizenship in a democracy, family leave that allows parents to care for their babies, strong child welfare services that protect children from abuse, and quality health care for mothers and infants.

Gerrymandering of the city of Austin leaves us with few strong advocates for children because we are split into five Congressional districts. My district extends 140 miles from a slice of northwest Austin to the outskirts of Houston.

I ask that you draw Congressional maps that are fair and inclusive for all Texas families. I ask that you represent all families with children fairly in the state legislature so that we can spend our taxpayer funds on giving all of our children a healthy start in life, a quality education, protection from abuse, nutritional food, and good health care instead wasting money on an ineffective and cruel border wall and battles over bathrooms.

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Ann Smith

Myself

Austin, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Ann Smith and I am representing myself.

For over two decades I was a teacher in Title 1 middle schools, one in Houston ISD and one in Austin ISD. I live in an area near Austin called Westlake. I have lived in the same home here for fourteen years. I was also an enumerator for the 2022 Census in both communities in Austin, the one in which I live and the one in which I taught. I became a Census worker because I am deeply concerned about redistricting issues in Texas.

As a recent census worker, teacher, and resident I find the communities of west and central Austin to be more diverse racially than ever before, with a growing younger professional population, immigrant population, and more people from out of state due to the thriving economy. I deeply value these communities, their histories, their vibrancy, their architecture, their physical beauty such as Lake Austin, Common's Ford Preserve, the Greenbelt, Bull Creek, Barton Creek, and Barton Springs. Because of population growth, I especially want to ensure that these communities remain environmentally sound because of their unique physical features and that the schools do better at serving all children, including underprivileged children and families.

Gerrymandering helps to create a huge disconnect between my communities and their representation in Washington. Although the places in which I work and live are side by side, no more than ten miles apart, two different men represent them in DC. More often than not, neighbors and friends have a hard time keeping up with who their congressman are, partly because our districts have been altered and rearranged so many times, particularly in Travis County. Furthermore, neither congressman seem to reflect the values of these communities. Often, more diverse communities in terms of age, race, and geographics is more progressive, yet our representative is the opposite of progressive. I was made aware of only one townhall offered by my representative in the last four years within my community. He may be spread too thin in his spread-out district. Or maybe he chooses to only hear from those areas that tend to support his own agenda, and to avoid those areas that do not. Gerrymandering makes this type of behavior tempting for a representative. When I call his office, I inevitably receive a standard response that in no way aligns with how I and many of my neighbors weigh in on any given issue, gun control being one example. A majority of Texans are for stricter gun control laws, yet my representative is not. As a resident of his district, I can if I allow myself to, feel overlooked and marginalized.

I ask that the committee create the new maps with the principal intent of establishing representative government for all Texans, rather than the intent of a certain political outcome. After all, that is the primary purpose of a democracy.

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Ryan Clark

self Small Business Owner

Houston, TX

Greetings to the Members of the respective House Committee. I hope that this email finds you, and finds you well. I live in downtown Houston, own a small bar and am a Deputy Voter Registrar for Harris County. Since being a Boy Scout, I have believed civic engagement and service to be a virtue. I commend you and your staff for the work you do that must often seem thankless. I register citizens to vote because I believe voting is something that more of us should do - I see that act of voting as a virtue too.

I know that members of both our Parties will be under many pressures in the time ahead to bend an ear, stomp out a fire, or toe the line. I can imagine no process more contentious or fraught than needing to draw lines between Texans. I hope that you will remain true to our state under all this. Texas is a place of new beginnings at different times and in different ways; it has never been the same place twice. If something we love changes, it's an opportunity to love it anew. I hope you will open your hearts and engage fearlessly and with love for this place as your undertake this labor. Please do not crack or pack or break faith with the power we have entrusted you with. Truly, best wishes.

Godspeed.

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Raymond Greenwood, Texan

Self

Mineral Wells,, TX

Honorable House Committee Members,  
Texas Legislature Members,

I would like to express my concerns about the possibility of a change with House District 60 due to redistricting.

While our friends to the east in Parker County are good people and great Texans, their issues and needs are vastly different than those we have in Palo Pinto County.

I was born in a very small town in West Texas and have been fortunate to live in several different cities of our great State, from Dallas and Plano to Mineral Wells and Nacogdoches. In addition, I have overseen the management of businesses in cities that ranged in population from 150,000 to 1,000, some of which abutted metropolitan areas. These businesses were scattered across five states.

I say all of this to say that I know first-hand there are vast differences in the issues in rural communities and those faced by metropolitan cities, or fast-growing cities abutting metropolitan areas.

Palo Pinto County is very much a rural county and the cities that reside within Palo Pinto County are definitely more rural than they are suburban. While both rural and suburban cities may have similar concerns, take roads for example, rural community roads are not four-lane thoroughfares. The same differences hold true in many different areas. I guess one could say our problems are the same, but different, and they require different solutions.

I have sat in numerous meetings, whether of a governmental agency or a business meeting, and the discussions were of common issues facing all those represented. However, about halfway through the meeting the attention was diverted to the solutions for those in larger cities or businesses. While the issues were mostly the same, the solutions were vastly different. I firmly believe the citizens of Palo Pinto County will be better served if Palo Pinto County remains in a legislative district that more accurately reflects its makeup.

The counties in House District 60 as it is currently drawn are very similar in numerous ways. We have an exceptional State Representative that understands the issues facing rural Texas and I would like to see District 60 left intact where we can continue to do our part in helping the great State of Texas continue to prosper.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Raymond Greenwood

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Elisa Gonzalez

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

It is a positive development that both Senate Redistricting Chairwoman Huffman, and House Redistricting Chairman Hunter, recently publicly committed to having opportunities for the public to comment on each proposed map for the Texas Senate, the Texas House, Texas Congressional seats, and the Educational Service districts before their committees vote to approve any redistricting map based on the 2020 Census. See Chairwoman Huffman's comments at the beginning of the September 7, 2021 redistricting committee hearing, and Chairman Hunter's comments immediately after the first witness who testified on September 9, 2021 at the House's redistricting committee hearing.

However, in order for the public to be able to meaningfully comment on each map, there needs to be at least ten, and ideally fourteen, days available to the public to review each map. Thereafter there needs to be 2-3 days allocated for public comment on each map. This is important as maps may well last until the 2032 election. Your committee needs to take the time necessary to do

it right.

In addition, the proponents of the proposed maps should provide the following information:

1. Provide a summary stating why the proposed map is proper.

What do the proponents of each map believe are the strengths of each map? What does the opposite party believe are the weakness of each map.

2. Provide the following information for EACH DISTRICT in each map (therefore 38 evaluations for the Congressional districts, 31 for the Senate, 150 for the House, and 20 for the educational service districts):

a. Is the district projected to produce a Republican or Democratic winner in the 2022 election?

b. Alternatively, if the map's proponents believe the district is "competitive" (meaning it is legitimately difficult to predict who would win the district in 2022), so state.

c. For each district provide the following information regarding the voting age population of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

d. For each district provide the following information regarding the registered voters of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

3. Disclose the names of the specific people that drew the map, and their connection to any member of the Legislature, political party, or interest group.

4. Provide communications received from all sources (from human beings, not from Census data) asking that any map or district be drawn in any particular way.

5. Disclose if the proponents of the map believe there is any credible risk that any district in the map would violate the federal Voting Rights Act.

6. Provide the digital data used to draw the map in a form on the committee's website that the public can easily download to run simulations on each proposed map.

In this way, Texan citizens can meaningfully evaluate "what they are looking at" when shown maps proposed by either political party.

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Richard Dennis, President, Board of Directors, Palo Pinto County Hospital District

Palo Pinto County Hospital District

Gordon, TX

I Strongly object to Palo Pinto County being paired with Parker and other counties to the East. Our current district configuration more completely ensures that our interests, needs & requirements are understood, represented and considered by our Representative in the State legislature. Should we be moved into another district with a more urban population we would be a very small square peg in a large round hole and we would suffer from being neglected by a representative whose focus, by necessity, would be more urban-centric. Thank you for your time and consideration.

---

Elaine Edwards

Self, attorney

Austin, TX

I write to demand that the legislature draw boundaries that reflect the will of the people and provide appropriate demographic representation.

As an Austin resident, a Democrat, in a heavily Democratic area, I have never once been represented in Congress by a Democrat because of Gerrymandering. This is intentional. It is racist. And it is undemocratic.

The legislature has subjected Texas residents like me to one party rule for decades. It is unacceptable. I now find myself in Charles Schwertner's and John Carter's districts. The former is a despicable human being who is not even morally fit serve in the Senate, and the latter only votes when it's time to show up for the insurrection. If the legislature does not return power to the people, it will have a revolt on its hands. Stop gerrymandering Texas.

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Pamela Luton, Ms.

self; self-employed writer/editor of educational materials

Austin, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Pamela Susan Luton, and I am representing myself. I lived in central Austin from 1973 to 1990. From 1990 to the present I have lived in Hays County. My daughters attended schools in the Dripping Springs ISD from 1990 to 2002. In the last 31 years I have seen the Dripping Springs area of Hays County become greatly more diverse—in terms of ethnic background, educational level of parents, financial status, and political affiliation. Yet there is a disconnect between this diversity and my current state senator/state representative. Simply put, they have “represented” far too few of their constituents. I believe that gerrymandering is, in part, responsible for this disconnect.

Both the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution charge the Legislature with drawing district maps according to certain criteria, among them, complying with the federal Voting Rights Act – namely that the resulting districts cannot have neither the purpose nor the effect of “abridging the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or language group.” I strongly believe that this criterion has not been heeded in the past. It needs to be heeded during the current redistricting process. We live in a democracy and we need to hold on to democratic values. These values cannot be allowed to vanish because elected officials want to put their partisan priorities ahead of those values.

---

Delight Hogan

Self - self employed

Frisco, TX

I am writing to stress our outrage at the gerrymandering done in our state and implore for an equitable redistricting process. I live in the far SE corner of Frisco. I always assumed my HD would be made up of a large portion of our city. It came as a huge shock to research my HD 33 and see the utterly ridiculous map. It literally looks like the Republican rep from Rockwall needed to go in search of voters, started travelling as far north as possible out of Rockwall, hooked a hard left for a while, then took a hard turn south into my corner of Frisco. The representative who lives and resides in Rockwall has zero in commonality with this portion of Frisco. We are not communities of shared interests as our area is comprised of 63% Democratic voters. HD33 as drawn does not meet the requirement of "compactness" as it meanders all through North Texas apparently searching for voters. Finally, HD33 does not meet the precedent of "boundary preservation" as it absolutely does not follow natural or official boundaries such as "rivers or town and county borders". I cannot tell you that our representative has EVER been to our portion of Frisco to speak to constituents. Why would we travel all the way to Rockwall where he resides and works to meet with him? He advertises that "his constituents" have certain views solely based on his Facebook poll which are directed at Rockwall residents. Rockwall and the SE corner of Frisco are as different as night and day both in commonality, demographics and education. It seems clear that this portion of Frisco was included in this district to dilute the votes that come out of our area. Texans want leadership that allows voters to pick their leaders, NOT leaders who pick their voters. We want a fair and transparent redistricting process.

---

Chanda Parbhoo

SAAVETX

Dallas, TX

I am asking you to keep like-minded communities together. Asians are the fastest-growing communities in Texas. We deserve to be represented by elected officials who understand us and can legislate to effectively be our voices.

---

David May, CEO/President

Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce

Mineral Wells, TX

Surprisingly in the 2020 Census Bureau counts, Palo Pinto County officially showed very little population growth from the last Census count. With a population of about 28,000, we remain a geographically large, but mostly rural county.

We have concern that Palo Pinto County might be moved into a House district with urban districts to the east, specifically Parker County. Nothing against our friends and neighbors to the east, but we believe such a change is not in the best interests of Palo Pinto County and its citizens. While we may have some shared legislative interests, Palo Pinto is a vastly different county than those to our east. We have many different issues and concerns from that of suburban and more densely populated districts.

Through our board of directors, the Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce has taken a position to formally oppose shifting Palo Pinto County into any House district to the east. We believe it is in Palo Pinto County's interests to keep the county in the current House District 60 and aligned with counties that share similar interests, needs and concerns and representation from those who best know and understand those issues and concerns.

Thank you.

David May, on behalf of the Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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Mark Rawlings

Self

MINERAL WELLS, TX

I oppose any Redistricting Plan that would result in Glenn Rogers no longer representing Palo Pinto County. For years this area has been in serious economic decline. I am one of the Baker Hotel Development Partners and I am in charge of the Restoration of the Baker Hotel. Additionally I made the decision to leave Austin and make Mineral Wells my home. I did so because of the good people in this area and their rural values. Glenn Rogers is one of those people. We are confident that by restoring the Baker Hotel the economy of this area will improve. However, we will not succeed as an island. It will require that the citizens of Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County and this entire Region embark on this journey by doing everything necessary to open businesses in this area and participate in the Resurrection of this beautiful part of our great State. It is imperative that we are represented in Congress by someone we know and trust and who shares our passion for this area. Glenn Rogers is that person. I grew up in Brownwood a town similar in size to Mineral Wells. As a teenager I didn't have sense enough to appreciate the rural lifestyle. All I wanted to do was get out of School and head for the City. After 35 years in Metropolitan Areas I made the decision to move to Mineral Wells. I did so after traveling in and out of town working on the Development deal for the Baker. Folks welcomed me to stay at their homes, fed me, provided entertainment and friendship. They all asked what they could do to help me achieve our goals. In the City it was more about everyone asking what I could do to help them. Being around these folks re-taught me what rural values are all about. There is nothing better that I know of. It is something that I didn't understand when I lived in the City and I feel certain that would be the case if we were represented by someone not from a rural community. Glenn Rogers makes himself as accessible to us as I have seen him be to anyone else in this area. He is the epitome of what it means to have a Rural lifestyle. This area will certainly suffer without him remaining our Representative.

---

Laura Bloemker

Self

Round Rock, TX

I've been a resident of Round Rock, Texas, for 30 years, and I believe that voters should pick their representatives, not the reverse. I support a fair redistricting process that reflects census data that indicates that our state's population has grown largely because the minority population has grown. With more minorities living in Texas, there should also be more districts that represent minorities. That means no "packing and cracking" of districts but a fair process. Rather than gerrymandering districts, keep contiguous neighborhoods together. That encourages everyone to get out and vote for their preferred candidate. That's democracy in action, and in a democracy, everyone's vote should count.

---

Nicki Harle

Self, retired

Baird, TX

I live in District 60. Representative Glenn Rogers has been an exemplary state official for our district. We do not want to lose him!

We strive to elect officials who understand our lifestyle, local economies, and educational needs. Dr. Rogers understands our district. Realigning rural counties of our district into urban districts could have serious negative effects for the citizens in our area. By that I mean having an elected official who is more in tune with the urban constituent needs and not aware of how different rural constituent needs are. Sadly and understandably, concentrated areas of voters tend to get the most attention.

I am certainly aware of the population growth in Texas and the required adjustment of population count needed for "balancing districts"; however, it causes much concern that rural areas will lose ENGAGED representation. They could lose the elected officials, like Dr. Rogers, who fully understand their lifestyle, local economies, and educational needs.

I implore the members of the Redistricting Committee to make EVERY EFFORT to provide rural areas with fair and honest representation. Consider every possible solution to maintaining current rural districts... even if it means dividing counties to comply with population requirements. There is precedent for that happening.

Texas is a great state! And that is partially due to the value that rural areas provide. Agriculture, recreation, tourism venues, renewal energy sources, low crime, small school districts & small town culture. Please honor and respect the residents of rural Texas by maintaining the integrity of representation they deserve in the Legislature.

---

April Miller

Self

Austin, TX

I am here to submit written testimony regarding redistricting. The decisions to divide districts into zones that benefit one party result in a dire lack of representation for the people who are living and paying taxes in those areas. This lack of representation presents as district lines drawn in a way that actually sabotages the democracy this whole process is supposed to represent. If you do not create opportunities for communities to vote for individuals that truly represent them they become casualties of this system.

We are experiencing an unprecedented amount of disconnection between what Texans actually want and the laws being created to govern this ever changing and diverse state.

---

Clara Faulkner

City of Forest Hill, Mayor

Forest Hill, TX

I am Clara Faulkner. I am Mayor of Forest Hill. I am also active and have played a leadership role in our local A. Philip Randolph chapter and in NAACP activities.



Forest Hill is a majority minority city, where African Americans and a growing Latino population elect their candidates of choice in local races.

As you all know, the recently released census numbers make clear that Tarrant County's growth is nearly entirely represented by Texans of color. Our countywide population is now nearly 2 million, which is an increase by around 300,000 since 2010 and according to the census, the white population in Tarrant County has decreased by just over 30,000 since 2010.

I reside in Congressional District 33, Senate District 10 and House District 95. Currently, every one of these districts allows voters of color to elect our candidates of choice.

I have seen a statewide congressional map floating online that cracks African American areas of Congressional District 33, creating a Dallas based district that would silence the voices of voters in my community, Forest Hill, and other heavily African American and Latino areas of Tarrant County. Specifically, in maps I have seen online, Forest Hill is drawn into a district including Parker, Johnson and Hood counties. This map would essentially silence our voice in Congressional elections. Any efforts such as these to dismantle Congressional District 33 and change it from a performing minority coalition district to a Dallas based district, silencing the voices of African American voters in Tarrant County, will be seen as a violation of our voting rights and be considered intentional discrimination.

In 2011, I watched as the Senate dismantled Senate District 10 and placed my community of Forest Hill in a district that would have been anchored in Waco and areas of rural central Texas. Clearly, our voices would have been silenced and our community and the surrounding communities would have had no say in the election of our state senator. Thankfully, a federal court found that lawmakers intentionally discriminated against communities like mine and ruled SD10 must be drawn as to allow African American and Latino voters to together to elect a candidate of our choice. We have done exactly that in elections ranging from the 2020 presidential election, to the 2020 Tarrant County sheriff's race to the 2018 election of Beverly Powell as our senator.

At a minimum, the Senate should retain the current boundaries of Senate District 10 as a district where African American and Latino voters can elect their candidates of choice. To sum it up: Senate District 10 be protected as a Tarrant County based district where minority voters can come together to elect a candidate of their choice. Additionally, any attempts to again carve up SD10 and place our community in a more rural anchored district to dilute our votes will be seen as intentional discrimination as it was before.

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Linda Snider

self

Corpus Christi, TX

My name is Linda Snider and I live at 6213 Angelique Court Corpus Christi, TX 78415. I belong to several organizations and I am a precinct chair, but today I am only representing myself. As a retired social worker I have seen first hand the many ways minorities and the poor are disenfranchised. They have no voice and they don't vote because they feel it will do no good. It is a disservice to these people for them to not have a representative government. One person one vote has always been the hallmark of democracy in America. In the past some legislators have clearly drawn their own lines to protect their political power and to maintain their parties' political power. Texans and organizations are collaborating to change laws and draw districts that fairly represent the demographics in their community. I ask that the redistricting decisions be made strictly according to the population and not for partisan or racial reasons. As you have heard many times before, we citizens are demanding more transparency. Maps need to be made public for at least 14 days so there is sufficient time to review them, prepare testimony for public hearings, and to propose an alternate map. There should be virtual committee hearings throughout the entire session to let the public participate in the legislative process. All the communications and work product both written and electronic should be provided while legislators are working on the maps, so that people are able to better understand the reasoning for why a map has been drawn a certain way.

It is too late for this year but I strongly believe the fairest way for redistricting maps to be drawn in the future, is for Texas to have an independent citizen commission the way many other states have. It doesn't have to be politicians. The sophisticated map

drawing tools and a lot of savvy organizations and individuals are highly capable of doing a good job of district map drawing. This is an opportunity for the Texas Legislators to finally get the process right and avoid wasting millions of taxpayer dollars and years in lawsuits.

It is time to give Texans the representation they deserve and to keep communities together. Thank you for this public comment opportunity, Linda Snider

---

Charlie Bell

Self

Austin, TX

I urge the legislature to create balanced, fair district maps. I hope to continue having a strong Democratic representation in Travis County at the state level and urge you all to create strong representation at the federal level too. No more arbitrarily drawn, gerrymandered districts. Additionally, the process by which this occurs (behind closed doors, after only minimal public input) is discouraging and despicable.

Texas would be a far better place if we had balanced, well-drawn districts that forced members to work on their re-election cases, rather than compete for the craziest in their primary. Implement an independent, non-partisan commission for future map redraws.

---

Amin Jiwani

Self

Carrollton, TX

Thanks

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Nita Battise, Chairperson

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Livingston, TX

Hello Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you today about the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. Our reservation spans over 10,000 acres and lies in both Polk and Tyler counties. The redistricting process is a very important matter to the tribe, our 1,300 tribal citizens, and our community in Deep East Texas. We respectfully ask that you keep the two counties together in the redistricting process.

The Alabama-Coushatta is the oldest of three federally recognized tribes in the state. The history of our Tribe is deeply connected to the history of Texas. From the time that our Tribe provided help to Sam Houston's Army during the Texas War of Independence from Mexico and throughout history, we have continually tried to serve our fellow Texans. Even today, we take pride in our Naskila Gaming facility, which is responsible for 700 jobs in our region.

We know from experience the importance of having a relationship with our delegates. We currently enjoy consistent and open communication with Congressman Brian Babin, state Senator Robert Nichols and state Representative White (who we will dearly miss), and we enjoy broad support from dozens of officeholders in each party. It is very important that we keep our two home counties together so that we can continue to have responsive and positive representation.

Thank you very much for considering this request and allowing me to visit with you today.

---

Bwana Payeye Kizito

Bwana Foundation

Nevada, TX

Hello,

My name is Bwana Payeye Kizito. I live in District 30. I want fair, accurate, and transparent redistricting that represents your community

My community has been affected by redistricting. It is unfair and manipulated maps harm my community. I want to see transparent redrawing of maps, accountability from the committee, and no manipulation of maps.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Bwana

---

Mary Ellen Cuzela

self

Katy, TX

To members of the House Redistricting Committee:

Currently my State House District is 149 - Rep Hubert Vo but I live in much closer proximity to State House District 132- Rep Mike Schofield. I am requesting my precinct 0619 along with precincts 0772, 0400 and 0899 all be reassigned to State House District 132. I live in Nottingham Country neighborhood. The majority of my neighborhood already belongs to State House District 132 (Districts 0522, 0509 and 0644). Only my district 0619 belongs to State House District 149. It doesn't make sense for Nottingham Country neighborhood to be split between two State House Districts. This means I live, work, send my kids to schools and shop in the State House District served by Rep Mike Schofield, not Rep Hubert Vo. I will be better represented and served by being reassigned to House District 132. This would also apply to House Districts 0772, 0400 and 0899.

Rep Hubert Vo's House District 149 is a 25 min drive from where I live, on the other side of two huge natural boundaries, George Bush Park and Westheimer Parkway. To quote another fellow Texan in House District 0899, "Communities of interest within a contiguous population that share common social economic interests, similar living standards and requirements, and similar school, work, and children's sports activities should be represented within the same district." To add, the entire Nottingham Country neighborhood should all belong to the same State House District of 132. Our votes are diluted because we don't live and work in the district that is supposed to be serving us.

Please strongly consider and support re-districting of Precincts 0619, 0772, 0400 and 0899 (currently in House District 149) to align with the natural geographic and community alignment of State Rep District 132 - Rep Mike Schofield.

Please strongly consider and support re-districting of Precincts 0619, 0772, 0400, 0899, 0644, 0509, 0522 and 0589 (currently in CD7) to align with the natural geographic and community alignment of Congressional District 10 - Rep Michael McCaul.

Please strongly consider and support re-districting of Precincts 0619, 0772, 0400, 0899, 0644, 0522, 0509, 0362, 0547, 0751, 0720, 0618, 0731, 0589, 0603 and 0785 (currently in SD17) to align with the natural State Senate District 018 - Rep Lois Kolkhorst.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Cuzela

Marjorie Meyer, MS

Self

Houston, TX

Legislators should not be looking at partisan data. Manipulating maps to artificially distort political power undermines the principle of a representative government and should represent a fair cross-section of society. Partisan manipulation makes that impossible.

The Committee should remain transparent in all processes, especially when it comes to explaining any deviations from traditional redistricting principles that might occur, such as county and precinct splits and population deviations. A legislator who wishes to have a map adopted should be willing to explain why they made those recommendations and what process they followed in drawing their proposed maps.

I'm asking you for fair, accurate, and transparent redistricting that represents my community. No politics, just statesmanship and equality.

---

Michele W Missner

TexasFreedom network

Austin, TX

As a Texas Citizen and an Austinian, I would like to know that I am represented by my local, state and federal government. Right now many people in Austin, many of them liberals are not represented. The fact that Austin, one of the most liberal cities in Texas, is divided up into 5 districts and only one is represented by a Democrat tells me that the city has been gerrymandered. This just isn't right. Apportionment should be done by in a non political way based on the population it represents. Gerrymandering is damaging and should not be done.

---

Susan Markus

self, retired attorney, mother, grandmother

Austin, TX

My name is Susan Markus. I live in TX House District 48, TX Senate District 14 and US Congressional District 25. I believe that voting is the most fundamental of our constitutional rights. It is the foundation of our democracy. For voting to be fair and representational, it is imperative that our legislative districts be fair, rational and representative. Legislators should not be looking at partisan data while drawing maps as partisan manipulation defeats the goal of a fair cross section of people and interests. The Committee should be transparent in all processes, especially when it comes to explaining any deviations from traditional redistricting principles that might occur, such as county and precinct splits and population deviations. I am concerned that in the past the redistricting process has blocked fair representation in some communities. For example, the city where my family and I live - Austin - is carved up into five small pizza shaped slices that fan out in all directions to encompass communities which have little in common with a large city like Austin. As a result, Austin voters are a small minority in all five districts, denying us fair representation. We should draw districts that encompass communities of interest across the state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

---

Deborah Dodds

self

Houston, TX

I live in a neighborhood in the south-eastern narrow slip of TX-02, represented by Dan Crenshaw. This is a very oddly shaped district. Communities have been specifically selected in the past for inclusion into this district and does not need to take place again.

My general concerns are:

- Manipulations of district boundaries to support any one party or politician.
- Because my district was gerrymandered in the past, it will be gerrymandered again.
- While it might be easy to continue with past district borders, the past borders minimized my voice and this should not continue.
- The process of redistricting should be fair and allow all Texans to have an equal and equitable voice .
- Map manipulation and gerrymandering is unAmerican and against Constitutional intent of 1 person/1 vote.

My specific concerns are that:

- My district, TX-02 is largely located outside the loop, forming a large C-shape to specifically exclude me from my neighbors in all directions.
- While I live in an urban area , my district separates me from other urban voters, assuming I have the same interests as the northern, suburban voters making up the vast majority of TX-02. They are far away from me in distance and drive time.
- My area is concerned about the health care process and work force, education and urban issues of transportation, drainage and climatic change as they affect the inner loop. They are different than those in suburban areas.
- One way to limit the voice of people like myself is to split urban neighborhoods into small sections and combine them with large suburban communities.

I ask this committee to consider the following items.

- TX-02 needs to be redrawn creating a compact district like those surrounding me.
- An independent redistricting commission needs to be developed by law or statute to take politics out of the redistricting process.
- Allowing at least 14 days to review maps will give sufficient time for the public to review, prepare testimony and propose alternate maps. Silencing input is not part of our nation's or state's Constitutional mandate.
- Allowing 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps for public analyses/advocation for or against allows redistricting to be truly a transparent and democratic process open to all voters, Rushing acceptance of unclear and undefended changes to district maps defeats the process of equal representation that is a key element of our political process.
- Providing an analysis of how the new districting maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color especially as urban centers are impacted is necessary.
- Please retain all document and discussions that are part of the redistricting process. Do not use legislative privilege as an excuse for secrecy. Redistricting must be explained and/or defended to the voting public otherwise it engenders a feeling of distrust in a process that so vital in a Representative Democracy that goes back to the founding of our nation.

---

Nancy Byler

Individual

early, TX

I am Nancy Byler, a retired educator, member of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature, and a lifelong resident of Brown County! I am urging you to leave District 60 as a rural district! I think I can safely speak for myself, and many others in the district, that feel it is the best choice for us. This is the life style we've chosen and many of the constituents here have moved here for that very reason. It is my understanding that some are thinking of pulling Parker County in, but has the thought occurred to those that Parker County is a suburban/city county with nothing in common with the towns/communities currently included in District 60? Most of the 'larger' towns currently in D60 are about the same size with the same issues and concerns. If needing more constituents in D60, why not consider pulling in Erath County or McCullough County? Both those communities are similar in size and interest as those already included in District 60.

School districts in a House District is another point to consider. We know that same-size school districts face the same issues, so why consider putting in a large school into a district where they would be the only one? Is that a fair issue for the representative

or that school board and superintendent? If you're honest with yourself and others, you would have to agree. Suburban and City schools have a completely different set of concerns than the smaller schools of the current District 60.

District 60 needs/wants a person to represent us that actually knows what it is to grow up, attend a smaller school, and continue to live and support the area they've known and loved forever. I do not feel that many residents of District 60 want a representative to speak for us that has never lived the kind of slower paced life that most of us live.

Again, I am asking you strongly consider leaving District 60 a rural district by not pulling in a county much more 'citified' than the current towns in the district.

Thank You! I'm trusting you to make the right decision for all of us that chose to live in a rural area.

---

David Fisher, Retired Superintendent

Self, Retired Superintendent Lometa ISD

Lampasas, TX

September 16, 2021

House Redistricting Committee

Texas State Capital

Austin, TX 78768

Dear Committee,

I am sorry that I cannot be there today in person, but I have prior commitments that precludes me from attending your hearing. I am writing you today concerning Representative Brad Buckley's representation for House District 54.

I am a retired Superintendent for the Lometa Independent School District in Lometa Texas. Dr. Buckley has proven his interest in Lampasas County whether it be the School District, City or County concerns. He is in attendance of most district events from Veterans Day programs at school to local FFA events here in Lampasas.

Dr. Buckley also care very deeply in Veterans and Veteran issues, with Fort Hood located in the middle of his district it is vitally important that we as Texans stay of top of those issue. He cares not only about the institution but the individuals that make up the Military establishment.

During my time as Superintendent Dr. Buckley and myself had many conversations concerning Public Schools and the issues that affected these institutions. One thing that impressed me about Dr. Buckley was that he genuinely listened to our problems and what we construed as solutions to those problems. We did not always agree on the issues, but I felt like he gave us the full attention that we deserved, and he had a genuine concern for our problems that affected small rural schools.

Small rural schools cannot provide the opportunities that our friends in bigger urban districts, but we do provide a quality education for our students. We could not provide these opportunities without partnerships with Central Texas College and Texas A & M Central Texas, they provide a valuable service for our students, so that they can take advantage of dual credit classes. Students can take these College level classes and accumulate college credits while they are attending high school. Dr. Buckley's assistance is vital to these institutions.

All this means nothing if rural Texas does not have access to Broadband internet access. Decisions are made at the state level for the enhancement of educational opportunities for our students, but they require the access to fast, dependable, and stable internet. That is one of the biggest problems that rural Texas faces, because the world does not stop just because we do not have reliable internet access. Dr. Buckley has taken up this issue and because of his efforts and the efforts of the State Legislature the availability of fast, dependable, and stable internet is coming to rural Texas, and we deeply appreciate those efforts.

Dr. Buckley has been a great representative for Bell and Lampasas Counties, but in addition to that I count Dr. Buckley as a friend and am thankful that we have him representing our counties in the State Legislature.

Sincerely, David Fisher Retired Superintendent, Lometa ISD

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Claudia Turcott

Self/homemaker

Katy, TX

I live on the same street as Mary Ellen Cuzela and I concur with and wholeheartedly support her comments. Please see below:

To members of the House Redistricting Committee:

Currently my State House District is 149 - Rep Hubert Vo but I live in much closer proximity to State House District 132- Rep Mike Schofield. I am requesting my precinct 0619 along with precincts 0772, 0400 and 0899 all be reassigned to State House District 132. I live in Nottingham Country neighborhood. The majority of my neighborhood already belongs to State House District 132 (Districts 0522, 0509 and 0644). Only my district 0619 belongs to State House District 149. It doesn't make sense for Nottingham Country neighborhood to be split between two State House Districts. This means I live, work, send my kids to schools and shop in the State House District served by Rep Mike Schofield, not Rep Hubert Vo. I will be better represented and served by being reassigned to House District 132. This would also apply to House Districts 0772, 0400 and 0899.

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Please strongly consider and support re-districting of Precincts 0619, 0772, 0400 and 0899 (currently in House District 149) to align with the natural geographic and community alignment of State Rep District 132 - Rep Mike Schofield.

Please strongly consider and support re-districting of Precincts 0619, 0772, 0400, 0899, 0644, 0509, 0522 and 0589 (currently in CD7) to align with the natural geographic and community alignment of Congressional District 10 - Rep Michael McCaul.

Please strongly consider and support re-districting of Precincts 0619, 0772, 0400, 0899, 0644, 0522, 0509, 0362, 0547, 0751, 0720, 0618, 0731, 0589, 0603 and 0785 (currently in SD17) to align with the natural State Senate District 018 - Rep Lois Kolkhorst.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ellen Cuzela

---

Amjad Bhular

Self

GRAND PRAIRIE, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and committee members. I thank you for taking my testimony. My name is Amjad Bhular and I'm representing myself.

I reside in the North Texas area, in Tarrant County, where the increase in the population of Afro-American, Latin-American, and

Asian-American residents, as is confirmed by the 2020 Census, has contributed to Texas gaining additional Congressional districts.

As the population continues to grow and we strive for better education, for getting access to quality healthcare, Racial equality, a fair judicial system, and fair voting rights. This progress could be threatened by voter suppression and map manipulation.

Furthermore, our country is so divided now that we are no longer The United States of America but are partitioned into blue and red groups. The pandemic has divided us even more. We are losing the battle against the pandemic simply due to the divisions that exist among us. I strongly believe that Gerrymandering will divide this country even more! In the past, Gerrymandering has caused more problems than solutions.

I just ask this committee to work on uniting the people as “Citizens of the United States of America” and draw maps that are fair and represent all Texans.

I hope that future generations look back at the actions taken by this committee with pride because history will show that the highest standards of democracy have prevailed.

Thank you for your time!

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ERICA EFROS

SELF - COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

DALLAS, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Erica Natalya Efros, and I am representing myself. I recently moved back to my hometown of Plano, TX in TX-3, a middle-class suburb of Dallas, and I was delighted to learn how minority and immigrant populations have grown. We're nearly a majority-minority area. I want our leaders to reflect the minority population growth and for our interests to be represented by people who understand our cultures and needs, but all our representatives at every level are almost all non-Hispanic white people. I ask the committee to create a minority opportunity district here. Thank you very much.

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Timothy Dowling

Self, attorney

Corpus Christi, TX

Part 1 of 3:

September 16, 2021

It is a positive development that both Senate Redistricting Chairwoman Huffman, and House Redistricting Chairman Hunter, recently publicly committed to having opportunities for the public to comment on each proposed map for the Texas Senate, the Texas House, Texas Congressional seats, and the Educational Service districts before their committees vote to approve any redistricting map based on the 2020 Census. See Chairwoman Huffman’s comments at the beginning of the September 7, 2021 redistricting committee hearing, and Chairman Hunter’s comments immediately after the first witness who testified on September 9, 2021 at the House’s redistricting committee hearing.

But no details were provided about HOW the public input will occur. In order for the public to be able to most meaningfully comment on each map, there needs to be at least ten, and ideally fourteen, days available to the public to review each map. Thereafter there needs to be 2-3 days allocated for public comment on each map. This maps may well last until the 032 election. Your committee needs to take the time necessary to do it right.

No “surprise,” last minute, “committee substitute,” or similar shenanigans maps should be considered. Each proposed map must



satisfy the notice and comment procedures stated in the immediately preceding paragraph.

However merely releasing a map will not be enough for the public to make the best informed comments regarding it. Just as a doctor would not tell a patient to “figure it out yourself” when showing him an X-ray or an MRI image, so each political party must disclose the information below so that the “patient” (here the citizens of Texans) can more meaningfully evaluate “what they are looking at” when shown a map proposed by either political party.

When each map is released, whether by the majority party or by the minority party, the proponents of the map should provide the following information:

1. Provide a 5-10 page summary stating why the proposed map is proper. Why do its proponents believe it should be adopted?

What do the proponents of each map believe are the strengths of each map? Fully explain the reasons for this belief. What does the opposite party believe are the weakness of each map (and provide a 5-10 page summary justifying that belief).

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Timothy Dowling

Self, attorney

Corpus Christi, TX

Part 2 of 3:

1. Provide the following information for EACH DISTRICT in each map (therefore 38 evaluations for the Congressional districts, 31 for the Senate, 150 for the House, and 20 for the educational service districts):

a. Is the district projected to produce a Republican or Democratic winner in the 2022 election? State the confidence level for the prediction. For example, “With this map for this district the map’s proponents believe there is a 70% probability that the winner of this district will be a Republican in 2022.”

b. Alternatively, if the map’s proponents believe the district is “competitive” (meaning it is legitimately difficult to predict who would win the district in 2022), so state. Clearly state the criteria that were used to label a district as “competitive.” Is it, for example, that 52% of the voting age population in the district are Republican and 48% are Democrat? Or some other percentages? Some of metric (registered voters by party for example)? Fully explain the reasons for the “competitive” label with the specific data points used to justify this conclusion (and not glittering generalities such as “Who knows what will happen with the Texas and national economy between now and election day in November 2022?”).

c. For each district provide the following information regarding the voting age population of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

d. For each district provide the following information regarding the registered voters of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

e. For each district provide the following information regarding the voting age population of the district: Republican, Democrat, other party, or no party.

f. For each district provide the following information regarding the registered voters of the district: Republican, Democrat, another party, or no party.

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Timothy Dowling

Self, attorney

Corpus Christi, TX

Part 3 of 3:

a.

2. Do the proponents of the map believe that the district in question is a minority opportunity district? If so, fully explain why.

3. Disclose the names of the specific people that drew the map, and their connection to any member of the Legislature, political party, or interest group. Also provide the current resumes of each such person.
4. Provide communications received from all sources (from human beings, not from Census data) asking that any map or district be drawn in any particular way (not including oral or written comments to either redistricting committee; that information is already publicly available).
5. Disclose if the proponents of the map believe there is any credible risk (although they may contend they would defeat the argument ) that any district in the map would violate the federal Voting Rights Act, the federal Constitution, any other federal law, or any Texas law.
6. Provide the digital data used to draw the map in a form on the committee's website that the public can easily download to run simulations on each proposed map. For example, if the western boundary of District X was moved 5 miles further west, how would that change the partisan and demographic makeup of the district?

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Dowling

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ELIZABETH Garza

Self

San Antonio, TX

1. Fact: In the Court Case of Wesberry v. Sanders, the Court Ruled that States must also draw Federal Congressional Districts containing roughly equal represented populations.
2. Faction: The U.S Supreme Court affirmed in the case of Miller v. Johnson (1995) that racial gerrymandering is a violation of Constitutional Rights and upheld decisions against redistricting that is purposely devised based on race.
3. Fact: The U.S. Supreme Court Ruled in Davis v. Bandemer (1986) that partisan gerrymandering violates the Equal Protection Clause of Section 1, of the U.S. Constitution.
4. Fact: The Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, Section 1, stipulates: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of the Citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness without the due process of Law; nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the Laws." Therefore, illegal gerrymandering that is based on unequal presentation of populations per Congressional Districts and not free of racial discrimination violate Citizens of the United States Rights by abridging the privileges or immunities and the equal protection of Constitutional Law that lead to State Voter Suppression Laws which is contrary to the U.S. Constitution.
5. Fact: In the U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in the Case of Marbury v. Madison, (1803) the Supreme Court Ruled that; "any law that is contrary to the U.S. Constitution is not a Law.
6. Article VI, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution establishes the U.S. Constitution as the "Supreme Law of the Land." This means that whenever there is conflict (that is contrary) between the U.S. Constitution and any Federal Law or any State Law, the U.S. Constitution will always supersede both Federal Law and or any State Law without any ifs, buts or maybes. As shown above

through Constitutional Law and this presentation we have a court case that cannot be defeated.

7. Fact: The way to win this Constitutional battle is to submit a legal challenge through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and have them file the case with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the State of Texas. The DOJ has the legal responsibility to support and defend the U.S. Constitution.

8. Fact: Look up and down load the Texas Governor Oath of Office and you will see that the Governor of Texas in his Oath of Office swore to uphold the U.S Constitution and the Laws of the United States so help him God.

9. Fact: Persons that violate their Oath of Office can be removed from office as per Federal Statue 5 U.S. 7311. If found guilty the person can face 5 years of confinement. Please remember, that no Federal Law and or no State Law can never override U.S. Constitutional Law, because it is the "Supreme Law of the Land."

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Jessica Fausak

self

Austin, TX

My name is Jessica Fausak, I am representing myself. Neutral. Thank you for hearing me.

I'm a 5th generation Texan, a resident of US Congressional District 25, and an individual with multiple severe brain injuries.

Since the year of it's signing, not a single congressional district, drawn in the great state of Texas, has adhered to the spirit of Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Without representation, are we still really a government for the people, by the people?

The current congressional district maps mean our votes don't all count equally. As y'all already know, Travis County is cracked into 5 separate districts, and, while we voted only 26.5% for Republicans in our last general election, 4 out of 5 of our Congressional Representatives are in fact Republican.

I know I'm brain-damaged, as I mentioned earlier, but that math doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me.

Voting access is already harder in Texas than anywhere else in the United States of America, especially for those of us with disability (now more so due to the recent passage of SB1).

I was a healthy 27 years old when I survived a hemorrhagic stroke, caused by a brain aneurysm rupture, and given a death sentence. My neurosurgeon literally told my family to make funeral arrangements.

Good news: I didn't die! I did, however, have to relearn how to walk and form sentences, but overall I am extremely blessed to be here with you today.

While I am resilient, and have voted in every election possible since I left the ICU, in 2015, others in my community struggle more. They, however, are still Texans and deserve the opportunity to vote, to have their voices heard.

Our legislature ought to be making access to voting easier, not harder, see recently passed SB1.

Without open access to voting, our glorious Texas will be sentenced to elected officials who are not held accountable and will not work to represent us.

Our current 6 districts in Austin, Texas, are neither fair nor compact.

For the love of all that is Texas, please establish an independent redistricting commission, an IRC, to draw our next districts better.

Thank you for your time.

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Gayland Taylor, Owner

25X's H.O.P. E

Mansfield, TX

My name is Gayland Taylor, and I am writing out my testimony to ask that Representative Todd Hunter support HB 3112, the Redistricting Transparency Act, which would provide Texas with some fair and open redistricting standards going forward as our lawmakers prepare to draw new maps.

In light of all the mistakes the State made in 2011 round redistricting, the State received a very stern warning from the federal court that reviewed putting the State back under preclearance in 2019. The court warned the State that they must implement a [redistricting] process that, by any reasonable definition, is 'fair and open.' The court added "Texas would be well advised to conduct its redistricting process openly, with the understanding that consideration of bail-in is always and option for whatever federal court or courts may be tasked with review of future legislative actions."

Recently, the Senate Jurisprudence Committee passed out of Committee SB 11, which would have drastically redistricted our Courts of Appeals Districts. The Senate Jurisprudence Committee did not notify the public about the proposed plan, nor did they make any attempts to solicit public input before the map was released at the committee hearing. This flawed process is exactly what the federal court cited as a shortcoming of the 2011 round of redistricting. Fortunately, voting rights advocates and attorneys provided clear testimony that the proposed plans would violate the Voting Rights Act, and the bill author later decided to withdraw the legislation.

It is painfully clear that the State is repeating the mistakes that were made in 2011 round of redistricting that led to discriminatory maps being passed. If the Legislature thumbs its nose at the court by ignoring this clear warning, particularly where it has been presented with a bill designed specifically to implement a "fair and open process"-----HB 3112----- it is possible that preclearance is in Texas's future.

Since all Texans deserve to have a fair and open redistricting process, we respectfully ask that:

- Options:
- a) the House Redistricting Committee hold a public hearing for HB 3112, the Redistricting Transparency Act.
  - b) State Representative David Cook coauthor or cosponsor HB 3112, the Redistricting Transparency Act.
- Out of all the bills filed in the Redistricting Committee, this bill is the least controversial. It would keep redistricting in the hands of lawmakers while taking steps to create a "fair and open" process, like a federal court has called for:
- It requires a variety of factual info on redistricting plans be made public at least 72 hours before any committee vote so Texans can review what's being proposed.
- It makes sure that after a committee vote, and before any plans heads to either chamber, lawmakers will hold at least two public hearings so the public can weigh in and provide input.
- It makes redistricting info and the legislature's redistricting activities more accessible to the public online via website

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Al-Nasser Amlani

Self

Eules, TX

I am against redistricting. All Texans should have equal representation.

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Karla Garza

Austin Rep. Women/Self/Educator

Bee Cave, TX

My name is, Karla Garza, and I currently reside at Lakeway, TX. I am over 18 years of age and I am a registered voter. I live in the Lakeway area of the current HD 47, SD 24, and Congressional District 25. The testimony I give today is based upon personal knowledge, experience within my community and as citizen of the State of Texas.

I want a new district map to fairly represent, any Texas Republican community. Therefore, any new Congressional seats awarded to Texas, due to increase of population should represent equally our votes in the State of Texas.

I want the new map to reflect one person, vote as provided in the U.S. Constitution. All TX districts are created within "equal voting power" by people legally eligible to vote.

I strongly emphasize, importance of redistricting be accomplished by our elected officials--I truly believe you are rightfully accountable to the people of Texas. Any so-called "Independent Panel", shall be opposed, if not elected by people of the State of Texas. A redistricting appointed panel takes away my voice, and justified people like me in our beautiful State of Texas.

The citizens in the Lakeway, Steiner Ranch, Leander, and other surrounding areas work hard, enjoy a natural habitat community. An economic expansion along redistrict lines, must guarantee our vote and vital preservation of ecosystems. Our SD 24 Republican rep. stands firm, nonetheless, HD 47 has an unequal increased shift and unfair formation of a dominated Democrat--Austin, Travis Co. society. A further west district line from the Lakeway area towards Marble Falls, will continue to share sensible economic, educational, etc.--appreciable characteristics of my part of Travis County.

I hope that my testimony, based upon my personal knowledge of the community in which I live, is helpful to you in the redistricting process.

Thank you,

Karla Garza

ATX Republican Women

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Joe Swirczynski, property owner

self

Mineral Wells, TX

Little surprise to the population in Palo Pinto County being unchanged. Our economic situation has been in steady decline since the mid 90s and 2021 looks even bleaker with less growth opportunities than ever.

As the jobs disappear so do the people.

Maybe it IS time for a change.

---

Shelley Sallee, Ms.

Myself

Austin, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is Shelley Sallee. I live in the Highland Park West Balcones area of Austin and am here to represent myself.

Our community is blessed with natural beauty, but Austin ranks third in the country for wildfire risk in an urban area. According

to the Austin Fire Department's wildfire mitigation officer, about 65% of homes in Travis County and over 49% in Austin are at risk of wildfire.

My neighborhood recognizes wildfire is the biggest threat to our property and security. In 2020 the City created Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) code and is working with fire and public safety departments to mitigate risk. This is just one of the many ways the City of Austin recognizes the increased risk that accompanies a changing climate. My neighborhood is also forward thinking about clean energy with the majority of those on my street now driving electric vehicles and myself and neighbors on either side installing solar panels. Austin has incentives and infrastructure to support such changes. In stark contrast, my District 10 U.S. representative has ignored such risks ever since his momentary help with the Bastrop fires of 2012. He talks about clean energy as important, but his record is one of voting against funding for renewables. His voting record disproportionately responds to the Houston end of his district. I am asking this committee to liberate my district from the weight of Houston and its entrenched oil interests.

Austin also takes pride in the diverse leadership and interest in sustainability solutions. City in a Garden: Environmental Transformations and Racial Justice in 20th-century Austin exposes a past of exclusionary decision-making about urban space and natural resources that disproportionately hurt black and brown neighborhoods. This city is working on more inclusive contemporary solutions to transportation, the environment, jobs, and housing. Redistricting for Travis County needs to reflect and respect these diverse interests, and I am asking this committee to make the redistricting process transparent so citizens can see if new maps reflect the integrity of their communities or dilutes the electoral power of their voices.

Most importantly, I am testifying as a teacher and parent who now faces young people who witnessed the insurrection on our nation's capital on January 6, 2020, who study the fragility of democracy in Weimar Germany and actually make analogies to our own republic! Gerrymandering breeds extremism by making electoral competition in a single party. We need more balanced districts to restore moderation to our politics. Uncivil partisanship and gridlock breed apathy and extremism. These maps can really help! You can structure to reflect those who live in Texas in 2021 or to ensure incumbents pick their voters. Students know democracy should be citizens choosing their representatives. I am asking that the new maps give the next generation that opportunity.

---

Eric Zavesky

self

Austin, TX

My name is Eric Zavesky, my zip code is 78759, and I am representing myself. Thank you for this opportunity to have my voice heard.

I am deeply distressed about how divided we are as a country. Gerrymandering has only made that partisan divide worse. I ask that you support redistricting reform, specifically, that you allow for an independent commission to draw the district lines that uses objective criteria so that the commission can draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent all Texans.

Legislators and political parties should not be allowed to draw their own district lines. I believe that, in doing so, politics becomes more divided, special interests get more influence, and my vote matters less. An independent redistricting commission will give legitimacy to the process and ensure all voters are represented fairly.

I implore you to support redistricting reform and create an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

With gratitude,  
Eric Zavesky

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Shalondria Galimore

Precinct #3045, South Central Civic League- President

Dallas, TX

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting and House Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for taking my testimony. My name is Shalondria Galimore, and I am addressing you as a descendant of a 149 year old Historic Freedman's Town, Precinct Chair #3045 (HD100) and President of the South Central Civic League, a civic organization serving the Joppa-Joppee Community since 1948. Although we are a unique and resilient community, it has its challenges. With our rich history and culture, we have been able to navigate through those challenges; finding innovative ways to thrive. Those ways are building alliances throughout HD100, electing purpose filled officials and remaining vigilant about the disparities that plague our communities of color.

It is of major concern that we could be victims of map manipulation; picking our communities apart ultimately leaving us with an unfair advantage. This cannot happen. I support the Crockett Map. It is fair, inclusive and will ensure forward progression in HD100, just as State Representative Jasmine Crockett has shown.

It is in your power to also be fair, so I am asking that you do so. I am 4th of 6 generations in the Joppa-Joppee Community and my prayer is that my children and their children will be the benefactors of the highest standards of democracy, that your committees can provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shalondria Galimore  
Precinct #3045

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Katheryn Rogers  
self

Arlington, TX

Make it fair. Democracy depends on everyone's vote counting. We the people must be able to pick who represent us anything else is BS. As a 7th generation Texan, yes my people were here before it was Texas, I demand fair redistricting!

---

Zenia Warren

Self Retired

Killeen, TX

Zenia Warren  
413 Brenda Drive  
Killeen, Texas 76542

September 15, 2021

My name is Zenia Warren. I have resided at the above address in Bell County, SD 24, HD54, for over 37 years. I am a veteran; have worked and retired in Bell County. I am a registered voter and the testimony I give today is based upon my personal knowledge from my experience in my community and as a citizen of Texas. I have seen the growth in Bell County. I have seen lines redrawn over the years and it is imperative that HD 54 district lines remain the same. State Representative HD 54, Dr Brad Buckley has been a major contributing catalyst in maintaining HD 54. He has worked hard for all constituents and is always readily available for everyone that resides in HD 54.

He and his office have diligently served our community taking care of concerns from drivers' license issues, passport issues, child support issues, to clarifications on current pandemic orders. He is an outstanding liaison with the Texas Military Department and with the Texas Workforce Commission. He maintains the strong conservative values necessary to keep Bell County growing. He was readily available during the past ice storm helping all HD 54 constituents stay informed and he worked with electric companies to get service restored. He willingly did this until everyone had power and water. I know that my voice is heard and I am assured that my State Representative cares about me, my community, and Bell County. Please keep HD 54 district lines intact. Any map redrawn must fairly represent the voting patterns of Bell County and our great State of Texas. Thank you for accepting this testimony.

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Laura Minnigerode

Self, Research Manager

Austin, TX

I am a resident of US Congressional District 21, TX House District 49. I would like to make a comment about fair and accurate districts that represent my community. My community supports gun safety legislation. I was part of a group of several mothers who wanted to have our voices heard on this topic- the topic of gun safety in our community-Extreme Risk Protection gun laws, or Red Flag laws. We went to meet with our congressperson, who at the time was Lamar Smith. He was at his office in SAN ANTONIO at the time, so our appointment was with an administrator who promised she would tell him about our visit. If you are familiar with US district 21, you know that it encompasses a large chunk of the Hill Country (Fredericksburg, Medina, Boerne, Harper, and then a little tiny piece of Austin and San Antonio) Rep. Smith did nothing about our concerns, and to my knowledge, nothing that my local community agreed with. Many mass shootings later, including, tragically, some in our own state, and current representative, Chip Roy, said this "Red Flag laws are the camel's nose under the tent to confiscate our weapons." Representative Roy's extreme disregard of the opinions of his constituents (and by the way, the vast majority of people in the country who support Extreme Risk Protection gun laws) is just one of probably thousands of ways that my community has been harmed by lack of representation in Congress. I would like to see districts that represent accurate representation of my community. Eighty percent of voters in TX HD voted for our representative, Gina Hinojosa. Eighty percent. Yet, we have not had a voice for us in Congress in over a decade. Instead we are part of an extremely oddly shaped district. I would like to ask you to consider how important representative government is. Is it not the exact idea of democracy that generations have fought and died for? This process needs to be a fair one, or the very idea of democracy in Texas will be lost. Please make this process transparent and please be accountable to those you serve. Thank you for your time and your service.

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Long Cao

DEEDS not Words

Bryan, TX

My name is Long Cao and I am a student at Texas A&M University I am a #Changemaker with Deeds Not Words and I live in Texas's 17th congressional district. I am here in support of fair and transparent redistricting because I am a first-generation American given the opportunity to study in college. I distinctively remember helping my mother and father study for their citizenship test, and the frustration they carried when they would answer the questions wrong. They both passed their test with true grit and knowledge of the American government. However, as I am older I fail to see how our government has aided us when it comes to voting accessibility. The LatinX population in Texas has gained over 2 million people since the last census. This surplus of the LatinX population is clearly underrepresented in the state of Texas. They are fighting for their voices to be heard in their cities, districts, and state. It is clear that the LatinX community has had a significant impact on the United States population, yet districts are suppressing their voting rights. Democracy is supposed to be for the people, and committees can take action to draw the lines fairly for the marginalized community.

I would like to conclude by thanking you for your time and giving me the opportunity to stand before you today to share why fair and transparent redistricting is important to me.

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Sophia Vassilakidis, Ms.

self

Houston, TX

I'm currently reside in district 7, but was born and raised in the Montrose area. Several times while living in Montrose, my U.S. House reps changed, not because I or the greater area had voted for change, but because the districts lines were redrawn around me.

I realize that with demographic and landscape/architectural change redistricting will happen, but I was a political football, picked by my representative's team, and not vice versa. Voters are supposed to pick their representation, we should not be the booty of political parties acting like Greek or Trojan war gods manipulating the weak on the political battlefield for their own selfish aims.

Everything is hyper-partisan nowadays, and a good remedy would be to draw districts as non-partisan and as transparently as possible. The candidates might have to try being moderate or actually listening to someone other than the loudest base in the choir. Our current district maps (I'm looking at you #18 and #29) look somewhat like Rorschach tests. Sometimes it is necessary to draw complicated districts in order to make fair and legal maps, but the Committee should remain transparent in all processes, especially when it comes to explaining any deviations from traditional redistricting principles that might occur, such as county and precinct splits and population deviations. You should be able to (honestly) square why #s 18 and #29 are not squares.

My current zip code is at the district split. I currently have the rep that I (and my district) voted for. If I wind up in someone else's zone and have to reprogram a new set of politicians into my speed dial, I want to be able to see the math. You can probably tell I am an empowered, or at least entitled voter, but a lot of voters in less economically well off and more ethnically marginalized zip codes don't have the luxury of time or web access to ask that redistricting serve the voters and not the politicians. Working people should have as much of a say, without manipulation, as the "elites", or else there will continue to be resentment and more divisiveness, and more gridlock.

Everyone expects Teams Red and Blue to try and rig the game for themselves in the upcoming redistricting, but I hope that there are still people with integrity that will do the right thing and draw the maps transparently and based on the demographics, not the demagogues.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Mariah Contreras

Self

San Marcos, TX

I am part of TX house District 21. I live in San Marcos. I'm writing today so that my community is heard and included FAIRLY in the process of redrawing our representative maps for the state legislature. While on paper we are similar to Kerrville, San Marcos is vastly different than the areas HD21 covers. We are a proud, diverse community that loves the environment, welcomes immigrants, embraces our past in order to have a better future, and ALWAYS puts the greater good above personal views. Our current representation is not accurate.

I am asking that you guys do what is right and draw maps that are fair and accurate. Let us elect somebody who can focus on our community, who knows our community and aligns with our community.

---

Monica Harmon

Self - retired

San Marcos, TX

The current districts have not represented me and make no sense. There is no reason for my daughter that lives 8 minutes away from me to be in a different district. Stop gerrymandering!! We will no longer support the dishonest administration in their disrespect for the people they are supposed to represent.

---

A. Carol Teitelman, Ms.

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I am A. Carol Teitelman and I live in TX House District 46 at 504 Bellaire Oaks Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660.

I am an active member of my community working on various projects within my city. Many senior citizens, like myself, have ample time to devote to helping in the schools, the library and other civic organizations. Many of my friends and neighbors actively contribute to the charities in our area with time or donations or both. We work together. We all believe that this provides a strong community fabric that helps those among us who are growing, have fallen on hard times, or just need some support. Unfortunately, when it is an issue that requires representation at any level beyond City Council or School Board, we are not of one voice. Our city has been cracked to make it possible for one Congressional representative to live to the west of us while supposedly representing a district that stretches all the way to Houston while my neighbors are in a district in which they live in a narrow band just north of us that is jokingly called the "rat's tail" for it's shape. Our house districts also break our city into two parts. The city of Pflugerville is a fast growing community with ties to Austin and Williamson County cities such as Round Rock and Georgetown. Our voices are muted when included with the wide swatch of rural communities between us and the outskirts of Houston. I know that many rural communities have great needs but they are far different than the ones my community faces each day.

Having been part of the redistricting in another state in another time, I am fully aware that the census numbers sometimes require some wiggly lines but not to the extent that communities of interest are broken apart. It behooves the members of this committee and the Texas House as a whole to make sure that communities of interest are held together for representation. It is not fair for any voice to be muted by lines that detract from their strength.

I write this fully aware that there are many representatives who will be tone deaf to my comments. I am truly sorry that this will happen as it furthers the distrust in government and am concerned that the distrust will further diminish the strength of our democracy. Please give full consideration to keeping communities intact for stronger representation. Thank you.

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Robert Dunbar

self (financial advisor)

Dallas, TX

Good day. I am a resident of Dallas, US Congressional District 5, Texas House District 114, Texas Senate District 16. I am writing in support of even-handed and open redistricting.

Distorted district maps, gerrymandered to optimize one party's political power, in excess of its actual support in the population, sadly has a long tradition in our country, with practitioners across the political spectrum. While they may provide short-term benefit to the party in power, such maps have a corrosive effect on policy and our democracy. When a voter sees a map full of squiggling, contorted boundaries, or districts stretched into spaghetti hundreds of miles long, it is obvious that the maps were drawn not to reflect the communities of the state, but to divide and gather votes for one side. And when the election comes, it is obvious which candidates are in a safe district, not trying to appeal to all of their constituents, but rather staking out the most extreme position to energize their most devoted party members, who would never even consider voting for the other side. The outcomes are cynicism about the representation that is the foundation of our government, and polarization.

I appreciate that there are multiple considerations in drawing district maps, and that multiple versions could be considered "fair". However, there are reasonable guiding principles that anyone can understand and accept. These include: equal population within districts; using existing political boundaries (county, city) or natural boundaries (rivers); and making districts compact, such that residents in a district are as close together as possible, considering the overall population density. The Committee should openly adopt such reasonable guiding principles. When the Committee must deviate from them, the need to do so should be clearly and openly explained. Data regarding voting patterns or party affiliation have no place in the redistricting process, as they do not

define communities and invite map manipulation for political power.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Sean Banks

self

Austin, TX

My name is Sean Banks, my zip code is 78723, and I am representing myself. Thank you for this opportunity to have my voice heard.

I ask that you support redistricting reform, specifically, that you allow for an independent commission to draw the district lines that uses objective criteria so that the commission can draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent all Texans.

Legislators and political parties should not be allowed to draw their own district lines. I believe that, in doing so, politics becomes more divided, special interests get more influence, and my vote matters less. An independent redistricting commission will give legitimacy to the process and ensure all voters are represented fairly.

For the love of Texas, I implore you to support redistricting reform and create an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

Best,  
Sean Banks

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Frana Patterson

Texas Retired Teachers Association

Santo, TX

Honorable Representative Hunter,

Please do not remove Palo Pinto County from our current district (60) with other rural counties. We do not belong with an urban county such as Parker County. Rural needs cannot be understood by people that have never lived in a rural area. They have no concept of the importance of water rights or agriculture exemptions. Some one that lives on a "lot" in a city can not possibly comprehend the implications of taxes on property made up of "acres." People in cities frequently do not even realize that the groceries they purchase in a grocery store come from a rural area. I have heard the comment, "why don't you just get it at the store where it comes from?" People in a city cannot comprehend the importance of a county hospital. They are used to having choices of hospitals and do not understand that the county hospital is the only one. City dwellers cannot comprehend the importance of a volunteer fire department or ambulance service. Their lives are fundamentally different from life in a rural area. Rural schools serve as more than educational facilities. The school in a rural area is the communication and social hub of the area. The 28,000 residents of Palo Pinto County will have no representation if we are redistricted. Keep us in a district with other rural counties. For the first time in over 40 years, we have a representative from our county. Please do not strip us of Representative Honorable Dr. Glenn Rogers.

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Amy Zavesky

self

Austin, TX

My name is Amy Zavesky and I currently live in Austin, TX (78759), but grew up in a small Texas town, El Campo (77437). Thank you for this opportunity to have my voice heard.

I am deeply distressed about how divided we are as a country. Gerrymandering has only made that partisan divide worse. I ask

that you support redistricting reform, specifically, that you allow for an independent commission, one not affiliated with either political party, to draw the district lines that uses objective criteria so that the commission can draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent all Texans.

I live in a northwest Austin suburb, but share my representative to the US Congress with towns and communities hours away from here. I drive through these towns and small cities on my way to visit my parents in El Campo. I can say from experience, that the needs of my part of Austin are very dissimilar from the needs of communities in rural areas of the state. I do not believe that the same congress person can represent both our interests fairly. This is one of many reasons I believe that the districts should be redrawn by independent demographers, not political actors.

Legislators and political parties should not be allowed to draw their own district lines. I believe that, in doing so, politics becomes more divided, special interests get more influence, and my vote matters less. An independent redistricting commission will give legitimacy to the process and ensure all voters are represented fairly.

For the future of Texas, I am asking you to support redistricting reform and create an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

With gratitude,

Amy Zavesky

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Philip Johnson

myself a citizen of Texas

Corpus Christi, TX

Political realignment of the district lines to benefit one party or another are wrong and disenfranchise people of Texas and their right to be heard in legislative process. Redistricting needs to be fair and based upon the dynamics of the population and not the artificial redrawing of lines to benefit one party or another. There are many districts in Texas that benefit the current party in power that should be redrawn to represent the citizens and facilitate equal representation and make centralized voting and registration more available to all the citizens in the district. With cries of voter fraud and other election issues being used as a justification to ramp up laws for a non-existent problem, redrawing districts to benefit the current party is the real voter fraud. Gerrymandering only allows for the majority voice to be heard as minority or opposition voices are negated and without a representative voice in the process nor are their concerns addressed. Make voting count for all the citizens of Texas. Fix the gerrymandering of our districts now

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Srinidhi Palanivel

Deeds Not Words

Richardson, TX

My name is Srinidhi Palanivel, and I am a student at the University of Texas at Dallas. I am a #Changemaker with Deeds Not Words, and I live in the 043 district.

I am here in support of fair and transparent redistricting to try to keep districts equal in population. Current Texas redistricting can be catastrophic for fair representation in Dallas. As a person of color, unfair and untransparent redistricting would cause many communities of color to be disproportionately impacted. This issue is why fair and transparent redistricting is crucial to me. Texas has recently decided to redistrict by "citizen voting-age populations." This decision would marginalize many communities of color and disadvantage large urban areas, which are typically younger and more sparsely spread. Without transparent redistricting, district lines are drawn by politicians to achieve specific outcomes in party representation. However, if we change this system, this will heavily reduce the amount of unfair gerrymandering that takes place, as residents will be aware of the

actions of their legislators.

Gerrymandering is a big issue in America. And, as much as I would like to say we should simply fix it, it's actually really difficult and challenging. However, by taking small measures such as this, we can increase the transparency that goes on behind the scenes.

I want to conclude my testimony today by urging you to draw our districts that are reflective of the diverse and unique populations that actually live there. Holding more opportunities to testify and allowing us to provide feedback about new map data would significantly increase the fairness and transparency of redistricting as well.

Thank you so much for the opportunity and for allowing me the opportunity to stand before you and share why fair and transparent redistricting is important to me.

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Azra Siddiqi

WiseUp TX (South Asians)

AUSTIN, TX

Hello, my name is Azra Siddiqi, and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of WiseUp TX on why the 2021 redistricting process needs to be fair and transparent. WiseUp TX is a nonprofit organization with the mission to educate and motivate the Texas South Asian community to be civically engaged. I am writing this testimony to have our legislators better understand the issues impacting the Texas South Asian community and how redistricting in a fair manner is of utmost importance for our community.

For many Texas South Asians, we know first-hand the impact of lines drawn on a map. In 1947, the Indian subcontinent was divided into three countries with arbitrary lines drawn through neighborhoods, communities, and families. The result was one of the largest mass migrations in recent history as well as the death of over a million people. While Texas redistricting will not yield such dire results, it is important for our legislators to understand the impact of the arbitrary drawing of lines.

The way districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education. If politicians are elected from districts that don't reflect the population, you end up with situations where politicians support policies that the vast majority of people oppose, or they won't support policies that the vast majority of people support. When politicians manipulate maps for personal or political gain, it prevents residents like us from having our voices heard on all the policies that affect us. Purposefully breaking up communities takes away the community's ability to come together and advocate for important issues. Our community is all over Texas, but we have significant populations in Collin, Denton, Dallas, Harris, Fort Bend, Travis, and Williamson counties. And many Texas South Asians live within the same cities or neighborhoods but are broken up into various congressional or state districts. This means that no congressperson or state representative/senator is fully committed to listening to our concerns. According to recent survey data from 2020, we found the major policy issues important to Texas South Asians are: public education, gun control, healthcare, voting rights, and raising the minimum wage. When maps are unfairly rigged, we end up seeing a legislature that represents special interests and politicians, instead of representing the people and the issues they care about.

In the past, state politicians have made the redistricting process worse by doing everything behind closed doors, discriminating against minority communities, and not giving the public any chance to comment on what is happening.

In order for our democracy to function, the public needs to have a voice in the process. Therefore, we are asking that this Committee commit to holding a public hearing with public testimony on any maps before they are passed. Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony today.

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Wendy Fenn, Rev.

Self

Dallas, TX

Redistributing must be nonpartisan and neutral so that the voices of Texans are heard. We are counting on you to create fair districts which allow all to be heard.

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Nancy Kasten, Rabbi

Self, Rabbi

Dallas, TX

My name is Rabbi Nancy Kasten and I am Chief Relationship Officer for Faith Commons, a multi-faith organization based in Dallas. I hope those serving on this important committee agree that allegiance to both faith and country require a fair, non-partisan process when drawing maps for Texas. Districts should be drawn so that officials are elected of the people, by the people, and for the people in their district, without manipulation. This should not be a partisan issue, but it becomes one when either party conducts business in duplicitous ways for political advantage. Determining maps without giving citizens the opportunity to review them, ask questions about them, and give testimony as to how they will be affected by these maps undermines trust in the legislature. In the past, your committee has contributed to distrust and opened the door to expensive lawsuits by conducting business behind closed doors, limiting opportunities for public comment, and making changes after maps had been approved. I urge you to be transparent in all of your deliberations, particularly if your recommendations deviate from traditional redistricting principles. Our government must represent all citizens, and districts should be drawn to facilitate that fundamental tenet of a functioning Democracy rather than undermining it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Pamela Grayson, Dr.

Collective Activism

Dallas, TX

I am against this redistricting as this is actually gerrymandering to further oppress vulnerable communities from exercising their right to vote.

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Alysa Sides

Deeds Not Words

Katy, TX

House Committee on Redistricting

Attn: The Honorable Todd Hunter, Chair

Re: Written testimony; House Redistricting Hearing, 87(3S)

Dear Representative Todd Hunter and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alysa Sides, and I am a digital intern at Deeds Not Words and a graduate student at the University of Houston. I also live in Katy, Texas, within Texas House District 28, represented by Rep. Gary Gates. I am submitting this testimony in support of a fair and transparent redistricting process.

As a suburb of Houston, the Katy area is home to some 375,000 people and is projected to grow to 440,000 people by 2024. How, then, can it be justified to split the area into three separate districts, all of which include multiple cities and towns in addition to Katy. Rep. Gates can not accurately and efficiently reflect the values and beliefs of this community if the district is fractionated into pieces. I am a believer in and advocate for representative democracy, but I certainly do not believe that Texas constitutes one. How can we pretend that our votes represent our voices when the district lines are distinctly drawn to keep the majority party in power?

While I worked for my undergraduate degree at Texas State University, I lived in San Marcos for four years. During this time, I had two separate Congressional representatives. This wasn't due to them being voted out of office, but, simply, because I moved to the opposite side of I-35. The egregious drawing of District 35 narrowly includes parts of San Antonio, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Martindale, Lockhart, Kyle, Buda, and Austin. This district includes upwards of 5 different municipalities and was ruled unconstitutional in federal court in 2017. It is obvious it was drawn to corral the Democratic votes of multiple cities into one singular district as opposed to a fairly drawn district representative of all of those who live there. My political beliefs did not change when I moved a mere ten streets away, but my representative did.

To adequately, accurately, and consistently represent and reflect the values of the constituents within a district should be the only agenda during redistricting. Lumping multiple communities that span across a great distance into one district is harmful, oppressive, and neglectful of the needs of each. A person is silenced civically when they are not fully represented. Legislation that is created and passed by the elected officials of Texas is not reflective of the people of Texas and will not be until districts are fairly drawn and free from partisan influence.

I thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing my testimony. I implore you to recognize the impact redistricting has on communities all across Texas — including your own. The representation of a whole should not be determined by a few. The people of Texas deserve a democratic way of governing. The people of Texas deserve a fair and transparent redistricting process.

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Yang Ding

Deeds Not Words

Houston, TX

Hi, my name is Yang Ding and I'm currently a student at Rice University and a change maker with Deeds Not Words.

I have lived in Houston for the majority of my life and this community is very important to me. I have been fortunate enough to grow up in a supporting family so I have not personally faced many of the city's inequalities, but through my experiences I have still witnessed them, from flooding due to Harvey to the most recent COVID-19 pandemic. Redistricting will affect the lives of countless individuals and families and should not be done for the sake of political gain.

We cannot be a great democracy if we take from the people that need our help the most and lessen their voices. My generation is watching, and I know that decisions like this, that affect my generation's future, will decide our votes for the coming years. Do you want to be on the wrong side of history?

I urge you to consider the lived experiences of the citizens who are not fortunate enough to donate their money to your campaigns as they struggle to live paycheck to paycheck and can barely feed their children. I urge you to not reduce their lives to numbers and support the members of our community. We must create a better future for all of us.

---

Allison Johnson, Ms

Deeds Not Words

Houston, TX

Hi, my name is Allison Johnson and I'm currently a student at Rice University

I did not grow up in Texas, but in the time I've spent in this state I've been fortunate to be able to enjoy the many parks, museums and other attractions that Houston has to offer, the national parks across the state, and have benefitted from the people working and living in this state, especially before covid. Texas has a lot to give for students like me, and yet as students we're often immune to the inequalities that is the reality of living here. So I think it is imperative that we as students show up when there is a possibility for a path towards rectifying some of these inequalities because we ourselves have benefited from being here, and that is why I am here to testify for redistricting for this state. It is important to recognize that gerrymandering essentially disenfranchises people across the United States, and definitely here in Houston. Personally, I was shocked to see during the

mayoral and city council races in 2019, then this most recent election in 2020, that despite the area I am living in being very obviously Democrat, overall Harris County went to the Republican candidates. It is difficult to ask me, and other residents of my county to vote when we are aware of the efforts that have been taken to ensure that our voices do not matter. And yet I have not seen the disparities within Harris County because of the privilege I have being a part of a university community -- I do not know what it's like to try to receive resources during covid, as I have relied on my university instead. In my short time living in Texas, I have seen the disparities in voter enfranchisement in my own area, pointing to greater inequities that are caused by gerrymandering. How can we expect people to participate in their democracy when we take away the tools that allow them to have fair representation for their communities?

I urge you to recognize the gravity of this redistricting, because you could encourage people to participate in elections, return funding to underfunded areas, and reinstate a sense of fairness and transparency. Please honor the voices of our community.

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Ashley Prevost, Ms.

Self - Director

Ausitn, TX

My name is Ashley Prevost, and I live here in Austin in the U.S. Congressional District 10, Texas House District 46, Texas Senate District 14, and SBOE District 10, and I am sharing public comment today because I want a fair, accurate, and transparent redistricting process that results in maps that allow for my community to be represented in a way that aligns with our values.

Manipulating maps artificially distorts political power and undermines the very foundation of our democracy, a representative government. Our state and federal government should represent a fair cross section of society and partisan gerrymandering makes that impossible. For example, there is no reason why I should have to endure being represented in the United States Congress by Michael McCaul when I live in one of the most progressive regions of Texas. His extreme, partisan politics ensure that the things that are important to me as someone who is committed to civil rights and racial equity will never be prioritized in his agenda.

Deviating from traditional redistricting principles indicates that unfair manipulation is underway. If this committee wants to avoid the stigma of being undemocratic and continuing to unfairly abuse their power against the will of the people, it is imperative to remain transparent in all redistricting processes. All of the legislators who wish to have a particular map adopted should be able to defend their choices and actions. Legislators should not be looking at partisan data or any sources which show which political party people vote for while drawing maps. The Committee should remain transparent in all processes, especially when it comes to explaining any deviations from traditional redistricting principles that might occur, such as county and precinct splits and population deviations.

The eyes of Texas are upon you. Make us proud.

Thank you for your time,  
Ashley Prevost

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Reagan Stinson

self; physical therapy tech/chiropractic assistant

Bartonville, TX

My name is Reagan Stinson, I am representing myself.

I am a resident of Tx house district 63, Tx senate district 12, which is a vastly growing area of Denton County: Argyle/Bartonville to be exact.

With increased growth in the area, I understand we may get a new congressional seat.



Along with that growth and diversity into the area, our leadership does not exactly reflect the views, ideals, etc. of the residents, or travelers on TX 377/Denton hwy.

This can be a very serious problem as the roads are not expanding in enough time to reflect the substantial increase of houses/businesses popping up on this particular stretch of a two-lane road. that runs parallel to railroad tracks.

It has caused traffic congestion and even some major accidents due to the lack of road expansion in conjunction to the increase of housing/commercial retail space being sold off to developers.

No one has been harmed more by map manipulation and voter suppression than Black and Latino communities whose voices have been minimized in the ballot box and in Congress.

I want redistricting in Texas to be fair and the process transparent. I want legislators to follow the Voting Rights Act and not discriminate against people of color.

I care about addressing issues with gun violence and fully believe we should expand Medicaid. Neither of these issues have been addressed. Instead, we've had special sessions about bathrooms, abortion bans and constitutional carry. I just don't get it.

People in my district and across the state want solutions, not more division. You all work FOR US, and we urge you to please listen to your constituents. I worry about how divided we are as a country.

Gerrymandering and map manipulation only make the problem worse.

I ask that you do not manipulate maps in support of one party or one politician. I ask that you also have a secondary sub-committee to review the maps before they are finalized and share those maps with constituents in your newly drawn proposed districts to guarantee EVERY TEXAN has a say in who represents US.

I also ask that you work to end map manipulation and gerrymandering.

Finally, you seem like smart people – after the Census results are released, I expect you to find a way to come back to us with maps. Where there's a will there's a way. If you can not find the way, it tells me a lot about your will.

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Luther Elmore

AFSCME Texas Retirees, Chapter 12

Austin, TX

My name is Luther Elmore, and I am President of AFSCME Texas Retirees, Chapter 12. AFSCME Texas Retirees is an organization of almost 9,000 members who worked for the State of Texas and now receive a monthly annuity for their years of service. During our working years, we enforced the state's laws, patrolled the highways, collected the taxes, maintained state parks, and cared for the elderly and disabled, among many other jobs. We did that on a professional and non-partisan basis. I am pleading with this committee and its members to go about the redistricting process with that same non-partisan stance with which we did our jobs, drawing fair and just district lines.

Texans deserve no less.

We all need to know that our votes count. Anything that brings that into question lessens our support for the political process and does the same for the nation as a whole. Many times in the past, district lines have been drawn – not with the interests of the citizens and voters of Texas in mind – but rather with partisan, personal interests of paramount importance. Many times those lines have been drawn to protect incumbents and those drawing the lines. As many others have said before, “Voters no longer choose their representatives, but the representatives choose their voters.”

This process of gerrymandering must end.

Partisan, gerrymandered lines are unpopular across the political spectrum. According to a recent national survey by a majority of 2 to 1 Americans are opposed to unfair, unrepresentative districts. Citizens want their voices to be heard. In a broader sense, partisan gerrymandered districts undermine our country itself. A survey by the Pew Research Center over several years revealed that in 1958 78% of Americans trusted the government to “do the right thing.” Today it is 17%. Part of that erosion in trust – not all- is due to policies like gerrymandered districts which are drawn for blatant partisan interests. During this session of the Texas Legislature, Texans are watching. I beseech you to do what’s right for the citizens and voters of Texas and draw logical, fair, representative districts.

Thank you,  
Luther Elmore  
President of AFSCME Texas Retirees, Chapter 12

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Leslie Bush, Dr.  
Self - archaeologist  
Austin, TX

Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Leslie Bush, and I represent myself. I live in the Shady Hollow area of southern Travis County. We’re a neighborhood of about 5,000 people, a typical suburban community where concerns about schools and safety are paramount. Our neighborhood includes a long, two-lane road that is currently the dividing line between US House Districts 21 and 25. This means I’m represented by a different person than my neighbors across the way whose children go to the same schools mine did. My part of District 21 here in Travis County is a sort of elongated, Y-shaped appendage to a district that otherwise extends from Blanco and Comal counties west to Real County.

I know the people of Real County are every bit as concerned about important issues as we are in Shady Hollow. But our different situations require different solutions. Real County has a much lower population density, with about 1500 fewer people in the entire county than in my neighborhood alone. Communicable diseases are a much bigger risk here, so we’re more concerned about school mask policies and outdoor lunch areas while people in other parts of District 21 may be more concerned about getting transportation to schools over larger distances. When it comes to securing clean water and avoiding the failures we experienced last February, Shady Hollow needs to work with a large municipal water utility. Our strategies for confronting the increased risks of wildfire need to include fuel load planning for suburban landscaping. I doubt these are issues that much arise in other parts of District 21. Because of how the districts are drawn, I can’t easily work with my neighbors across the road, who do share these concerns, to ensure locally appropriate solutions from lawmakers.

The situation for my state Senate district is similar, where my portion of District 25 is a small extension into Travis County of a district that consists primarily of Comal, Hays, and Kendall Counties.

I urge you to draw districts that are compact, keep neighborhoods and communities of interest together, and ensure fair representation for all Texans.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Bush

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Cynthia Hintikka  
self  
Austin, TX

My name is Cynthia Hintikka. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to provide comments concerning the new legislative maps that you will be drawing soon and the process that you are using. I am native Texas and I am representing myself. I live at 9700 Rainlilly Lane (78759) in The Dominion at Great Hills (DAGH), which runs along Yaupon Dr. from Hurley Cove at the south to Skyflower Dr. at the north. It is a very unique neighborhood that should not be split up. Furthermore, it should definitely be in the same congressional district as the rest of Austin. We are in the city of Austin and Travis County, but we are also within the Round Rock ISD - which is unusual. We are definitely part of the Austin community – not Round Rock. We are not contiguous with Round Rock and have nothing in common with them. Most if not all of the people in this neighborhood work in Austin.

The DAGH is a very diverse neighborhood in which the minority population has grown significantly over the last 10 years. For example, our cul-de-sac of 6 homes went from 33% minority owner-occupants to 50% during this time period, and I believe other streets have seen a similar change. At least 30 different languages are spoken in the homes of students attending our elementary school, Laurel Mountain. Geographically The DAGH is unique as well. We live close to the Bull Creek Greenbelt and very near the Balcones Canyonland Preserve. Many people's yards back up to the preserve or another greenbelt. I believe most people in this neighborhood are concerned about the environment and protecting these gorgeous and vulnerable natural resources. Though our position is lovely, it also exposes us to a very high risk of wildfire. So, we have a common interest in electing representatives who will protect the greenbelts and advocate for wildfire abatement and preparedness. Finally, DAGH should be in the same district as the rest of Great Hills as we have much in common.

Since minorities have fueled most of the population growth in Texas over the last decade and since most of the growth has been in metropolitan areas, it's imperative that the 2 new congressional districts be drawn in areas that most exemplify this change to give the minorities a better chance of electing representatives of their choice. Both Dallas and Harris Counties have seen tremendous increases in their diversity, are heavily populated, have grown significantly, and are now among the very most diverse in the state. So the new districts should go there.

We need a more transparent redistricting process and more time to review and provide comments on maps. Now we are in a position of having to comment without having maps on which to base our comments! Please provide more transparency and time for review. And good luck! I know you face a difficult task.

Best Wishes,  
Cindy Hintikka

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Don Crawford  
myself  
Mineral Wells, TX

I have been a resident of Palo Pinto County all of my life. I am a CPA and also a cattle rancher. I am 73 years old. I strongly encourage the Redistricting Committee to not place Palo Pinto County in a district with Parker County. Parker County is urban and Palo Pinto County is rural. The needs and problems of our county are vastly different from Parker County. We finally have a representative from our county that has values that represent a broad base of our rural house district. Our Representative, Glenn Rogers, won a very hard fought race in 2020 and won the election even though he was outspent more than 2 to 1. We need reasonable people to represent their districts as well as all Texans. Thank you for your service.

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mike crockett  
self  
austin, TX

My name is Mike Crockett, my zip code is 78731, and I am representing myself. Thank you for this opportunity to have my voice

heard.

I am deeply distressed about how divided we are as a country. Gerrymandering has only made that partisan divide worse. I ask that you support redistricting reform, specifically, that you allow for an independent commission to draw the district lines that uses objective criteria so that the commission can draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent all Texans.

Legislators and political parties should not be allowed to draw their own district lines. I believe that, in doing so, politics becomes more divided, special interests get more influence, and my vote matters less. An independent redistricting commission will give legitimacy to the process and ensure all voters are represented fairly.

For the love of Texas, I implore you to support redistricting reform and create an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

With gratitude,  
Mike Crockett

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Jessica WebsterLove  
self, analyst  
Austin, TX

I live in Austin, where as a city we've been making a lot of changes in the past several years around how we make our home a more equitable place to live. Much of this work focuses around repairing the historically racist effects of our policy decisions, and finding new ways to meet the needs of all our residents.

Texas as a whole has an extensive history of disenfranchising voters of color, including through gerrymandering – dividing their communities into multiple districts or artificially grouping them into very few districts so they receive less representation. Austin is no exception to this history, for example with the 1928 city plan that codified racial housing segregation here almost a century ago and had effects that are still felt today. But the Austin community is working to better empower our residents of color, and our district maps should be drawn in a way that reflects these values.

In past redistricting cycles, communities of color have been repeatedly targeted by map manipulation and voter suppression, tactics that are contrary to democracy and to the work Austin has been doing. Furthermore, our representatives at the federal level – elected as a consequence of these past maps – are not aligned with our needs. Our representatives should be in touch with our local priorities.

I ask that the committee draw maps that give fair representation to ALL Texans – not just those of us who have historically been better represented. I request you not draw districts solely to benefit any particular political party or individual politician. I want legislators to adhere to the Voting Rights Act and not draw districts that discriminate against people of color. I ask the committee to follow a process that is transparent to the public, and to provide Texans safe and accessible ways to give feedback on proposed maps, with adequate notice ahead of time.

Thank you.

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Gwendolyn Scott  
Self - Retired Teacher  
Lovelady, TX

Committee Chair and Members,  
My name is Gwendolyn Scott, and I am a resident of Houston County. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before this committee because this opportunity means that I, a Texas citizen and registered voter, can still express my views on the subject of

redistricting. I strongly suggest that the committee take this opportunity to draw lines that will address the concerns held by many Texans after passage of the so-called Election Integrity Bill. In 2013 the Supreme Court released Texas and other states with a history of voter suppression from federal review. In his majority opinion, Chief Justice Roberts said, “things have changed drastically....” Obviously, he was wrong, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Justice Ginsburg was certainly prescient when she said, “The Court ignores that ‘what’s past is prologue.’” Texas and several other states have enacted drastic measures that make voting more difficult. This committee can ameliorate the effect of the Texas law by drawing lines that follow the rules of redistricting. For example, the committee should make sure communities of like interest be kept together and not “cracked”. Districts should be of equal population, contiguous, and reflect partisan and racial fairness. The congressman representing my district, Trent Ashby, has written about rural versus urban “values.” I reject that kind of characterization because people in both areas want an equal opportunity to have their voices heard; the only “value” this committee should concern itself with is equality of relevance in voting. Deliberate dilution of voting blocs would increase already high levels of distrust and cynicism about the democratic process, both of which are detrimental to a government of, by, and for the people. This committee can restore some of the trust in democracy and reduce cynicism by drawing fair, equitable districts that give voters the reassurance they need to participate in government and strengthen our democracy

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Deborah Warren

Self

Texas City, TX

Why as African Americans when it comes to our privileges and rights we always have to be the one to suffer,I see no other ethnic group of people that have struggled as we have to just work educate ourselves and live a decent life .Martin dreamed I’m praying that one day all this racism will end!!!!!!

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Cyral Miller

self - special education consultant

Austin, TX

Ensuring fair and equitable voting communities of interest is in the best interests of the state. Please use a transparent process to make sure that Texas' legislative representatives truly reflect Texans! This is a growing and dynamic state, and we need to hear everyone's perspectives in determining future policy. In the past, communities of color have been underrepresented and their voices diluted by the redrawing of maps. This year's census report shows Texas has grown in population, primarily with an increase in the size of communities of color. We need to make sure that these communities are represented fairly in the redrawing of our maps. There are important issues such as those related to water, public health, land use and more that impact people in different regions differently. In my case, although I live in the heart of Austin, my representative's area covers from here to Houston and a variety of odd, totally different communities. These partisan district lines defeat the intent the laws that govern the redistricting process. We need fair, legal, and equitable voting lines. Please draw maps that keep communities with similar needs together - that is the whole intent of so all of our voices can be heard! Thank you.

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Michael Novotny, Dr.

Salado Independent School District

Salado, TX

I would like to express my great appreciation for State Representative Dr. Brad Buckley.

Dr. Buckley is a true servant leader. He is very accessible and responsive to his constituents. Dr. Buckley has attended our Salado ISD school board meetings and Bell County school superintendent meetings. He provides his cell phone number so we can call him or text him anytime. He also participates in many community events.

Dr. Buckley is a very effective state representative, particularly regarding public education. We are very fortunate that he is the state representative for District 54. I hope Dr. Buckley remains our state representative after the redistributing is completed!

Michael Novotny  
Superintendent  
Salado Independent School District

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Rhonda Brown  
Self

HARKER HEIGHTS, TX

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is Rhonda Brown. I represent myself and my community.. I live in Harker Heights, TX in Bell County. My community is majority non-White or Anglo. We are a very proud community with many of us who have served our country in the armed services or our communities in the field of education. The dynamics of the community have changed dramatically within the last 10 to 20 years due to natural causes like hurricanes in neighboring states and being a magnet for family members in distressed areas of our country like Chicago and Detroit. This is in addition to a large immigrant population that has arrived for varying reasons many in connection with our neighboring army base, Fort Hood.

My biggest worry with redistricting is the impact of gerrymandering if it is not stopped. I have for several years participated in supporting non-White candidates to no avail. Until the last election, I did not understand the impact of packing and cracking. The candidate I supported received more votes than her opponent in the district that was representative of her culture, status, and her values. The current electoral maps allowed a neighboring culturally other community to seat the incumbent in the position. It is very discouraging even to the point of not participating in the electoral process. In addition to the last electoral race, I am faced with a judicial system that actually unseated the first Black, Female, Democrat to ever sit as an elected judge in our Bell County's 169-year history.

I have one request. Please change the course of what is happening in our country. The division is primed to destroy us all. Why do I say this? On the day before the rebellious uprising that occurred on January 6th, I contacted John Carter's office to ascertain if he was aware of what was being reported as what could be the start of the next Civil War. I spoke with his representative and by the end of the conversation, it was made clear that the constituents were not happy with the presidential election results and it was too late to avoid the inevitable. Hopefully, you can imagine my stomach sinking at the possibility of another civil war. My request is that you as chairman and members of this committee do the right thing. Do not allow unfair maps to be drawn that would negate the sanctity of our political process. Every voter deserves to be counted equally and every community deserves to be represented by people of their choosing that represent their experience and history in their community, in our community.

Thank you for your time and for being servants willing to do the work of governance.

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Martha Spinks, Dr.  
self

San Antonio, TX

1. I'm here today to urge you to follow through on that commitment with a sincere effort to engage all the stakeholders who want to participate and to bring you a wish list from the numerous citizens who, like our legislators, have given a great deal of time and study to a redistricting outcome that is good for all of us because it is good for democracy.
2. First, give adequate notice and an opportunity for citizens to prepare their analysis.
  - a. At least 10-14 days for each map.
  - b. At least 2-3 days for public comment on each map.
  - c. With that notice, please

- i. Provide data used to come up with the map on a digital platform that is familiar and accessible to a majority of citizens so the public can easily run simulations on each.
  - ii. We know this can be done with the American Community Survey and many other platforms, so we know it can be done with your data.
  - iii. An example of what I would like to be able to do would be: I can see your map. If I move the west boundary 5 miles farther west, it will be populated by partisan and demographic data so I can see how the district changes.
  - iv. Make public all communications received from all sources asking that any map be drawn any particular way. (This does not include public oral or written comments; that is already knowable)
- Second, Tell us the name of the author(s) of the map. And have the authors provide the following:
- d. A 3-5 page summary stating why this promotes fair elections.
    - i. What are its strengths?
    - ii. What are its weaknesses?
  - e. Tell us if they map raises any concerns about violating the Constitution or VRA
  3. Third, provide all the data that you considered when you created the maps.
    - a. Just releasing a map does not tell you much unless you are a map expert.
    - b. Few of us are. Tell us what it means.
    - c. Break it down to the district level.
    - d. Do it every map released by Republicans and Democrats.
  4. And finally, here is my wish list—for the data I want to see you describe for every map you release:
    - a. What is the Voting Age Population of the District broken out by race and ethnicity?
    - b. What is the Voting Age Population of the District broken out by the primary vote of the last three presidential election cycles?
    - c. What is the Voting Age Population of the District broken out by income and education?
    - d. Is the district projected to trend toward Republicans, Democrats, or if it is competitive?
      1. If you say a district is competitive, define what you mean by that. For example, is it based on
        - i. Percentages of party affiliation?
        - ii. The demographic profiles of Voting Age population?
        - iii. Voting history?
        - iv. Or something else?
      - e. Identify Communities of Interest
      - f. Identify minority opportunity districts, and for which minorities these are created
      - g. Give us a confidence level for each projection. For example,
        - i. What is the confidence level that a district is competitive?
        - ii. What is the confidence level that a minority opportunity district will elect a person of color?

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Aya Fubara Eneli

Black Ladies Advancing Qualitative & Quantitative Change

Belton, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. I am Aya Fubara Eneli, representing myself and Black Ladies Advancing Qualitative & Quantitative Change. I live in Belton in Bell County in a neighborhood zoned for Killeen Independent School District. My school district comprises a student population that is almost 70% non-white. My community continues to grow and is a racially diverse and urban area, but our representation does not reflect our racial demographics. Many in my community are affiliated with Fort Hood. My school district encompasses Fort Hood, but House District 54 excludes not just Fort Hood, but also three precincts with residents that are predominantly Black and Latino have been carved out of HD 54 and Lampasas with a very different, more rural and mostly white population has been carved into the district in an act of what amounts to racial gerrymandering.

This continues a history of map manipulation and suppression that largely disenfranchises Black and Latino communities whose voices have been neutralized in my district, and in Congress. This Republic is supposed to be a democracy where we elect

officials who are representatives of the values and needs of the districts they serve. Racial gerrymandering and map manipulation is further dividing this nation and making it impossible for concerned citizens to elect officials who actually work on the issues pertinent to the communities they are supposed to champion. NOT ONE of our state legislators, senators or members of congress share our values or our background. When we disenfranchise our citizens, we weaken the fabric of our democracy. Our country is strengthened by our racial diversity/ This diversity must be respected in the redistricting process.

I am asking you not to crack or pack Black and Latino communities like mine in the Killeen, Harker Heights and Belton area. I ask that in this redistricting process, you commit to being fair and transparent and NOT manipulate the map in favor of one party or politician. Follow the Voting Rights Act and stop this history of discrimination against people of color. Gerrymandering destroys the fabric of our communities, state and nation. I am asking all elected officials regardless of political affiliation to vote for maps that empower all people and not just one demographic. Take a stand to create a fairer nation.

---

Polly Johnson, Ms.

Self- retired physical therapist

Houston, TX

Mr. Chairman and Committee members, I am Polly Johnson , representing myself. I hope that my testimony and the Committee's decisions respect federal and state laws and the Voting Rights Act.

My Congressional District 2 was ranked 6th on a 2019 list of the twelve most gerrymandered districts in the US. CD 2 consists primarily of three large suburban areas, which are about a 20 to 30 minute drive outside of Loop 610 AND one tiny dribble of inner city Houston inside the Loop. This dribble includes my neighborhood . The three large areas and my neighborhood all are separated from each other by tiny necks of land. None of the areas are contiguous. Each is far removed from the others. The needs and concerns of my dense, inner city neighborhood and those of the three suburban areas differ greatly .

1. Public transportation- we are interested in moving about without cars, while the suburbanites usually drive cars into the city for work, using our roads and paying nothing to maintain them .
  2. Parks- people in the suburbs have their own green spaces and are not as interested in creation and preservation of green spaces for all .
  - 3.Homelessness - there are homeless people in the suburbs , but most are in the inner city. At times there are homeless camps a few blocks from my condo. People have used our decorative fountains for bathing . The problem of homelessness remains a major one for Houston.
  - 4.Light pollution -the nighttime light pollution or sky glow in large cities such as Houston has been found to interrupt normal nighttime physiology . Research continues in this area. Light pollution is much greater in the city than the suburbs.
  - 5.Noise pollution- the noise in the inner city from various sources is almost constant. It has been found to have deleterious effects on the body, especially in children .
  - 6.Bayou flooding due to storm surges is of great concern to my city area because we are located only a few blocks from the major bayou of Houston's drainage system, Buffalo Bayou.
- See detail below.

Buffalo Bayou is one of the four bayous in Houston, which form our drainage system. Two other bayous flow into Buffalo which flows directly to the ship channel . These bayous may flood with rain as Buffalo and others did in Harvey , BUT they are also subject to CATASTROPHIC storm surges. A very strong hurricane can force water from Galveston Bay up and into the bayous, causing fatal flooding . As the major Houston Bayou , nearby Buffalo would surely be affected . Damage to refineries along the ship channel could also cause dangerous chemical pollution of the waters and do more lasting damage to our area.

In closing, I ask that the Committee form Congressional Districts that are more compact , linking together those who have similar concerns and also giving people easier access to their Representative's office . Please ensure that the public can have input into and review all proposed changes.



Thank-you.

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Lynda Murphy, Ms.

Self

Texas City, TX

As a voters want what is fair and representative of the community the city in which I live. So I would hope as they are drawing lines they will consider fairness equal opportunity and equal representation. And not just to favor a particular political party.  
Thanks

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Jean Ball

Self - Retired from Dallas County Democratic Party on Nov. 2020 as the Elections Director

Dallas, TX

Jean Ball  
3615 Oak Creek Circle  
Dallas, Texas 75227

Subject: I speak in favor of the Crockett Map for HD 100.

Rep. Todd Hunter, Chair, Rep. Toni Rose, Vice-Chair (and my current Excellent Representative), and honorable members of the House Redistricting Committee.

It was my intention to address you in virtual person today, but technical difficulties made it impossible for me to actually work with the PDF version of the Witness Affirmation Form sent me. The bright side is that I will be able to include a few more details in this written communication and I will not run out of time!

I speak in favor of the Crockett Map for HD 100, especially as it relates to the precincts in the Urbandale, Buckner Terrace and Pleasant Grove areas

Prior to the last redistricting, HD100 did include my Precinct 1088, Michele Luce's Precinct 1085, both in Urbandale, and Tracy Hill's Precinct 1084 which is Buckner Terrace and notably outshines all the rest of us in Urbandale and Pleasant Grove in voter participation. As precinct chairs in these 3 precincts (and sometimes more) when we were in HD100, we frequently sent out a joint common GOTV mailer to the voters in our precincts with positive results.

We share the same common community interests with those precincts in Urbandale and Pleasant Grove that were NOT redistricted out of HD100 and into 110. There was never a good reason for moving us from HD100 to 110. Terry Hodge had served that area professionally and lovingly and up to that point, I can easily say she was the best Texas Rep I ever had. She set a high standard. The reason for making those changes were petty and not worth revisiting. Something got fixed that wasn't broken. Please return us to our geographic and community natural home.

I MUST mention that I gladly accepted the move at the time because Toni Rose was to be my Rep. She has never disappointed and even though I'm a low-maintenance constituent, I consider her an excellent and hard working House Member and have appreciated our affiliation.

Currently, Buckner Blvd and Lake June Road between Jim Miller and Buckner are major shopping areas for me. My Dr.'s office is also on Buckner, less than a mile away. I love going to all the local Mama-Papa restaurants in the neighborhood. My insurance agent is on Buckner Blvd. My Chase Bank home branch is on Buckner Blvd. Prior to Voting Centers, I early voted at

various places to increase my knowledge of the vast differences among voting locations so e could improve the voting experience, where possible. My home precinct voted at Forrester Field which is actually in Precinct 1134. Now I very much enjoy voting at Skyline Library (where Tracy Hill is the election judge). The location and the management are excellent there, in my opinion, so I will most likely continue to vote there in the future.

(Dear readers – if you have read this far, you have the meat of my message. What follows, while intensely interesting, only shar

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DIANE KEARNS

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Diane Kearns, I live in Northwest Austin with my husband and 3 children. My ethnic background is Filipino and Irish. I grew up in Northwest Austin at a time when there were not many Asians, and am thrilled that our Asian population is growing! In fact the student population our neighborhood Anderson High School is roughly 50% white and 50% Hispanic/Asian/African American/2 or more races. Nearly 1/4 are economically disadvantaged. And just over 9% are in Special Education like my oldest son. So it's surprising that the densely populated, ethnically diverse Northwest Austin neighborhoods that feed into Anderson High School are divided up into 3 Congressional Districts: 10, 17 and 25.

I didn't pay attention to politics until 2013 when my son was denied a renewal of his Medicaid healthcare services that he had for 5 years because of his disabilities. It was a terrible and stressful year for our family as we appealed the case with Texas HHS. Thanks to Representative Donna Howard's office and Senator Kirk Watson's office who helped us navigate the state's appeal process, my son was able to keep Medicaid. I realized then that who represents me really matters, and I have 2 examples where the gerrymandered congressional maps negatively impacted my family.

First, in 2017 when Congress attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act which protected my son's numerous pre-existing medical conditions, I reached out to Rep. Michael McCaul. I met with a staffer, shared our story, and asked that he vote "NO" to the American HealthCare Act of 2017. It had zero impact as he voted "YES", putting my son's health in jeopardy. I have lived through the stress of not having health insurance cover my disabled son's care and I refuse to do it again. The stress of trying to figure out how to pay for a \$5,000 wheelchair when we're still drowning in medical bills from his premature birth is not something any family of a child with a disability should ever go through.

Second, in 2017 Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It put a limit of \$10,000 for state and local taxes (SALT) that could be deducted on federal taxes. Austin has high property taxes, and for tax year 2018, I lost \$5,000 in Federal Income tax deductions. \$5,000 may not be a lot to some people, but to a family of 5 including a child with a disability, it was debilitating. We were against this provision in the Act, as were our neighbors, we were vocal about it, but our congressman disregarded us and voted in favor of it.

I ask that you stop racial and partisan gerrymandering. Preserve our neighborhoods & school district boundaries when drawing district lines. These decisions affect real people like me and my family. I don't care if you're Republican or Democrat, we have the right to elect someone to represent our interests & values and that only happens with fair maps. If gerrymandering continues my family will never have a voice in Washington D.C. Thank you for your time.

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Chad Jordan

Self/law enforcement

Mineral Wells, TX

Palo Pinto County is unique in that we are positioned on the far west edge of the Dallas/Fort Worth area which often times means our community is overlooked or absorbed into the Motorplex. The statement “the greatest good for the greatest number” is often heard and seems to mean the needs of the larger cities and their high population density are often addressed or met first with little

to know attention or consideration given to the smaller communities.

Palo Pinto County has a strong heritage of being a travel destination with the amazing landscapes and lakes (even being chosen as a location for the Red Bull Cliff dive, the only location in the continental United States). There are also many other events beginning to occur within the county that attracts large numbers of visitors including a new state park. In addition to the tourism being experienced there is a large number of new communities springing up throughout the county placing a strain on the utility services provided which creates a need for strong representation to be in place to insure those choosing to move to or visit the Palo Pinto County area are met with proper resources to have a great experience and further the growth currently taking place.

As Texas continues to see an influx of people choosing to relocate here the rural areas will be hit the hardest as our resources are more limited than the larger populated areas. Having proper representation in place to assist with the growing hardships is extremely important as to limit the impact this growth will have on those who have called areas such as Palo Pinto home for generations. Redistricting has a long-term impact on the rural communities and moving Palo Pinto County to a district with a larger community such as Parker County could have lasting implications of hardship on the momentum being experienced in the current growth. Leaving District 60 intact with Representative Dr. Rodgers in place is crucial at this time as Palo Pinto County deserves to have true representation by the person elected by the people of the county. Redistricting effectively silences those of Rural Texas and creates a gap in the developing communities who require stronger representation as the small towns experience rapid change and growth. Removing our representation places a hardship on the community and goes against the principals of what the House of Representatives should be standing for, which is protecting Texans. I ask that the redistricting committee leaves our district intact with the current Representative that is needed and deserved.

Thank you

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Ben Brown

Self

Faitview, TX

#### Texas 2021 Congressional Redistricting

The US Census of 2020 has determined that Texas should have 38 US Congressional Seats. This apportionment is analogous to a satellite view of the US and Texas using the 2020 Census data. But this satellite view does not tell where the two new seats should be located and what current districts should be carved-up to accommodate the two new districts.

Perhaps a 30,000 ft look at the census data is warranted before getting to a ground-level redistricting plan. So where should we begin? A quote from the September 8, 2021, Texas Demographics Center article, "Population Change for Texas Counties, 2010-2020," answers that question. The article states, "Between 2010 and 2020, most of the growth occurred in the Texas Triangle and concentrated in suburban areas of Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and Ft. Worth."

But Which Suburban Area?

What does a 30,00 ft look at the 2020 Census data show for these four suburban areas?

Below is a table showing the number of Congressional seats that would be ideally allocated in the four major Texas Metroplex areas. The number of seats in each area was determined by dividing the Total Population by the Ideal Population per seat in each census. The change in number of seats results from subtracting the 2010 seats from the 2020 seats.

The change in seats for the San Antonio area is 0.26 seats and the Austin area is 0.52 seats. With only 3 seats total to work within each of these two areas, it would be very difficult to carve-out another seat in either of these two areas.

That is not the case for the Houston and DFW areas since these areas have over 9 seats and over 7 seats respectively to work with.

From this data, the Houston and DFW areas should see a carve-out of one new seat on the final redistricting map.

Population of Texas Major Metroplexes\* and New Congressional Districts

		2010 Census	2020 Census			
**Ideal Population per Seat		698,488	767,987			
*Metroplex	Total Population	# of Seats	Total Population	# of Seats	Change in # of Seats	
Houston	5,891,999	8.44	7,092,093	9.23	0.80	
DFW	4,471,379	6.40	5,426,792	7.07	0.66	
Austin	1,769,536	2.53	2,343,875	3.05	0.52	
San Antonio	2,142,508	3.07	2,558,233	3.33	0.26	

\*Metroplex consists of counties adjacent to central county(ies)

\*\*Ideal Population per Seat from Apportionment and Ideal Population (texas.gov)

Population data from TDC - Redistricting Data for Texas Counties, 2000-2020

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Continued on Page 2

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Winifred Gilmore

Self retired teacher

Texas City, TX

Redistricting lines to appease political parties is wrong and exhibits what has been so obviously to many: power grab. In my opinion it is laden with racist intent.

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Ben Brown

Self

Faitview, TX

Texas 2021 Congressional Redistricting - Continued

And What Counties in the Houston and DFW Areas?

A 30,00 ft view will also reveal where each new seat should be located within the Houston and DFW areas. The tables below show the number of seats in the adjacent counties in the four quadrants (North, East, South, and West) surrounding the central county or counties of the area.

The answer for the locations of a new Congressional district in the DFW area is very obvious. The Northern quadrant counties of Collin, Denton, and Wise account for the largest increase in number of seats in the area. Also, with 2.66 seats to work with, these three counties can easily be carved-up and added-to to make a new district in North Texas, However, the 30,00 ft view of the Houston area does not reveal an easy answer. The increases in the North and West when combined only equal 0.41 seats, unlike the 0.50 increase for the North quadrant of the DFW area. So, Harris County's increase in seats of 0.30 will have to be accounted for. It appears that the carve-out for a new Congressional district in the Houston area will be from the Northern and Western counties. The location of the population growth in Harris County will likely determine whether a new seat is located closer to the West (Ft. Bend County) or to the North (Montgomery County).

Relative Location of Texas New Congressional Districts

		2010 Census	2020 Census		
Houston	**Ideal Population per Seat	698,488	767,987		
Relative Location to Harris County	County	Total Population	# of Seats	Total Population	# of Seats

Change in # of Seats

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Continued on Page 3

Ben Brown

Self

Faitview, TX

Texas 2021 Congressional Redistricting - Continued

Relative Location of Texas New Congressional Districts

		2010 Census		2020 Census			
Houston		698,488		767,987			
Relative Location to Harris County		County Total Population		Total Population		# of Seats	
Change in # of Seats							
Same	Harris	4,092,459	5.86	4,731,145	6.16	0.30	
	Montgomery	455,746	0.65	620,443	0.81	0.16	
	Liberty	75,643	0.11	91,628	0.12	0.01	
	Chambers	35,096	0.05	46,571	0.06	0.01	
	Subtotal	110,739	0.16	138,199	0.18	0.02	
South	Galveston	291,309	0.42	350,682	0.46	0.04	
	Brazoria	313,166	0.45	372,031	0.48	0.04	
	Subtotal	604,475	0.87	722,713	0.94	0.08	
West	Fort Bend	585,375	0.84	822,799	1.07		
	Waller	43,205	0.06	56,794	0.07	0.01	
	Subtotal	628,580	0.90	879,593	1.15	0.25	
Total Population		5,891,999	8.44	7,092,093	9.23	0.80	

Continued on Page 4

Mark Smith

Self

Austin, TX

As the House Committee on Redistricting begins its deliberations, I urge the committee to please make every effort to draw fair and impartial districts that give voters the representation in Congress that they want and deserve. Currently, I reside in the highly gerrymandered Congressional District 21, which carves out portions of south Austin and north San Antonio and joins us to rural counties specifically to neutralize our vote and our voice in Congress. As a result, our precincts in South Austin, which are heavily Democratic (my precinct is 75% registered Democrat) are represented by a right-wing extremist who openly insults the nearly 50% of his constituents who did not vote for him. Please use this opportunity to end the practice of creating safe districts for both parties that furthers the divisions in our country and leads to lack of representative democracy in Congress. Thank you.

Ben Brown

Self

Faitview, TX

# Texas 2021 Congressional Redistricting - Continued

## Relative Location of Texas New Congressional Districts

DFW Relative Location to Dallas & Tarrant County Seats	**Ideal Population per Seat Change in # of Seats	County	2010 Census	# of Seats	2020 Census	# of
			698,488 Total Population		767,987 Total Population	
	Same	Dallas	2,368,139	3.39	2,613,539	
3.40	0.01					
	North	Collin	782,341	1.12	1,064,466	
1.39	0.27					
		Denton	662,614	0.95	906,422	
1.18	0.23					
		Wise	59,127	0.08	68,632	
0.09	0.00					
		Subtotal	1,504,082	2.15	2,039,520	
2.66	0.50					
	East	Kaufman	103,350	0.15	145,310	
0.19	0.04					
		Rockwall	78,337	0.11	107,819	
0.14	0.03					
		Subtotal	181,687	0.26	253,129	
0.33	0.07					
	South	Ellis	149,610	0.21	192,455	
0.25	0.04					
		Johnson	150,934	0.22	179,927	
0.23	0.02					
		Subtotal	300,544	0.43	372,382	
0.48	0.05					
	West	Parker	116,927	0.17	148,222	
0.19	0.03					
	Total Population		4,471,379	6.40	5,426,792	7.07
	0.66					

Page 4

Conclusions on Page 5

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Ben Brown

Self

Faitview, TX

# Texas 2021 Congressional Redistricting - Continued

Conclusions from a 30,000 ft view are:

1. The two new Texas Congressional Districts should be located in the Houston and DFW Metroplex areas.

2. One new Congressional district should be carved out of and principally located in Collin, Denton, and Wise Counties.
  3. One new Congressional district should be carved out of Montgomery, Waller, Ft. Bend, and northern and western Harris counties. The principal location to be determined.
- 

Angela Viser

Self

Pearland, TX

Being able to submit comments electronically !

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Cody Jordan, Mrs

self

Mineral Wells, TX

Redistricting Texas House District 60 Committee Members;

I am a long standing member of Mineral Wells, Tx in Palo Pinto County and I am strongly opposed to the Redistricting of House District 60.

I have had the privilege of being part of the team that is redefining the landscape of Palo Pinto County and district 60. Our team has been working diligently to assist with the Economic Development happening in Mineral Wells, the heart of Palo Pinto County. The two major projects we are heavily involved in are the Historic Renovation of the Crazy Water Hotel and the Baker Hotel. Not only is our team involved in those two vital projects, we are also at the forefront of the revitalization happening within our city. This development has provided a strong Economic Impact within our county that everyone is experiencing and witnessing. These projects have encouraged other businesses to start up and allowed small business owners to open up brick and mortars throughout our city, which we all know is the Heartbeat of America and is truly what sets Texas apart from all other states.

Mineral Wells is positioned now for even more rapid growth and is attracting the attention of many larger investors with a proven background in economic development and we are seeing an influx of people moving to our area from other states because of the opportunities that are being presented along with the beautiful landscape within our county. This type of growth not only strengthens Palo Pinto County but also strengthens Texans as a whole. It is now more than ever crucial to maintain the representation we have in Dr. Rogers in place. The citizens of this County voted for Dr. Rogers as he understands first hand what is being experienced and provides a strong liaison with State government, As Texas strives to grow businesses and sets the example for the rest of the nation on how state and local government should conduct itself, it is imperative that we not be absorbed into another district where there is also a great deal of growth placing a burden on a representative to try to be effective on multiple fronts.

Representative Dr, Rogers has been very effective and through redistricting, this sends a message that rural Texas development is not understood or appreciated. In fact, the development of rural Texas is the only way Texans experience real growth.

The committee is strongly urged to understand the lasting impact of removing Dr. Rogers as our representative. Dr. Rogers is very active in our community and in our county and truly understands the struggles we have experienced for far too long, he also understands how important it is to be a voice for an area that truly is changing each and every day. I am asking for you to make the Best decision for our our county which is to Not redistrict District 60 to ensure that we continue on a path of growth we have all been working so hard to achieve.

Sincerely,  
Cody Jordan

Sent from my iPad

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Nancy Lynch

self attorney

Austin, TX

I think I have some good win-win ideas to share. But I can't.

CD25 is Roger Williams' district. It is not really MY district. It is his. All his. I dare you to find any Democratic constituent with whom he has ever met. (If you do find one, please let me know and I will set out to make that person my best friend.) Sure, I can write to him but we all know how effective that is. I cannot even find any events that I can attend in order to get a glimpse of him.

I can, however, request to receive his newsletter which I have done. Please, just read some of them. I believe that he comes as close as he can get to using his Congressional newsletter as a means of campaigning, which would be in violation of the law should he step over that very, very thin line. Instead of educating his constituents about the contents of a bill, pros and cons, he lists only his cons and then relentlessly denigrates me and my party with highly insulting comments. I was a Congressional staffer way back when and Congressman Mahon would have NEVER done this. -- not in a million years.

Cong. Williams does not believe that he has a responsibility to represent all of the people in his district. In his defense, why should he? This system that allows -- perpetuates -- gerrymandering grants him complete confidence that he can do whatever he wants with impunity with no personal or electoral accountability. Take one look at the district. I call it the witch's finger. I am in that finger. Nearby, five congressional districts converge, neatly cut up so that I and my neighbors have no say.

CD25 is over 200 miles long and we do not know each other. The reasons that you want people within the same district to know each other is interconnectedness and interdependence. You are much more likely to behave respectfully and take into consideration another's viewpoints if you have a reason -- your kids are in the same homeroom or play on the same baseball team, you see each other at the same restaurant, you go to church together, you drink beer together, you sell your product to them or you buy their product -- you know their character and their family. If they are hurting, you might hurt for them. You might even help them out. You might even support legislation that helps them out. Without that interconnectedness and interdependence, you can indulge in "othering" which discourages compromise and encourages bad behavior and divisiveness. There is no apparent price tag for this bad behavior toward strangers. Except that our children are watching and they are very wise. And very vulnerable to hate.

You have the ability to change this dynamic. You have the ability to create community instead of destroying it. Please honor this responsibility by refusing to gerrymander.

And for any Democrat in Congress treating his or her constituents in the same way as we have been treated by Mr. Williams, don't do it. It is corrosive. And un-American.

---

Patricia Elliott

Self

HORSESHOE BAY, TX

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on redistricting in Texas.

I live in rural Llano County where we almost lost a hospital this year. We were fortunate that at the eleventh-hour Medicare granted the facility "critical access" designation, providing a source of funding needed to keep the hospital open under a new



service provider. Other Texas rural counties have not been so fortunate. Texas has led the country in rural hospital closings and the number of uninsured. And, since last year the COVID pandemic has made it harder financially for rural hospitals, due to lost revenue from postponed elective surgeries.

In the most recent regular Texas legislative session, a budget amendment to expand state and federal health care coverage to the uninsured failed. It would have helped both the uninsured and rural hospitals. I believe rural counties share, with our more highly populated counties, the common goal of providing affordable health care for all Texans in our communities. I believe a redistricting process that produces fair maps would result in a state legislature that unites us and provides the representation we need to address our real needs like affordable health care for all Texans.

It is obvious from the 2020 Congressional election results, that Texas does not currently have fairly drawn congressional districts. Republicans represented 54.8% of the votes but took 63.9% of the Congressional seats. Democrats represented 45.2% of votes and only received 36.1% of the Congressional seats. Texans deserve districts that produce election results that reflect the will of the people.

I ask that you work deliberately and diligently to end map manipulation and gerrymandering in this redistricting cycle. Texans deserve fair district maps and representation.

I ask that you conduct a redistricting process that is fair and transparent from beginning to end. Texans deserve the opportunity to observe the deliberations that drive how the maps are drawn.

I ask that you provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed maps before voting on them. Texans deserve an opportunity to comment on concerns about proposed maps.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony.

---

SHARON B Lewis

District-1 Galveston

Galveston, TX

Good morning to all!

My hope/prayer is to encourage you as elected officials to work together and take a good solid look at our census data to ensure the voters of a fair map reflective of the population growth in Texas. According to the recent census data, Texas population increased by 4 million people and the districts should be drawn to provide a voice for the people responsible for creating the new seats; hispanics and Afro Americans. As you take on this large task as our elected officials, I ask exclude any personal agendas/Preferences, exclude any diluting of specific populations, and exclude thoughts that would jeopardize any faith in the legislative system of justice. Use a barometer of justice fairness and empowerment for all people. Thank you!

---

Harrison Paret, Mr

self

Houston, TX

I am deeply concerned about the redistricting process that is about to be undertaken here in my home state of Texas.

The TX GOP party has openly & officially embraced theocratic-authoritarianism, and is crafting legislation to create a vigilante-inspired, fascist-movement (healthcare bounty hunters & partisan poll watchers).

The TX DEM party is so large that it cannot fully represent the People of TX without succumbing to the business-class co-opting its members, preventing legislation that would materially benefit all who reside in TX, further enabling the TX GOP anti-democratic actions.

I do not have faith in TX LEGISLATURE to engage in the redistricting process without disenfranchising TX voters.

I call on my elected officials to create an independent, non-partisan, science-backed, and citizen-lead initiative that will be responsible for the redistricting process.

This will insure that the redistricting process will lead to a fair election process where every TX voter can be confident that all votes are equal.

Urban votes shall not be weighted more than Rural votes. Rural votes shall not be weighted more than Urban votes. GOP voters shall not be gerrymandered. DEM voters shall not be gerrymandered. IND voters shall not be gerrymandered.

---

Steven Apodaca

self

Austin, TX

I live in South Austin just off of I-35. As you all know this is an area that has grown significantly since redistricting last took place. I myself am one of these folks having moved back to my home state of Texas 3 years ago.

First - Timing and Transparency of the redistricting process:

You know - there was very little notice given to citizens regarding testifying on these and a number of other bills that have been taken up by the full body. Generally there is very little awareness of the redistricting process and whether the public even has the ability to provide testimony. I myself only found out about this opportunity because of an advocacy organization a couple of days ago. Given that there is little to no communications to citizens on when or how to participate is extremely disappointing and deeply offensive given these maps will likely be solidified for the next 10 years.

Secondly - I'd like to address the districts themselves - using my Congressional district as an example:

I live in Texas 35th. As you all probably already know this district covers San Antonio's South and East Sides, snakes narrowly north along Interstate 35 —then stretches to fit both Kyle and Lockhart before covering several areas of Austin.

I have the honor according to some critics of living in one of the most gerrymandered districts in the nation - and let's be honest it is, how else do you explain the district also encompassing the Alamo in San Antonio almost 80 miles away from my home, or the fact that the State of Texas has been in violation of the Voting Rights Amendment since its inception in 1965 - with this as just the latest example.

Real world - as a result I don't have a Congressman representing me who is fully anchored in Travis County and is split between a number of interests to both San Antonio and Austin. Some specific examples include investment in infrastructure, the number of medical facilities available during COVID, housing costs, and the most recent effects from winter storm Uri.

As a result of packing democrats into this district, no one has been more harmed than Black and LatinX constituents like myself whose voices are being minimized in the halls of Congress.

So I implore you to do what's right and approve maps which accurately reflect the makeup of our local communities.

---

John Jacoby

Self / Software developer

Houston, TX

To ensure racial diversity in the Congressional districts, please consider extending rural districts into urban areas. This could be

done by making districts appear like spokes of a wheel. The inner city areas would look like a hub of a wheel (circular). In the center of large cities, the demographics should be balanced so that one racial group is not over represented.

---

Arizona Roberts, Ms.

Self

Avinger, TX

The State of Texas has a notorious history of disenfranchising its voters.

All the more worrying is the Texas Republican Party's open embrace of theocratic-authoritarianism.

Their most recent legislation has been crafted in such a way that it will foster a fascist-movement here in my home state, and I do not have faith in the Texas Democratic Party's ability to prevent the collapse of our democracy.

Redistricting is a tense process, made all the more volatile by partisan politics.

Redistricting should be removed from Texas Legislatures authority; an independent body must be created that is non-partisan, science-backed, and citizen-lead to insure that this process is completed fairly and faithfully.

Urban votes shall not be weighted more than Rural votes. Rural votes shall not be weighted more than Urban votes. GOP voters shall not be gerrymandered. DEM voters shall not be gerrymandered. IND voters shall not be gerrymandered.

Make re-disdistricting great again - abolish gerrymandering!

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Denis Thompson

self

Austin, TX

I ask that the Texas House of Representatives make the process of redistricting transparent.

I mean for my comments to apply to the process of redistricting Texas congressional districts, Texas House of Representatives districts, Texas Senate districts, and State Board of Education districts.

Who created the district maps that are finally proposed? What was the initial set of district maps that the map makers considered? How was the 'goodness' of the district maps compared? When different maps were being considered, why did the district map makers consider map X to be better than map Y? What characteristics of a map resulted in that map being considered better? What is it about the final district maps that makes them better than all the other alternatives considered?

I also ask that the Texas House of Representatives not enact partisan gerrymandered maps.

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Susan Tsujimoto

self

Spring, TX

I would like to begin my testimony by stating that the most important thing for this Committee to do is to respect federal & state law, including the Voting Rights Act. None of the testimony herein should be used by the legislature to justify diminishing the ability of any minority group to elect the candidate of their choice, or to artificially distort maps for racial or partisan purposes or to favor incumbents.

The 2020 census data show that the population of TX grew by 15.9% since the 2010 census. However, suburban areas in north Harris county saw growth exceeding 40%. Specifically, the population of TX House District 150 (TH150) is 239,896 – a 43.3% increase over the 2010 ideal population for TX House districts & a 23.5% surplus over the 2020 ideal population. This district, TX Senate District 7 (TS7) & Congressional District 2 (CD2), will need to be redrawn. I urge this Committee to keep the neighborhood communities along Cypress Creek together & allow time for the public to review & comment on the new maps before bringing them to a floor vote.

Following multiple occasions when Cypress Creek overflowed its banks, residents in the flooded neighborhoods along Cypresswood Drive pulled together as a community, knocking out drywall in water-damaged homes, removing downed trees, cleaning up debris & even breaking bread together to use up food that would otherwise spoil due to power outages in the area. Beyond working together in times of crisis, we share many community resources (for specific points of interest search 77379 at <https://districtr.org/COI/48785>). This community should be kept together since it needs clear representation to voice shared concerns regarding suburban planning & development, flood mitigation strategies & electrical network resiliency.

I believe it is a general practice to nest TX House maps in TX Senate maps. TS7 includes an area bounded by Cypress Station & FM 1960; however, TH150 does not. Why? Many residents living in this area work in nearby hospitals. This small area should have been included in TH150, so the residents, who work in the hospitals, can voice concerns on issues that impact their place of work.

Historically, CD2 covered suburban & rural areas. When this district was redrawn in 2010, it included urban areas within the city of Houston. Although suburban & urban residents may share some concerns, suburbanites face many issues, different from urban residents. When redrawing this Congressional District, urban areas should be excluded to preserve the integrity of the suburban community.

Since we are at the start of a new redistricting cycle, I hope the Committee will make the new maps available to the public, allow time for their review, & consider public comment regarding how they impact communities. I sincerely appreciate the Committee's indulgence, allowing me to provide input on the small part of TX that I call home, & I hope you will consider keeping my community together when drawing the new maps.

---

Alexander von Gluck IV

Dripping Springs

Dripping Springs, TX

Redistricting during a special session is against the Texas constitution.

As redistricting is a highly politicized event with a common trend towards gerrymandering, it should be left to the Texas courts to help offer a somewhat bipartisan result.

Redistricting could be also done via non-partisan population only methods. Politics in districting is unamerican and defies the will of the people.

---

Hugh LI

self

Austin, TX

My name is Hugh LI, and President of Austin Chinese-American Network, the largest Chines-American nonprofit organization in Central Texas, representing more than 1000 individual members. We are a non-political organization but do care deeply about the political rights of all our members and communities.

For far too long, AAPI communities, which are the fastest growing across Texas, as re-confirmed in the latest census, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts and thus, have been prevented from having the ability to elect a candidate of their choice. In 2011, Texas drew election maps that intentionally discriminated against people of color. 10 years later, with the tremendous growth in the AAPI communities and much racial equity progress in Texas, it is imperative that our elected government codify this progress and correct some of the egregious historical wrongs in this re-districting process. Thank you.

---

Nathan Tucker

self - educator

Austin, TX

Redistricting should be done in a fair, nonpartisan manner. It is ridiculous that the city of Austin does not have adequate representation at the national level due to gerrymandering. The current US house districts give undue influence to the rural areas at the expense of the urban areas that drive the state economy.

---

Allison Burke

Self/IT

Houston, TX

The Texas courts must assume the task of redistricting legislative maps in 2021. To postpone this until 2023 would be a blatant violation of the 14th amendment, which guarantees one vote for one person. Ignoring the population growth over the last 10 years and not adjusting the districts to ensure each citizen's vote is equally weighed is unconstitutional.

---

Sarah Gonzalez

Self

Katy, TX

The Texas courts must assume the task of redistricting legislative maps in 2021. To postpone this until 2023 would be a blatant violation of the 14th amendment, which guarantees one vote for one person. Ignoring the population growth over the last 10 years and not adjusting the districts to ensure each citizen's vote is equally weighed is unconstitutional.

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Amanda Ihrig

Myself

Manor, TX

Districts need to be redrawn so that large groups of rural individuals are not included in metropolitan districts. Districting that way causes inconsistent representation for the people.

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Andrew Lisenby

Self, Teacher

Dallas, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the importance of fair redistricting.

As an American, I believe guaranteeing my personal rights and freedoms to be one of the most important functions of my government. I believe that local and state governments, in particular, have as their utmost priority the responsibility to ensure the health, safety, and opportunities for the citizens who elect them, and my vote is my input on that process.

Unfair redistricting to favor one group over another takes away everyone's right to fair representation. It takes away my voice and my freedom to speak up for the values I think my government should have.

I ask the legislature to create a nonpartisan commission for the purposes of redistricting to ensure the rights of all to speak freely in regards to representation in our legislative process. Public trust in government is the foundation of governmental power, and unfair redistricting erodes the trust citizens can have for those in elected office.

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Teresa Sydow

Self

San Marcos, TX

Please make an honest effort to make the districts fair. Please no gerrymandering, let's not end up in the courts again.

---

Mary Jones, Retiree/Chamber Director

Self

Albany, TX

Hello,

My name is Mary Beth Jones, and I am from the small town of Albany, located in Shackelford County, in northwest Texas. We are the westernmost county of District 60, Glenn Roger's district.

I am a retired Teacher/Counselor, and I am now the Director of the Albany Chamber of Commerce.. My family owns property where we raise crops and cattle. My husband also works in the oilfield. One son is a heavy machinery operator and the other is currently enrolled in Cisco Junior College. My entire family lives, works, and is educated in this rural District.

Since Dr. Rogers was elected, I have personally, on more than one occasion, been helped by his office. To be honest, I had NEVER considered contacting my State Representative until now. But after getting to know Dr. Rogers and he also being from small-town rural Texas, he has taken interest in and put forth the effort to meet with the people of his District. He has been able to make us comfortable and knowledgeable enough to have confidence to contact him and his staff. In my opinion, this is what differentiates a Rural district from an Urban District... the relationship and connections you have with your State Legislator.

This is how we know we have a voice. This is how we know we have a champion in Austin. The first time I met I asked him about WEP and retired teachers not being able to receive any Social Security benefits. At the time, He didn't know much about the issue, not many people do, including many retired teachers. Yes, this is a Federal issue, but he has taken up this issue on our behalf and been doing all he can to help retired teachers all over the State, not just in his District. In June 2020, I had a young man, a friend of my son, move in with my family. He attended 13 schools in 11 years. His home life was so bad, this was his ONLY option. Essentially, Everett needed permission from the UIL to play sports, in this case, Everett, who was beginning his senior year, desperately wanted to participate in sports with friends. After weeks of attempting to make the UIL understand his issue, I finally contacted Glenn Rogers office. He was finally able to only because I knew my Legislator and my Legislator cared about me and Everett. This may not seem like a big deal to you, but it was one of those moments that changed the trajectory of Everett's life. Everett is now a junior at Texas Tech University, has received several scholarships, is majoring in Education and is doing well. One student, who will become a great teacher, helped by one man (Dr. Rogers), will have an impact on maybe thousands of lives. This is a real life success story and this is what we desperately need more of! Rural Texas has unique issues and faces challenges different than those of Big cities. With Glenn Rogers, we finally have someone who understands and can relate to the common farmer, rancher, businessman and parent. We cannot afford to lose this connection. Respectively, M. Jones

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David Knight

Self student

Georgetown, TX

Please be fair and impartial we are all America

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Austin Moreau

Self

Houston, TX

If a map is drawn where a tyrannical minority controls the majority, the majority will feel compelled to entrust more authority and control of Texas - and all other states - to the federal government. I already trust the federal government more than the Texas state government. It is your decision as to how prevalent that opinion becomes. It is your decision for Texas' future growth. If you want Texas to stagnate, to rot, under the tyranny of a well positioned geographic minority, that is your prerogative. The capable, the willing, will be forced to let Texas rot and feel shame about their past as they depart for better opportunities elsewhere. Build the State you want to leave to your children, the state with a robust representative legislature able to dynamically face tomorrow's challenges. Instead of an ossified hog growing fat in the space left by its long gone neighbors.

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Tim Dowling

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Part 1 of 2:

September 18, 2021

It is a positive development that both Senate Redistricting Chairwoman Huffman, and House Redistricting Chairman Hunter, recently publicly committed to having opportunities for the public to comment on each proposed map for the Texas Senate, the Texas House, Texas Congressional seats, and the Educational Service districts before their committees vote to approve any redistricting map based on the 2020 Census. See Chairwoman Huffman's comments at the beginning of the September 7, 2021 redistricting committee hearing, and Chairman Hunter's comments immediately after the first witness who testified on September 9, 2021 at the House's redistricting committee hearing.

But no details were provided about HOW the public input will occur. In order for the public to be able to most meaningfully comment on each map, there needs to be at least ten, and ideally fourteen, days available to the public to review each map. Thereafter there needs to be 2-3 days allocated for public comment on each map. This maps may well last until the 2032 election. Your committee needs to take the time necessary to do it right.

No "surprise," last minute, "committee substitute," or similar shenanigans maps should be considered. Each proposed map must satisfy the notice and comment procedures stated in the immediately preceding paragraph.

However merely releasing a map will not be enough for the public to make the best informed comments regarding it. Just as a doctor would not tell a patient to "figure it out yourself" when showing him an X-ray or an MRI image, so each political party must disclose the above information so that the "patient" (here the citizens of Texans) can more meaningfully evaluate "what they are looking at" when shown a map proposed by either political party.

When each map is released, whether by the majority party or by the minority party, the proponents of the map should provide the following information:

1. Provide a 5-10 page summary stating why the proposed map is proper. Why do its proponents believe it should be adopted?

What do the proponents of each map believe are the strengths of each map? Fully explain the reasons for this belief. What does the opposite party believe are the weakness of each map (and provide a 5-10 page summary justifying that belief)?

2. Provide the following information for EACH DISTRICT in each map (therefore 38 evaluations for the Congressional

districts, 31 for the Senate, 150 for the House, and 20 for the educational service districts):

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Tim Dowling, 8017 V

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Part 2 of 2:

a. Is the district projected to produce a Republican or Democratic winner in the 2022 election? State the confidence level for the prediction. For example, "With this map for this district the map's proponents believe there is a 70% probability that the winner of this district will be a Republican in 2022."

b. Alternatively, if the map's proponents believe the district is "competitive" (meaning it is legitimately difficult to predict who would win the district in 2022), so state. Clearly state the criteria that were used to label a district as "competitive." Is it, for example, that 52% of the voting age population in the district are Republican and 48% are Democrat? Or some other percentages? Some of metric (registered voters by party for example)? Fully explain the reasons for the "competitive" label with the specific data points used to justify this conclusion (and not glittering generalities such as "Who knows what will happen with the Texas and national economy between now and election day in November 2022?").

c. For each district provide the following information regarding the voting age population of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

d. For each district provide the following information regarding the registered voters of the district: African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and other.

e. For each district provide the following information regarding the voting age population of the district: Republican, Democrat, other party, or no party.

f. For each district provide the following information regarding the registered voters of the district: Republican, Democrat, another party, or no party.

2. Do the proponents of the map believe that the district in question is a minority opportunity district? If so, fully explain why.

3. Disclose the names of the specific people that drew the map, and their connection to any member of the Legislature, political party, or interest group. Also provide the current resumes of each such person.

4. Provide communications received from all sources (from human beings, not from Census data) asking that any map or district be drawn in any particular way (not including oral or written comments to either redistricting committee; that information is already publicly available).

5. Disclose if the proponents of the map believe there is any credible risk (although they may contend they would defeat the argument ) that any district in the map would violate the federal Voting Rights Act, the federal Constitution, any other federal law, or any Texas law.

6. Provide the digital data used to draw the map in a form on the committee's website that the public can easily download to run simulations on each proposed map. For example, if the western boundary of District X was moved 5 miles further west, how would that change the partisan and demographic makeup of the district?

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Dowling

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Tim Dowling

Self, lawyer

Corpus Christi, TX



My Congressional District is the 27th. Before the Legislature ruined my District in 2011, it made sense, as it comprised traditional South Texas counties. Now it includes a wide arm that leaps north of San Antonio almost to Austin.

The current grossly gerrymandered district has produced the far right wing nut case Congressman Michael Cloud who is ideologically aligned with Congress's "G Men": Representatives Gohmert, Gosar, and Gaetz--plus other far right wing culture warriors who are focused on red meat grandstanding instead of the good fights that make genuine meaningful positive impacts on the lives of constituents. My Congressman was one of only 21 members of the House who refused to honor the Capitol police who may have saved his life on January 6. He does not represent the values of south Texas.

Our prior Republican Congressman resigned after credible allegations of sexual harassment and using public money to pay off the woman making them. Since the Legislature destroyed our logical map, not only have we been embarrassingly represented, but this map includes parts of four small counties. Small counties should not be divided unless truly necessary.

But it is easily fixed. Draw a 27th district that has traditional south Texas counties, none of which are divided, and that share common interests and culture. The population of the district I propose deviates only 3.1% from the ideal number, and is therefore well within the legal requirements of the one person one vote principle. There are no border counties in this district, and it does not include Victoria.

Please make these counties the boundaries of the 27th Congressional district: Nueces, San Patricio, Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, Aransas, Refugio, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Kennedy, Willacy, Jim Hogg, Duval, Brooks, Goliad, Calhoun, Atascosa, LaSalle, Frio, Karnes, and DeWitt.

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Misty Nix

NSC Properties, Nix Rental Homes, RM Nix, The Market at 76067

Mineral Wells, TX

My name is Misty Nix and I am representing my investment property and management company owned by my husband and I. NSC Properties, Nix Rental Homes, RM Nix. I am a long-time resident and business investor in Mineral Wells, located Palo Pinto County. We are located in District 60, a rural district represented by Glenn Rogers.

I am here today because I am adamantly opposed to any redistricting plan that would pair our rural County with a much larger urban county such as neighboring Parker County.

Weatherford and Parker County has seen astronomical growth which changes the dynamics of the area as well as the types of issues they face.

Right now, Mineral Wells and Palo Pinto County is at the crossroads of growth and economic redevelopment, which is unusual for a rural area. However, by and large, our issues are still rural.

In 2018, I opened a new business downtown Mineral Wells The Market at 76067 it has grown today to over 150 vendors. This Bussiness is a incubator to help start, support and grow new small business in Mineral Wells/Palo Pinto County.

I believe that this effort will further revitalize Mineral Wells economy, and through similar efforts of other business leaders, Mineral Wells' growth and prosperity is on pace to continue well into the next few years. However, our success over these past years did not happen overnight. As a part of the rural House District 60, our town has been blessed with Legislators who understand the unique needs of rural communities and create polices that are tailored to our needs.

Representative Rogers, has been and will be instrumental to the continued success of Mineral Wells, its values, and its people.

I fear that if Palo Pinto were to be taken out of its rural district and paired with Parker, the growth and momentum Palo Pinto County is seeing would be stunted or end all together

I want to thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of my community, and I ask that the committee do their best to keep Palo Pinto in a rural district and to maximize the representation of like-minded rural communities in our area.

Thank You.

---

Judy Ward

Self/Wilshire Baptist Church Christian Advocacy Committee

Richardson, TX

Our legislature has an opportunity to do what has not been done in the last 2 decades--create fair maps via the redistricting process. This opportunity/obligation carries huge ethical weight; how does any legislator face himself/herself in the mirror if the resulting maps are so gerrymandered that, truly, each legislator has picked his/her own voters? How does any legislator then face his/her constituents if he/she has participated in the creation of unfair maps? Last, but certainly not least, how does any legislator face his/her creator if that person has participated in creating unfair and undemocratic maps? Just because one can doesn't mean that one should.

I am a resident of Richardson, TX and represent both myself and the Christian Advocacy Committee of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas. I am asking that the maps created in the upcoming months be drawn fairly and that the public be given ample time, opportunity and resources to review the methods used as well as the results. As our elected officials, this is owed to the citizens of this state. You have this one opportunity to stand up for the right values for our Texas citizens. We all wish--and are entitled--to be fairly represented. I ask that you get this as right and as fair as you can make it. Redistricting should NOT be about politics; it should be about fair representation. It is understood that the pressure will be there to do otherwise; please show the state that you embrace its core democratic values.

---

Ira Dember

FairNow.org

Houston, TX

I live in TX-2, one of the most gerrymandered districts in US history. It is so blatant, so corrupt, my district actually resembles the original 1812 map that gave gerrymandering its name. See juxtaposed image in this 2017 blog post: <https://fairnow.weebly.com/blog/ghoulish-ted-poe-aims-to-kill-29000-americans>. (Ted Poe was squatting in this congressional seat. Now it's Crenshaw, who voted with Trump 93 percent of the time.)

This twisted district map means I am essentially disenfranchised, my vote smothered by whiter, wealthier and frankly more racist neighborhoods located more than 30 MILES AWAY.

This is a perversion of democracy., I want at least a fair shot at electing someone who actually represents me. The TX-2 map makes that virtually impossible. END GERRYMANDERING: GIVE ME BACK MY VOTE.

One more thing. I sometimes wonder why I bother voting at all. The game is rigged by gerrymandering, so why bother. By rendering the exercise hopeless and futile, you discourage the "wrong" people from voting. Given the voter suppression laws Texas enacted this year, that's actually the point, isn't it?

Heads you win, tails we lose. Is America a great country, or what?!

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Natasha Acevedo

Deeds Not Words

El Paso, TX

Texas House Committee on Redistricting  
Attn: Fair and Transparent Redistricting Process  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Re: Written testimony; Redistricting

Dear Chair Hunter and Members of the Committee,

My name is Natasha Acevedo and I am a resident in El Paso, TX. I'm writing to you in support of a fair and transparent redistricting process in order for our democracy to be upheld in its best manner, by hearing all the voices of Texans and for all Texans to be accurately represented.

I urge you to draw our districts in a way that is reflective of our growing diversity and honoring the new census data, furthermore I urge you to hold more virtual opportunities to testify during the 3rd special session with the new map data, and give us a chance to provide our input.

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Cynthia Cole  
AFSCME 1550  
katy, TX

Are the Redistricting maps really going to help people of color in having fair representation?

This committee consists of 15 members 8 of which voted for the one the most oppressive voting laws in the nation, 8 of the members voted for one the most oppressive laws against women making personal choices as it relates to their bodies and procreation, eight of the members of this committee voting to not expand health care in the state of Texas, 8 of the member voted for bills that allow gun control to be almost impossible to control and keep communities safe and now the same 8 members of this committee are responsible for participating in redistricting areas that will help them not the people who need equal representation. The formality of listening to days of testimony is very insulting when the same eight members have no intention of applying the presented ideas or data to their decision to unfairly cut up districts to create an uneven playing field. All types of boots are worn by the public, work boots, construction boots, walking boots, cowboy boots.... one message that I leave with this committee All boots are made for walking and one of these days those you ignore will walk to a voting booth and despite all cheating efforts .... these boots may walk all over those of you that have voted in the interest of the Party and not the People. If the eight can change their hearts and you care, then put on the boots of the people and create maps fair and equitable and accurately represent the people of color. AFSCME 1550 Cynthia Cole Executive Director

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BRANDON WHITEHEAD  
Self. IT.  
Keller, TX

Having seen the maps that are likely to come out 9/20/2021, and the ridiculous changes made to districts around DFW, specifically CD26, 24, 32, etc, I demand a nonpartisan, open source, algorithmically derived redistricting process. Its stated purpose must be to ensure fair, democratic representation based solely on population and geographic proximity. It must NOT be based on ethnicity or race, or political affiliation.

In other words, no more cracking and packing. No more districts that run from Austin to Fort Worth. No more districts that span three counties in order to dilute the voting power of the residents of the primary urban and/or suburban centers. No more districts shaped like a crescent moon in order to "give" the opposition party an easy win with a majority of "their" voters in the area, in order to win more area districts for your party, despite having fewer overall voters in that same area.

In other words, no more picking your voters. No more cheating.

Either run for office and govern on ideas and outcomes or go home.

Texas doesn't like cheaters.

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Amanda Reed

Self

Frisco, TX

I am a resident of Frisco, Texas. I would like to ask that this year for redistricting, you adopt a procedure that is transparent and fair for all Texans. Our districts should not be composed based on political predictions but rather composed of communities that are actually cohesive and have similar needs. Please keep cities, school districts, hospital service areas and etc. together in our districts. If a rural area is near a big city and these two areas have vastly different interests and needs, please do not 'carve out' parts of an urban neighborhood and stick it with the rural area, or vice versa. Make it easy for our representatives to help us and make it easy for us to find and communicate with our representative. My own Texas House district is a completely ridiculous shape. Myself and many residents of Frisco are served by Jared Patterson who lives about an hour away in Rockwall county. It's a disservice to both our community and to Rockwall to have these two areas combined, not to mention the strip of rural communities that have been stuck in our district join Frisco and Rockwall in some sort of bizarre snake shape. I hope that you will use modern, nonpartisan techniques to build district that are actually helpful to the people who live here in Texas.

Thank you,

Amanda Reed

---

Kierra Jones-Jackson

Deeds Not Words

Austin, TX

Texas House Committee on Redistricting

Attn:

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Written testimony; Redistricting

Dear Chair Hunter and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kierra Jones-Jackson and I am the Deeds Not Words Campus Organizer for Huston-Tillotson University, Austin's oldest institution for higher learning and it's only HBCU. I, along with my fellow changemakers, have been organizing and providing civic engagement education to the East Austin region for many years. I am submitting this testimony in support of fair and transparent redistricting.

East Austin is an incredibly unique area with very specific needs. It is home to the majority of the city's black and brown citizens. Huston-Tillotson University is located in the heart of East Austin right on 7th street and Chicon. My HBCU is home to just over 1,000 students of color. The very students that redistricting will be affecting.

Austin has a process for residents to redraw the boundaries of the council districts every ten years. The boundaries of the council districts greatly impact Austin's government and will shape how residents are represented for the next decade. Fair redistricting will ensure that Austin's most vulnerable and unprotected residents are fairly represented, something that has not been adequately done for quite some time.

Deeds at HT recognizes the attacks that are made on our community on a daily basis and we are committed to strengthening and uplifting voices to combat these issues. As young activists, we recognized an issue heavily weighing on our own people and decided to create a game plan to combat this. We have worked diligently to ensure our communities are educated on, but also thoroughly involved with the policies that threaten us.

Because of this, I urge you to draw our districts in a way that is reflective of our growing diversity and honoring the new census data, furthermore I urge you to hold more virtual opportunities to testify after you have received the new map data, and give us a chance to provide our input.

---

Reginald Warren

Democratic

Texas City, TX

The redistricting as written is a very serious challenge to voters rights and the constitution on civil rights. This is not a good formula for democracy.

---

Frederick Jones, Dr.

self - retired

Austin, TX

Redistricting should be about drawing lines that create fair and equitable voting communities of interest. Please use a transparent process to make sure that Texas' legislative representatives reflects the fact that of the 4 million new Texans since the last Census, over 90% of them are Black or Hispanic. This is a growing and dynamic state, and we need to hear everyone's perspectives in determining future policy. In the past, communities of color have been underrepresented and their voices diluted by the redrawing of maps. We need to make sure that these communities are represented fairly in the redrawing of our maps.

There are critical issues, like the need to expand Medicaid, analyze policing practices that unfairly target people of color, access to voting and MANY more that impact people in different regions differently. Our current partisan district lines defeat the intent of the laws that govern the redistricting process. We need fair, legal, and equitable voting lines. Please draw maps that keep communities with similar needs together - that is the whole intent of so all of our voices can be heard! Thank you.

---

Elaine Campbell

Self

Dallas, TX

My name is Elaine Campbell - I am for fair and transparent redistricting and ask that the maps are made public at least 14 days in advance and that additional virtual hearings are held to comment on the maps after we are allowed to see them.

I am a resident of Dallas Texas, Precinct Chair of precinct 3011 - Deep Ellum which is in House District 108 which does not align with my community.

I am testifying today to explain my community. Deep Ellum is a truly diverse community in every way, gender, race, economic and family structure and we are very proud of that.

The high school that my community attends is in HD100, the parks that we walk to, the community center that provides services for us which includes Health Care services is in HD100

Fair Park, which we are able to walk to, is our community and is in HD100 where we belong in order to be represented

appropriately.

I am an election judge in HD100 as well as this is where many in my community vote

These are the reasons that I support the Crockett Map as Deep Ellum, precinct 3011 is a community of common interest with HD10

The Crockett Map, which I have reviewed, resembles what HD100 looked like before the last redistricting cycles and keeps my community rooted.

Thank you.

---

Kyle Stanley

SELF

Sugar Land, TX

As an avid redistricting aficionado from a major suburban swing county, I am deeply invested in the future of my county which is Fort Bend. I have three district maps I created on Dave's Redistricting App that I am willing to share, and which I believe are drawn with fairness in mind, adequately fulfill many of the representation concerns addressed with regards to the previous maps, and would ensure a delegation reflective of our state's status as a Republican-leaning bellwether state.

Some of the highlights of the maps I have so far include newly formed Democratic opportunities in Austin (where CD10 is restored to being entirely within most of Austin and Travis County) and two new Latino opportunities between Corpus Christi and Edinburg (CD27, addressing recent Latino voting strength concerns with Michael Cloud and Randy Weber's districts shifted eastward) and in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex (CD24, with Beth Van Duyne's seat becoming a new CD12 and CD32 being shored up to be more competitive for Republicans). I also have created three seats that are competitive for Republicans in the Houston area (Lizzie Fletcher's CD07 which is supposed to be a top NRCC target in 2022, plus Troy Nehls's CD22 which stays within Harris and Fort Bend counties and Dan Crenshaw's CD36 - the latter two more favorable to Republicans than not), slotted CD37 in the current footprint of Michael McCaul's CD10 sans Travis County and CD38 from San Angelo to the Hill Country, and restored three districts to historical configurations with CD02 going from Beaumont to Lufkin, CD09 from Galveston to Houston's eastern suburbs, and the current CD09 reverting back to CD25.

For the Lege I can speak for now of my immediate area, so I have slotted SD17 within Republican and swing sections of Fort Bend and west Houston and Harris County, & combined Harris and Fort Bend counties into one delegation of 23 Harris, 4 Fort Bend and one mostly Harris/partly Fort Bend HD (which is actually closer to the statewide average).

While I am sure some of y'all may call out my bluff, rest assured that I take into account the best interests of all parties involved into building balanced districts representing common interests serves to the highest standards of all Texans. I look forward to further discussion with y'all on these districts and you are free to contact me with any questions at my email address, kylestan@gmail.com, or via my cell phone at 713.620.8096. Feel free to contact me if you do have any questions...for I look forward to working with y'all as a Northstar on redistricting.

Best regards,

Kyle Stanley

Sugar Land/CD22/SD17/HD26/ED07 Resident

References:

Texas House proposal - <https://davesredistricting.org/join/dd21003b-097b-4dad-9f87-0556045b3a28>

Texas Senate proposal - <https://davesredistricting.org/join/dfdb278b-53d9-4a22-81ec-e9a055d02954>

Texas congressional districts proposal - <https://davesredistricting.org/join/30980063-b9cf-494f-9c6c-db7056b24be6>

Laura Jones

Self, retired high school principal

Gordon, TX

Chairman Hunter and members of the House Redistricting Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. I am very concerned about the possibility of redistricting Palo Pinto County. Palo Pinto is a rural county that is aligned currently with other rural counties. A proposed redistricting plan, which would place Palo Pinto in a district dominated by Parker County, negates the principle of "communities of interest." The population of Parker County is five times greater than Palo Pinto County, and Parker is growing rapidly. A redistricting alignment with Parker County would severely limit Palo Pinto County's influence - and representation - for at least the next ten years at a time when Palo Pinto is poised for growth and economic revitalization.

I am a retired educator, as is my husband. We look forward to receiving a 13th check in January thanks to the Legislature. We are very appreciative of HD60 Representative Dr. Glenn Rogers, who is a champion of public education.

Currently I serve as an elected official on both the Gordon ISD Board of Trustees and on the Board of Directors for the Lake Palo Pinto Area Water Supply Corporation. Public Ed and the availability of clean drinking water are priority concerns for the state of Texas; however, equity and access of these for rural counties is quite different compared to suburban and urban counties. I have had multiple conversations with Representative Rogers about the challenges faced by rural school districts, and communicated with Rep. Rogers during "snowmageddon" regarding funding to winterize rural water systems. As both an elected official and as an individual constituent, it is imperative to have representation in the state legislature by someone who lives it him or herself.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully

Laura Jones

430 Hensley Rd

Gordon, TX 76453

[laurazjones@yahoo.com](mailto:laurazjones@yahoo.com)

817-266-9623

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Susan Stewart

SELF

Pflugerville, TX

My name is Susan Stewart and I want to thank you for this opportunity. By now it is quite clear that our election maps have been rigged and gerrymandered to silence many of us and deprive us of a responsive representative. I live in Pflugerville, just north of the city of Austin along I35. I am part Congressional District 17. This district's northeast border is close to Palestine. Then moving west, it extends to Gatesville which is just outside Ft. Hood. The southeast border lies close to Navasota but the southwest corner of this district makes a grab into the urban area just north of Austin. It's a tiny little finger that juts out from most of the rest of the district which is rural. The area of this district is absolutely huge. There is no way Pete Sessions can adequately represent us because the needs of rural Texans is vastly different from the needs of my urban area.

Currently, I believe that severe gerrymandering is causing much of the political divisions that are tearing our country and democracy apart. A lot of damage is being done to our country because it appears that power is the primary goal, not the needs of the electorate. Please make the process of map drawing transparent and fair. Give us competitive districts where our representative can work with us and advocate for our particular needs. It is obvious my city should be part of an urban district, not a rural one. Also, please do the work of ending map manipulation and partisan gerrymandering that is damaging our beautiful

country. Keep our communities together so there is one representative who can work with us.  
Thank you, Susan Stewart

---

Georgia Keysor

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

My name is Georgia Keysor representing myself.

Instead of theorizing about what weaponized gerrymandering will do to Texas, let's look at what weaponized gerrymandering has done to the great state of Texas.

Texas is number one in child COVID deaths, 59 as of Sept. 3 with over 325 Texas children currently hospitalized.

Texas schools report more than 50,000 confirmed student COVID cases in two weeks. More than a dozen school districts have closed while our governor feuds with school districts that are just trying to keep our kids alive. We have over 40,000 Texas students home from school due to COVID shutdowns in 45 school districts.

Weaponized gerrymandering has created a grim reality for Texas children. One in four lives in poverty. We're number one in uninsured children, at 1.4 million.

We rank the 15th most dangerous state for rape and sexual assault according to the FBI  
Every 2 hours, a Texan commits suicide, the second leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 34  
36 states have lower crime rates  
We are dead last in health care access and affordability  
35th in Pre-K - 12 education  
2nd highest rate of teen pregnancy  
Dead last in mental health care  
37th in poverty  
5th in Maternal Mortality  
47th for protecting children from poverty and hunger during COVID  
41st in Child Welfare/Foster Care  
Dead last in the number of insured adults  
Second only to California in COVID deaths, and  
Governor Abbott and this legislative body has closed more hospitals than any other state

But of course, we can overlook the trivial and brag about our great economy. Actually, no, we can't. From June 2019 to June 2020, Texas led the nation in Chapter 11 bankruptcies and more Texas corporations filed for bankruptcy during the first six months of 2020 than ever before.

And don't forget that Abbott's Great Texas Power Fail slammed businesses large and small.

In light of this, I'm asking you to show that you are not afraid of your voters and will do your duty as you swore an oath on a Holy Bible. Thank you for your time.

---

Vanessa MacDougal

self

Austin, TX



Vanessa MacDougal  
1515 Karen Ave  
Austin, TX 78757

I live in the Brentwood neighborhood in north-central Austin. The population of Austin has exploded in the last decade. The Austin area has been “cracked” into numerous districts that do not line up with any communities of interest, and do not align across different levels of government. There are 80 combinations of US House, State Senate, State House, and State Board of Education within Travis County. US House District 10, which stretches from west Austin to Katy, splits the town of Pflugerville in half. The SBOE district lines cut seven Austin ISD elementary school attendance zones in two. Our elementary schools serve cohesive neighborhoods, and there are only 15 SBOE districts in the state. There is no good reason why neighborhoods need to be split in two this way.

This cracking makes it extremely difficult for Austinites to engage in the political process. It is very difficult for us to figure out whom we are eligible to vote for, or who our elected representatives are. “Write your Congressman!” “Who is that?” “It depends, do you live in east or west Pflugerville?”

Creating so many districts that are “safe” for one party or the other encourages division. Candidates pander to their most extreme primary voters. We have a pandemic and an energy crisis, and our schools are struggling. We need solutions for all Texans, not pandering to a small population of extremists.

I ask that the committee draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent ALL Texans.

I ask that you work to end map manipulation and gerrymandering. I attached some maps so you can visualise the problems we have.

---

Adolph Vega  
self

San Marcos, TX

We should not be making districts that are partisan in nature. Every district should have potential to be a swing district. It's wrong when Republicans do it and when Democrats do it. Please establish nonpartisan commissions to make congressional districts. Districts should be made to reflect the diverse nature of the residents and not be rigged for one race, ethnicity or political affiliation. Enough is Enough we shouldn't have districts that are rigged. We need districts that fairly drawn and not be done to help one political party.

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Randy Nix  
NSC Properties

Mineral wells, TX

Mr. Chairman and Members

My name is Randy Nix and I am representing my investment and property management company: Nix Rental Homes, RM Nix. I am a long-time resident and business investor in Mineral Wells, located Palo Pinto County. We are located in District 60, a rural district represented by Glenn Rogers.

I am here today because I am adamantly opposed to any redistricting plan that would pair rural Palo Pinto County with a larger, more urban county such as neighboring Parker County. Weatherford and Parker County has seen astronomical growth which changes the dynamics of the area as well as the types of issues they face. These are in NO WAY comparable to a rural area like Palo Pinto. To pair a county with a population of 150,000 (Parker) with a county of only 28,000 (Palo Pinto) will rob us of our voice in Austin. Numbers don't lie!

Right now, Mineral Wells and Palo Pinto County is at the crossroads of unprecedented growth and economic development, which is unusual for a rural area. However, by and large, our issues are still rural. We have more in common with Brownwood & Breckenridge than we do with Weatherford and Parker County.

In 2018, my wife Misty and I sold our franchise business and had a choice: retire and move to Kansas or stay in Mineral Wells, invest in our community and make a difference. We chose to stay. We have led the effort to restore the historic Crazy Hotel, which has primarily been funded by local, resident investors. Along with the City and people of Mineral wells, we parlayed this

enthusiasm and excitement into the restoration of the famous Baker Hotel and the redevelopment of much of the heart of downtown Mineral Wells.

I believe that this effort will further revitalize Mineral Wells economy, and through similar efforts of other business leaders, Mineral Wells' growth and prosperity is on pace to continue well into the next few years. However, our success over these past years did not happen on an island. As a part of the rural House District 60, our town has been blessed with Legislators who understand the unique needs of rural communities and create policies that are tailored to our needs. Representative Rogers, has been and will be instrumental to the continued success of Mineral Wells, its values, and its people.

I can confidently speak for myself and most other business leaders in our community when I say that we would not be this successful as an appendage to an urban or suburban county with a much larger population. I fear that if Palo Pinto were to be taken out of its rural district and paired with Parker, the growth and momentum Palo Pinto County is seeing would be stunted or end all together because the interests of our counties would be placed well behind those with larger populations. The legislation and representation of larger counties like Parker County have little in common with the economic and community values of places like Palo

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Gina Biekman

myself

Houston, TX

Hello My name is Gina Biekman and I live in Southwest Houston state senator district 13 and state rep district 131. I am very happy with my state representatives. I would like to preserve the district generally as is. I am concerned in general that the increase in population documented in the 2020 census should be reflected fairly in the upcoming redistricting. The increase is largely in asian, hispanic and black populations. Districts should have roughly equal populations and redistricting should allow greater representation for those populations that have grown. The maps we have now have tended to gerrymander those voters into fewer districts reducing their power. The districts should be contiguous so all in like neighborhoods are represented. Actually redistricting should be done by a nonpolitical nonpartisan citizen's council so that it will tend to be more fair. Thank you for the opportunity for Texans to testify in person, virtually and in writing. When the redistricted maps under consideration now are done, I request that there be public hearings be announced with all prospective maps available to the public to view before the maps are approved and completed.

---

Ross Korkmas, CEO

Palo Pinto County Hospital District

Mineral Wells, TX

My name is Ross Korkmas and I am the CEO of Palo Pinto County Hospital District which encompasses a very busy acute care hospital, Urgent Care, numerous specialty clinics, Rural Health Clinics, surgical services, OB, ICU and a suite of OP services including Physical Therapy, Radiology, Lab, Cardiac and Pulmonary services.

Thank you for allowing me to submit comments on behalf of myself, our elected Board of Trustees and Palo Pinto County Hospital District.

Rural Texas and really rural America are under attack. Values that many hold dear are being challenged daily. We need strong representation at the State level to support the future of our County and rural communities. Dr. Rogers has proven that he provides the strong representation and leadership that our rural communities need.

We are on the precipice of growth, revitalization and need a representative that is focused on our County, knows our needs and will dedicate their service to supporting rural Texas. Dr. Rogers has supported our community, our hospital and me during the most difficult time in modern healthcare. He has had numerous calls with me, met with me and supported our healthcare community throughout the pandemic. If we were to be joined with a large urban county, that support would most certainly decline. Dr. Rogers is a leader who leads not for himself, but for the people.

The people of Palo Pinto County have not had a state representative from our county in over 3 decades and within a short time that could be ripped away from us. We elected Dr. Rogers to represent our community at the state level and it would be a travesty to take that away from us.

With no offense to Parker County, we are not the same. Parker county is largely urban, has seen exponential growth and has its own set of needs. I fear that our needs would be overlooked if we were to be joined with Parker County.

I heard a statement was made that one of the reasons behind combining our county with Parker is because “much of Mineral Wells, the airport and Fort Wolters are in Parker county”. No offense to whomever made this statement, but they are wrong. A small piece of Mineral Wells is in Parker County and makes up a tiny fraction of Palo Pinto County. We are so much more than that, and this statement clearly illustrates that we need leadership that understand our county, our needs and our future. We are not common communities of interest and should not be joined together.

Dr. Rogers cares about our community, Dr. Rogers supports our community and Dr. Rogers is our community. I implore you to not combine Palo Pinto County with Parker County as this would be a disservice to Palo Pinto County, its wonderful cities and excellent small towns. Palo Pinto County deserves strong representation at the state level and the person who has proved capable of this is Dr. Glenn Rogers.

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Camille Francis-Howard, Retired SGT & Department of the Army Civilian

Self/Retired Army SGT, Retired Department of the Army Civilian and Disabled Vet

Killeen, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is Camille Francis-Howard, and I am here to represent myself.

I live in the Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood area in Bell County, the home of the largest military installation in the world! With a 2020 population of 157,632, it is the 19th largest city in Texas and the 163rd largest city in the United States. Killeen is currently growing at a rate of 1.93% annually, and its population has increased by 23.23% (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/killeen-tx-population>). Although Killeen has experienced exponential growth, our leadership remains the same and doesn't reflect the constituents of this Urban community.

Map manipulation and voter suppression continue to disenfranchise the African American and Latinos communities minimizing our voice in congress and voices at the polls despite the tremendous growth of the African American and Latino population. We fail to see representation in our state legislators, state senators, or members of congress. I care about our violent crime rate of 362.24 (per 100,000), the property crime rate of 805.67(Killeentexas.gov), Medicare and medical care on Fort Hood and the VA Hospital. Our current representatives serve rural counties like Lampasas, where the concerns are agriculture; the total crime rate in those rural areas is 221 (per 100,000) (areavibes.com), a vast difference between Bell County that falls within District 54.

I also worry about racial division and how divided we are as a country; Gerrymandering and map manipulation continue to display racial tensions and embolden racially charged issues. Our concerns consider to be disregarded and voices muted through voter suppression and racial and partisan gerrymandering. Although not generally enforced, one of the basic redistricting principles is compactness (geographic and racial). A look at the districting map of Fort Hood reflects irregular shapes that exclude Fort Hood from Killeen/Harker Heights. Retaining the existing districting lines of Fort Hood perpetrates cracking and packing and deprives communities of color of a voice in representative government. Across federal and state maps, Fort Hood should be in the same district as Killeen to bring together the Army installation with the city that shares considerable economic interests and the military hospital, even though it creates a county split.

---

Kenneth Howard, Retired MSG

Self/Retired MSG U.S.Army

Killeen, TX

Please don't Pack or Crack the Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood area in Bell County and home of the largest military installation in the world! Population growth in the state of Texas was driven overwhelmingly by communities of color. Hispanic, Black, AAPI, Native American, and multi-racial individuals accounted for 95% of the population growth in the last decade. With a 2020 population of 157,632, it is the 19th largest city in Texas and the 163rd largest city in the United States. Killeen is currently growing at a rate of 1.93% annually, and its population has increased by 23.23% (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/killeen-tx-population>). Although Killeen has experienced exponential growth, our leadership remains the same and doesn't reflect the constituents of this Urban community.

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---

Lucinda Rudin, Ms.

Self, retired teacher

Pflugerville, TX

I respectfully request the you create districts that reflect their community, are fair and unbiased by partisan designs. Please do not be guilty of gerrymandering. We deserve to have representatives who reflect our interests. I have not had such a representative for years.

---

Darryl Scott

Self

Windcrest, TX

Redistricting should be fair, and based on "hard-data" such as Census 2020. Biased redistricting (political) is un-American, and undemocratic.

Continuing to play dumb, deaf, and blind will only result in more people going blue in this state.

Make it fair, and make it easier to vote!

---

Nathalie Steinfeld Childre

Myself

Austin, TX

Members of the committee, my name is Nathalie Steinfeld Childre. I live in South Austin and represent myself.

I'm giving testimony today because I'm very concerned. Due to changes to the Voting Rights Act, this redistricting cycle is the first time in 50 years that Texas will draw new districts without oversight to curtail voter disenfranchisement.

I'd like to have my hispanic husband's and my voice heard in house district 21, but that is currently not possible. The practice of community cracking and packing in past decades have diluted Hispanic voter voices. But the 2020 census shows the state's Hispanic population is now nearly as large as the non-Hispanic.

However, Currently our district contains about 65% white and only 26% hispanic voters with a \$75,000 Median income. On the contrary,

I see a different picture in my South Austin community ..

My kids go to Sunset Valley Elementary. 45% of the students are English learners, 47% are from low income families.

Just like ours, many families in our community are multi-cultural and live in Spanish speaking households.

These lower to mid income families live in single-family homes, apartment buildings and in blocks of government housing. The majority of our neighbors are blue color workers.

Our neighborhood is rated as car dependent with very few cross walks and pedestrian lights.

There are only two bus lines that serve our area.

Many in this community depend on public schools. They are a vital part of the community providing food, sometimes even clothing and other necessities.

The sustainable food center holds a weekly farmers market to serve and raise money for people with food insecurities.

So how does my community compare to the outmost communities of district 21? Let's look at Real County, for example.

Real County contains 73% White and only 26% Hispanic voters.

Rural counties, like Real county also have completely different needs of commerce, health, transportation and social services..

Agricultural issues as well as population decline and the needs of an aging population are at the top of the political agenda in Real county. Travis county's most pressing political issues are the housing shortage for the massive influx. The homeless crisis, mass transit systems, the convention center expansion, the rising housing costs, and accommodating an ever growing young flourishing university community.

I urge you to keep communities together that are facing similar challenges where government solutions can help serve those constituents. And Finally, after you release the maps and supporting data on easy to read and accessible platforms, I request that you schedule additional hearings to allow public input for at least four weeks.

Thank you for your time.

---

David Zelanis

self

HOUSTON, TX

Redistricting should be done by a non-partisan 3rd party.

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Deborah Steele

Self, retired geologist

The Woodlands, TX

I am Deborah Steele, a resident of The Woodlands, Montgomery County, TX. I am representing myself. Our county is growing fast and diversifying, especially South County (where I live) and around Conroe. These are among the fastest growing areas in the United States.

The 2020 census shows the Texas population grew 16% since the 2010, with 95% of that increase being people of color. Our representatives are overwhelmingly white men. The result is that a growing portion of our population is not reflected by their representatives. The long Texas history of gerrymandered maps has maintained that disparity of representation.

I want our redistricting to be a fair and transparent process, so the resulting maps will treat ALL the citizens in Texas and Montgomery County fairly. I want our legislators to follow the Voting Rights Act and not discriminate against people of color.

In the interest of transparency and fairness, there should be another round of public hearings after the maps are drafted and released. The map release should include analysis showing the impact of the changes on the ability of communities of color to elect officials who will represent their interests. There should be a couple weeks' notice for the map hearings, so the public has time to review the draft maps. Then citizens should be able to provide input to improve the maps. After the input is evaluated and amendments to the maps proposed, the public should have time to evaluate the proposed amendments and opportunity to provide input.

I believe Texas needs to have an independent redistricting commission with a diversity of members that reflects the diversity of Texas citizens. Please pass legislation to implement a fair independent redistricting commission.

Thank you for considering my written testimony.

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Michael Rock

Self, Artist/Writer

Austin, TX

Austin district 25 is immorally gerrymandered, forcing representation of my address by someone outside my geographic area who does not represent its interests. Austin should not be sharing representation with cities near Dallas like Cleburne with totally different demographics. Please cancel the gerrymandering and consolidate Austin and Travis County under one representative. Same with the other urban areas of Texas. Thanks.

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Gary Bledsoe, Texas NAACP President

Texas NAACP

Austin, TX

#### TESTIMONY TO HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Thank you for the opportunity to present important information to you. The NAACP wants to emphasize that African-Americans are continuing to grow as part of Texas' population. The State Demographer has indicated that Latinos, Asians and African-Americans all were growing at a much greater rate than the white population. Texas has 16 House Members (HD95, HD27, HD120, HD139, HD113, HD109, HD131, HD46, HD147, HD100, HD22, HD111, HD142, HD110, HD146 and HD 141. 2 Senators (SD13 and SD23) and 5 Congresspersons (CD9, CD18, CD30, CD32 and CD33) who are African-Americans representing large African-American constituencies. These are mostly African-American opportunity districts though a few are protected minority coalition districts. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, especially as mandated by the dominance of minorities in population growth in Texas, requires that African-Americans and other minority groups not have less power after new maps are

adopted and drawn.

All of you are sophisticated individuals who we know are familiar with where the historical legacy Black Communities in Texas. Having your level of knowledge and sophistication, along with information that will be provided to you in public hearings and by learned minority members of your Committee, we know that you are aware and will be even more aware of where our legacy Black Communities are located—and especially those that have been a part in the past of effectively functioning as cohesive and effective voting groups. These groups should be protected and their political participation and operation as effective voting groups should not and cannot be eliminated. This must be viewed in terms of both their ability to function effectively within a district but also to operate in the Legislative body to which they would be elected.

The Committee cannot take the position that you can harm African-Americans either in their ability to elect the person of their choice as a community or in conjunction with others including other minority groups, nor in regards to their influence within the legislative process. We know that last decade Texas attempted unsuccessfully to justify C185 and H283, State adopted maps that discriminated against African-Americans and Latinos, because the State said minorities were Democrats. This makes a mockery of the Voting Rights Act and would greatly reduce its effectiveness in ways that Congress never envisioned. Further, even a Conservative Supreme Court would recognize this. This would be viewed by the Supreme Court as an illegal racial gerrymander instead of a partisan gerrymander. Though many Conservatives want the Voting Rights Act invalidated, in the Brnovich decision this year the Supreme Court has made it clear that the Voting Rights Act will remain. The Court provided further clarity by saying that statistical information will still be a viable means of showing a Section 2 violation. It is also i

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Mercedes Fulbright

Myself

Dallas, TX

I am a resident of HD100 and want to see my district maintain its house seat. HD 100 is the original minority protected and the original historically Black seat in Dallas. It is important to me as a resident in preserving the integrity of a Black seat and ensuring that we are able to keep and build upon our representation. I live in South Dallas walking distance from the State Fair, Deep Ellum, and downtown Dallas. We are a community of freedom fighters, community leaders, public servants, business owners, frontline workers, and survivors of racial terror in the district. It is important that this district seat is maintained to honor the lives of those who fought to be represented in politics and to serve the interests of our communities. We are living history of the resiliency of our district and what it means to be protect and uplift the powerful legacy of freed enslaved people. We are deserving of Black leadership who represent the voices of those who are historically silenced and pushed out in politics. I support the Crockett map and believe it will be an incredible disservice to generations of freed enslaved people who have made whole, dignified lives out of tragedy and triumph. We are a growing vibrant community who is proud of our elected leadership and we want to continue to be represented by those who share our same values and lived experiences.

---

Heather Buen

Texas AAPI Redistricting Coalition

Fort Worth, TX

It is essential that we work with all communities, particularly communities of color, and all federally protected groups under the Voting Rights Act. My Asian American and Pacific Islander Community of Interest is inclusive of the currently established Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School district located in Tarrant County with boundaries that include the cities of Hurst, Euless, Bedford, far east Fort Worth along Trinity Blvd and Viridian communities in North Arlington. In Tarrant County, the AAPI community has seen a growth of 56% since 2010. Link: <https://districtr.org/COI/48083>

My family lives in River Trails and our children attend HEB ISD schools. About 67% of the student population are minorities and 10% of the total student population identity as AAPI. The largest number of Tongans outside of Tonga live in this area. There is a large number of South Asian communities including Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Bhutanese, and many more. This area includes numerous diverse places of worship including 4 mosques, one of the largest Sikh Temples in DFW, Hindu temples and places of

worship, Korean Adventists, and many multi-ethnic Christian church services.

Many AAPI residents own businesses. Restaurants, convenience stores, gas stations, hotels, and service businesses in the area employ thousands of workers contributing to the local economies.

The AAPI community inclusive of our Muslim community needs are not being met due to the fracturing of our communities in multiple state house and senate districts. The way these districts are currently drawn, our elected officials have no incentive to be receptive, responsive, or accessible to AAPI concerns.

HD 92 the northern sections of this area and has seen 61% growth in the AAPI communities since 2010.

HD93 inclusive of the southern sections have seen 97% growth for AAPI communities since 2010.

For the current Senate District maps, SD9 should cover this area but instead, a chunk is drawn out to accommodate SD10. This makes no Geographic sense and fractures the AAPI and minority communities along with many low-income communities in Euless in the State Senate denying them fair representation. Both SD9 and SD10 have seen 50% growth individually in AAPI communities since 2010.

Congressional District 24 covers most of this area and is one of the most diverse districts in Texas and the country.

I urge this committee to establish a fair, open process by continuing to host virtual committee hearings like these during the next special session and making all of that data public.

For far too long, AAPI communities, which are the fastest growing across Texas, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts. For the future of all of our communities, I urge this committee to embrace the strengths of Texas' diversity and consider the contributions of Texas' AAPI communities and the right to fair representation.

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Ted Clem, PhD

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

My name is Ted Clem. I am a Texas registered voter living in downtown Austin, Travis County. I believe that the Texas and US governments must take aggressive, progressive stances to protect: (1) our democracy from right-wing extremists; (2) the rights of all citizens (with voting rights, worker's rights, racial justice, women's reproductive rights, healthcare being at the top of a longer list); and (3) our environment from climate change. My civic values are well represented by my TX House Rep. Hinojosa (D - District 49) and my TX Senator Eckhardt (D - District 14).

In contrast, my Congressional Rep. Roy (R - District 21) has a voting record in 2021 that is 100% diametrically opposed to my civic views. Given the limitation on character count for this testimony and the fact that partisan gerrymandering is the focus of my testimonial, I will emphasize on the topic of voting rights. Over 400 voter suppression bills have been introduced in 49 states during 2021; 19 states have already passed such bills, with the 2021 Texas bill SB1 being one of the most oppressive. Therefore, it is important to me that strong Federal legislation be enacted to counter these attacks. But, Rep. Roy's votes against US House Bills HB1 and US HB 4 show his lack of concern to protect voter rights, especially for Texans.

The following data makes it clear that that the current districting of Travis County fails miserably to represent the civic values of a vast majority of the citizens in Travis County and, more specifically, those in my TX House, TX Senate, and US House districts. To begin, TX Rep. Hinojosa won with 78.9% of the vote. While TX Senator Eckhardt won by the concession of another Democrat following a General Special Election on July 14 2020, the two Democrats collectively amassed 83.5% of the vote. In the 2020 Presidential election, Pres. Biden (D) received 71.4% of the vote in Travis County.

Rep. Roy won in 2020 with 52.0% of the total vote. In Travis County, he received 24.3% of the vote; while his Democratic opponent received 72.4% of the vote. From a more holistic view, Travis County is divided into 5 Congressional districts currently represented by 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat. In the 2020 election, its voters cast 28.7% of their votes for Republicans and 68.3% for Democrats.

Combining these statistics, it is reasonable to argue that Travis County does not have its fair representation in the US Congress; in other words, I can say with high confidence that the current Congressional districting of Travis County is 'gerrymandering' at its worst (using a layman's interpretation of the term).



Moreover, the current Texas State Legislature and the Texas Governor have made it very clear with the passage of TX bill SB1 that they want to suppress the voting rights of its citizens. Therefore, I strongly believe that the upcoming redistricting should be conducted by an independent commission.

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Richard Durham

Self - Gas Station Attendant/ Substitute Teacher

Austin, TX

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, my name is Richard Durham and I represent myself. I live 4 blocks away from IH 35 and 3 blocks away from Braker Lane. I live four blocks away from Graham Elementary. The school is 83% Hispanic, 9.5% African-American and 4.9% white. In 2012, the school was 77% Hispanic, 15.4 % African-American and 4 % white. 84% of the students are economically disadvantaged and 62% are English language learners. That's a lot of growth in 10 years. The area is a large trash dump. Along Braker lane between Wedgewood and Dessau, there is trash all along the sidewalks and in the trees and brush and from Braker along the road that accesses the back of the Cricket Hollow apartments, there is trash in the brush and along the road. Some of it is because of homeless people who live in the area, but the whole area is a dumping ground, with some signs warning citizens no to dump their garbage there. In the area, there are streets full of duplexes that are in a dilapidated state. However, that is not the worst in the neighborhood. Along Dessau from East Applegate to Collinwood West, there is trash, abandoned vehicles and the shell of an old residence. There is trash in the brush and in open areas. The whole area looks like a trash dump. On one side of the street, you have some small, cute houses and on the other a gutted residence, abandoned vehicles and lots of other refuse. These areas should be cleaned up and efforts made to prevent others from adding to the trash and dumping. I don't believe the maps that have been drawn in the last 10 years represent the citizens in this district. Black and Latino voices have been minimized. I'm worried about how divided we are and that gerrymandering and map manipulation have made the problems worse. I ask that you not manipulate maps in support of one party or politician and make redistricting fair and transparent.

Richard Durham

11441 IH 35 North # 13108

Austin, Texas 78753

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Lydia Bean, Dr.

self, Business Director

Arlington, TX

My name is Lydia Bean and I represent myself. I live in a racially diverse neighborhood in Arlington, Texas. We call Arlington "The American Dream City" because that's what brings us together: we want good, safe jobs, strong public schools, quality healthcare, and beautiful public parks and entertainment spaces where we can gather as a community. My husband and I are building our family and our small business here.

But I'm concerned that political maps are being drawn in a way that stands in the way of my community's dreams. There is no racial majority group in Tarrant County, white Anglos like myself are less than half of the population. And yet, white Anglo voters control 8 out of 11 of the current state house districts. That's intentional racial discrimination. Unfair maps hurt everyone, because our elected officials refuse to expand Medicaid, and they're playing partisan games instead of working with local government to end the pandemic.

Tarrant County has grown by over 300,000 people in the last decade, and we deserve a new Texas House seat. And all of that growth comes from Hispanic, Asian-American and Black Texans. Our white Anglo population has actually gone down by 32,000

people. So our new map and our new House seat, need to give people of color the opportunity to choose their elected officials. It's also important to protect districts where people of color already get to choose their representative. For example, Congressional District 33 should be protected as an established Tarrant County-based minority district where Black voters lead a coalition to elect their candidate of choice.

We also need to protect crossover districts where minority voters choose their candidate of choice together with white Anglos who share their priorities. Senate District 10 is a great example. Any effort to dismantle or replace districts like this will be a blatant act of intentional racial discrimination.

I ask that the Committee draw maps that are fair, competitive, and give ALL Texans an equal voice. Thank you.

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Huiyi Shih

OCA-Greater Houston

PEARLAND, TX

To Senate/House Special Committee on Redistricting

Good Afternoon. I am Dr. Helen Shih, from Pearland, Brazoria County, a large suburb south of Houston. I thank the committee for providing this virtual option.

Today I am speaking for two communities of interest, one is Asian Americans, and the other is healthcare professionals living in the Pearland area.

In the last 10 years, Asian population in Texas has increased by more than 600,000 or 64%. Congressional District 22, where I live, covers all major Houston Suburbs, now has 20% of the population that is Asian descend.

Despite this, Texas, until today, does not have a single Asian American congressional representative. Our effort in electing the 1st Asian American Congressman in Texas was met with voracious political attacks and attempts to divide our community, pitching one versus the other. Congressional District 22, will be redrawn as it has grown too large. So we ask you, please keep our community together and draw fair maps to reflect the growth of our population.

Many of us living in Pearland are healthcare professionals, including myself. Pearland population has grown from 40,000 to 120,000 or 3 times, in the last 20 years. Despite this, residents in West Pearland, in zip codes 77584, and in 77578, don't have representation for our voices and rights. For example, in the recent delta variant surge, our children are forced to go to schools, without mask requirement, without social distancing, and other adequate protection. There are about 2000 COVID cases now in Pearland ISD and Alvin ISD since school reopened, as these districts refuse to implement CDC guidelines and to heed the advice from medical professions.

It is a great tragedy that while doctors and nurses are working very hard to take care of COVID patients, they are worried about their own children getting sick in schools as elected officials deny them the very basic human rights to be protected at schools. This is a clear illustration, that our rights and voices are not being represented, not listened to, and not respected.

Therefore, we ask you not to divide the west Pearland, but to keep its integrity. We ask you not to bundle it up with the south part of the Brazoria County, which has a completely different demographic profile and community interest. This has happened in the past in drawing district of House District 29 and Senate District 11, which are not fair to either people in west Pearland or to the people in the south side of Brazoria county.

Lastly and most importantly, we also would like to ask you that a public hearing be held before any map (bill) is passed out of committee after the actual maps for the bill is drawn and insist that proposed maps be put on display at least for 2 weeks for the public to view and comment during those hearings.

Thank you!

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Braelynn Barborka

Self and Deeds Action Fund

Austin, TX

[House Redistricting]

Attn: The Honorable Hunter Todd, Chair

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Written testimony; House Hearing, 87(3S)

Dear Representative Hunter and Members of the Committee,

My name is Braelynn Barborka and I am a student at University of Texas at Austin. I am a Campus Organizer with Deeds Action Fund, the political arm of Deeds Not Words and I live in House District 49.

I am here in support of fair and transparent redistricting because I have been taught my whole life that the government that we have is supposed to represent everybody in their district equally. How do we make sure everybody is represented if the districts are designed for political advantage and not equitable representation?

I learned about redistricting in my senior year of high school in my government class. I remember learning about it and assuming it was something that was so valuable for citizens in the different districts, until I realized the way redistricting could be manipulated to do more harm than good. They can be construed in a way that causes representatives to remove themselves from being kept accountable. Recently, representatives use their unchecked power to pass extreme, unpopular legislation such as SB1 (the voter suppression bill) and SB8 (the anti-choice bill). I am sure you all would agree that equitable representation is the goal, so please allow this process to be equal and transparent.

The District I currently live in is full of students from all over the country. This means their needs will be different than someone in a different part of Austin who has different priorities. I urge you to draw our districts in a way that is reflective of our growing diversity and honoring the new census data. The Census data was very clear: nearly all of the population growth in Texas came from people of color and is centered in urban and suburban communities. We are the best people to tell you if our needs will be met. It is impossible for a small group of individuals to redistrict without collaborating with the majority of the people who understand what representatives they need.

I would like to conclude by thanking you for your time and giving me the opportunity to stand before you today to share why fair and transparent redistricting is important to me.

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Gabrielle Moore

Self, REALTOR

San Marcos, TX

Hello Honorable Representatives,

My name is Gabrielle Moore. I am representing myself. I live in San Marcos, in House district 45 and Senate district 25. I currently serve as a Commissioner on Planning and Zoning for the City of San Marcos.

I am writing because I want fair, accurate, and transparent redistricting that represents my community.

Hays County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country. And the city of San Marcos, the county seat, is currently divided into THREE different congressional districts. This is objectively crazy. In 2010 my US House district line was re-drawn down the middle of my street and I was no longer represented with my neighbors or by the same representative that I had been writing letters to for years. I ask you to make San Marcos whole and not be diluted by cutting parts off into Comal County, a very different demographic and itself a rapidly growing county. Hays County needs to remain in its own House District 45 as a

community of interest along with San Marcos. It has been well represented by Representative Erin Zwiener who has always been available and responsive to her constituents. I have never had a harder working representative. Texas State University and its student and employee residents need her continued representation.

It is paramount that each of the proposed maps be available for full public comment for at least a week after each.

Our nation has never been more divided than it is now. The last time we were this fractured was prior to our last Civil War. Further gerrymandering on your committee's part, to allow the politicians to choose their voters rather than voters choosing their representation, will be seen as anti-American at its core. It will push us closer to the cliff of civil war. Elections should be competitive, not safe. San Marcos and Hays county are demographically diverse. We must be allowed to fairly choose our representation.

Thank you for your time,

Gabrielle Moore  
San Marcos, TX

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Brad Bennett

self

Mineral Wells, TX

My name is Brad Bennett. I write to urge the House Committee on Redistricting to advance a map for approval that keeps Mineral Wells and Palo Pinto County in HD60. It is important our community remains in a rural district. It does not belong in a suburban district.

Rural areas measure distance by time not miles. But despite great distances between towns, they share common interests. We have more in common with a neighbor one and a half miles to the west than we do a neighbor 20 minutes to the east.

Texas has experienced tremendous growth. Urban and suburban areas are absorbing most new residents. Our urban areas are integral to the dynamism and future of Texas. But I'm not worried about these areas. I liken them to what President Reagan said about the federal deficit they're big enough to take care of themselves.

My concern is for our rural parts of the state. They represent the iconography and historic character of Texas. Distant vistas, small towns with squares around a courthouse, sprawling farm and ranch land. But they aren't set pieces in a museum. We need rural Texas to thrive now and in the future. This requires strong representation of these communities.

We have been blessed with Dr. Glenn Rogers as our representative. Despite being greatly outspent by a primary opponent, he prevailed in the last election. He did so because he focused on the needs of the district, and he continues to do so.

I was born and raised in Mineral Wells. After attending Baylor University, I soon moved out of state and continued to work on the East Coast for more than two decades. I've recently returned and am excited about the energy and optimism that is palpable in my community, which wasn't always present. For our rural areas to thrive, we need to stem the brain drain that has driven population decline for so many years. This will require quality education, economic opportunity, access to high-speed internet, and engaged and knowledgeable representation in government.

I know you have a difficult task ahead and there are no easy answers. As you continue to work to develop a new map, please remember, and account for the needs of rural Texas. Finally, I urge you to keep Mineral Wells and Palo Pinto County in its current district HD60.

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Justin Nunez

Self

Kyle, TX

As a resident of Texas, please do not gerrymander the district even more than what they are. Doing this is the most un american and dare I say communist thing you can do. You are literally taking away the people's choice. The elected should not be able to dictate who there voters are. This is stuff that Castro and the soviets did. Be better than that.

---

Libby Smith

Self

Carrollton, TX

It is thoroughly anti democratic and anti republic for the incumbent party to continue this reckless path of choosing its voters and therefore entrenching themselves in power. One day, these maps will work with the tide rather than against it. and I hope those of you who enable this miscarriage of justice remember this day when the weapon of gerrymandering is facing your own fleeting power.

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Lori Dodd, Executive Director

Texas Midwest Community Network

Gorman, TX

My name is Lori Dodd and I serve as the Executive Director of the Texas Midwest Community Network. We are in our 28th year of providing support to a region of thirty-three counties in West-Central Texas. Although Abilene and San Angelo are our largest members, most of our 54 member cities are small rural communities.

Through networking, we bring member representatives together to collaborate on issues such as efficient government operations, economic development, and tourism so that our communities, and therefore the region, can continue to grow and prosper. We are continually interacting with our state legislators and agencies so that our members are aware of issues that deeply affect them.

As this legislature goes through the redistricting process, we urge you to keep districts as compact and cohesive as possible, and to keep communities of similar interests and characteristics together. As difficult as that may be, we believe this should be your goal. The communities in our region simply don't have the resources that many larger cities or communities adjacent to major metropolitan areas do. We rely on our legislative members and state government for help including genuine representation.

District 60 is made up of 8 counties and countless small cities. I belong to one of them. In my hometown of Gorman, population 1083, in Eastland County- we had an on-going issue with TCEQ. I am talking about years...and now it was a critical point. Gorman had the opportunity to have new business and the piece of land needed was tied up in red tape. (I'd like to note that Gorman hasn't had a "new" business in 20 years) We had tried to contact Austin personnel/staff, even our engineer had tried several different avenues to no avail. Within a few days of a call to Representative Rogers' office, TCEQ was working with us and we were on our way to completely resolving the issue. This project will makes a HUGE, POSITIVE IMPACT on my community that might not have ever had a chance had Rep. Rogers not stepped in and helped. Representative Rogers' district is currently comprised of communities of similar size and economies; looking to the future, I don't know that Gorman would receive similar assistance if our next representative were to live in suburban Fort Worth or Waco.

Again, speaking on behalf of 33 counties in West Central Texas, we encourage you to keep legislative districts as compact and as cohesive as possible. Thank you.

Personal Note: I do not envy the task at hand. But you are where you are at the trust and confidence of your constituents. My prayer is that you operate out of that truth as you move forward with this very important undertaking. Lori Dodd

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DUSTIN POTTER

Math For Unbiased Maps TX

Wylie, TX

My name is Dr. Dustin Potter and live in Wylie in Collin County. I am a mathematician, and a member of Math For Unbiased Maps TX, or MUM-TX. We are an independent, interdisciplinary, nonpartisan coalition of Texas mathematicians, philosophers and political scientists seeking to use our expertise to ensure a fair and unbiased redistricting process.

What unites the members of our group is a commitment to the bedrock principle of democracy: voters should choose their legislators. As has been the concern of many witnesses today, redistricting has far too often served as a means for legislators of both parties to choose their voters. When legislators engage in partisan gerrymandering, they entrench their own power by insulating themselves from accountability to voters. Sometimes, this can even dilute the voting power of minority groups, and run afoul of the Voting Rights Act.

But how can we know a map is gerrymandered? How can we distinguish an intentional gerrymander from a partisan advantage that might result from political geography: say, for the tendency for urban areas to lean more Democratic, and rural areas to lean more Republican?

Fortunately, math has an answer. In the past decade, mathematicians have learned how to apply a technique known as the “Markov Chain Monte Carlo” method to generate collections of maps known as “ensembles,” that give us a baseline for what to expect of a fair, unbiased map. We can then compare a plan to this baseline, to see if it is typical, or if it is an extreme outlier in some way. This is called “ensemble sampling analysis.”

I emphasize that our position is not that any map with asymmetry must necessarily be unfair. Asymmetric electoral advantage comes in degrees, and it can arise naturally because of where people choose to live and how they organize their lives. A redistricting plan is objectionable only to the extent that the degree of advantage that it confers on one party is excessive, relative to the advantage we should expect that party to enjoy, given the political geography of the state. Ensemble analysis provides a way to quantify the difference between a redistricting plan that exhibits a typical degree of partisan asymmetry, and an objectionably gerrymandered power grab.

Today you will hear from other members of MUM-TX. My colleagues will show how ensemble sampling can be used to produce analyses that are reliable, unbiased, transparent, and easy to implement. We’ve provided a slide deck to illustrate our results: on slide #4, we outline what we plan to show you today. We will show you ensemble analyses from both 2010 and 2020 Census data, involving both electoral and demographic data. Finally, we summarize some of the benefits of ensemble analysis including noting other states in which it has been used.

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ANDREA BARREIRO

Math For Unbiased Maps TX (MUM\_TX)

DALLAS, TX

My name is Andrea Barreiro, I'm a resident of Dallas, a mathematician, and the proud mother of two little Texans. I am speaking today as a member of Math for Unbiased Maps Texas, or MUM\_TX. You just heard Dr. Potter describe how we can use ensembles of randomly-generated maps to provide baselines against which partisan electoral advantages can be quantified, to test for extreme gerrymandering.

To demonstrate this method, let's first look backward, at the first election conducted after the 2011 redistricting. On slide #6 we present a summary of simulated election results across 50,000 randomly-created 36-district maps. Districts are sorted by the number of votes received by one party (here, the Democratic Party), and for each district, the blue objects (called “violins”) summarize the range of observed vote percentages for that party. This figure represents the range of outcomes one would expect from an unbiased map.

In slide #7, we add the \*actual\* results from the 2012 Presidential election, and we observe several disparities, which are highlighted on slide #8. The 11 districts on the right side contain far more Democratic votes than expected from the ensemble (this is known as “packing”), whereas the next 6 districts contain far fewer than we would expect (this is known as “cracking”). The big “jump” in the red dots between districts 24-26 represents a “wall” insulating legislators from shifts in voter opinion over time, and the blue violins demonstrate that this wall did not arise by chance.

We can also evaluate maps using simple metrics used by political scientists to assess partisan asymmetry. Two of these are shown on slide #11, and we’ll focus on the right side of the page. The metric shown here – called “partisan bias” -- captures the difference in how many seats each party would win if the statewide vote were divided evenly. In 2012, a 50/50 split of the votes would have awarded 24 seats to Republicans, and only 12 to Democrats. I repeat: an evenly-divided electorate would have resulted in twice as many seats for one part over the other, just because of how the district lines are drawn. This is no accident: this difference of 12 seats is higher than 99.8% of plans in the ensemble, making the current map an extreme outlier, and strongly suggesting deliberate design.

In conclusion, comparing the enacted plan with the ensemble easily demonstrates outliers in vote shares and seats won, clearly revealing partisan bias that far exceeds the natural pro-Republican bias that our ensemble identifies as a neutral baseline for district maps in Texas. Our unbiased and rigorous approach provides legislators easy-to-interpret evidence of gerrymandered maps. Having a fast and reliable method for detecting unfair maps is crucial for preserving the health of our democracy. With the ensemble in hand, we can repeat this analysis with any enacted or proposed map. We are ready to serve the people of Texas.

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Tim Dowling

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

The Senate’s proposed map for Congress has been available for a few hours but it is easy to tell it is abysmal for South Texas. It still divides South Texas into four districts with each jumping up to being parallel to San Antonio or even farther north. That is crazy. This is not hard: draw 3 South Texas districts. One based on Corpus Christi, one with Brownsville and part of Hidalgo County, and one with Laredo and part of Hidalgo County. Add nearby smaller counties to comply with one person one vote as necessary. The Senate committee obviously ignored the hundreds of witnesses that testified before it. Please do not do the same, and fight the Senate’s proposed Congressional map. It is pathetic.

Very impressed by Chairman’s patience and calm courtesy to the witnesses today. Many were very eloquent. Listen to them. They do not want the Senate’s ridiculous and illegal Congressional map.

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Matthew Lockard, Dr.

Math for Unbiased Maps Texas (MUM\_TX)

Dallas, TX

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Matthew Lockard. I live in Dallas Texas with my wife and three little native Texans, and I am a member of Math for Unbiased Maps Texas. My colleagues Dr. Potter and Dr. Barriero spoke earlier and described how to use ensembles of maps to detect objectionable gerrymandering by identifying maps that are outliers relative to baseline levels of natural partisan lean.

I want to look forward, and consider how these tools can be used in the current redistricting process, in which Texas will go from having 36 to 38 Congressional districts.

Our group has already created an ensemble of 400,000 possible US Congressional districting plans with 38 population-balanced districts, based on the recently-released 2020 Census data. On Slide 14 of the slide deck that our group has given the committee,

we summarize the “baseline” range of likely outcomes that one would expect from such maps, if voters were to vote as they did in the 2020 presidential election.

Of course, because redistricting has yet to occur, we don’t yet have a proposed districting map to compare against this ensemble data.

But as soon as a proposed map is publicly released we can use 2020 vote data from the Texas Legislative Council to almost instantly calculate what kind of results that map would lead to, and overlay the results of that calculation onto our ensemble for easy comparison. On slides 15 and 16, you can see that we are ready to go. As soon as we get access to a proposed map, we will quickly be able to show whether it honors the right of Texans to choose their legislators, or whether the legislators are trying to choose their voters. When we analyze a proposed map, we can graphically represent the results so that it is easy to identify problematic districts.

All of our work will be made publicly available on the internet, and the assumptions that go into our calculations will be made explicit so that anyone can check our work if they want to. I emphasize that our group is non-partisan. The ensemble used as a baseline in our work is generated by a random process that respects population balance and rules prohibiting unnecessary splitting of county lines, but is not guided by other factors.

The ensembles we have generated contain literally hundreds of thousands of different maps that have compact districts, that do not needlessly split up counties, and that don’t exhibit excessive partisan bias. My next colleague to speak will address how ensembling can also help flag possible Voting Rights Act violations. The point is, there are literally hundreds of thousands of good maps to choose from—maps that are not gerrymandered, and that make our democracy work better. We offer our services to help identify those maps that best serve the people of Texas.

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Scott Norris

Mathematicians for Unbiased Maps

Dallas, TX

My name is Dr. Scott Norris, from Dallas, TX. I am a mathematician here with Math For Unbiased Maps TX (or MUM-TX) – appropriate as our family just experienced our first high school homecoming! My grandfather served in the Minnesota Republican party, and assisted with redistricting after the 1980 census, so it is an honor to speak to you today.

Earlier my colleagues explained how ensemble sampling can provide baselines against which partisan electoral advantages can be quantified, to test for extreme gerrymandering. Ensemble sampling can also be used to help ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act. This is useful, because although the Supreme Court has established clear guidelines for satisfying Section 2 of the VRA, in practice it can be extremely difficult to determine compliance without extensive analysis.

As can be seen on slides 17-20 of our slide deck, ensemble sampling can help provide such analysis. In the same way that we previously generated baseline expectations for vote distributions across districts, we can also use these tools to create baseline expectations for racial and ethnic distributions. Proposed maps can be plotted along with the ensemble racial distributions across districts as a broad-brush approach for determining compliance to the requirement of minority opportunity districts in Section 2 of the VRA.

We know that compliance with the Voting Rights Act is only one of many competing factors that come into play when district maps are developed. Recognizing compliance to the VRA requirements is practically impossible without extensive statistical analysis. We offer our services to assist in this matter to help ensure that any enacted map best reflects both the demographics and political will of the citizens of Texas.

I’d like to conclude on a personal note. Having grown up in a small southern town of 25,000 people, attending a close-knit community church, and attending Friday night high school football games, I have noted the testimony of many fellow Texans from rural districts, and their concerns at the prospect of being “lumped in” with suburban and urban voters with different



lifestyles. I implore the committee to recognize that these are precisely the same concerns expressed to you today by Texans from more urban and minority regions! We may look different and live differently, but we all want the same thing – effective representation. Ensemble sampling can help provide this for all the varied communities within our great state, and MUM-TX is here to help.

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Brandilyn Stigler

Math for Unbiased Maps Texas (MUM\_TX)

Wylie, TX

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you remotely. My name is Dr Brandilyn Stigler, a resident of Collin County near Dallas, in US Congressional District 32. I am a mathematician and I am the final member of Math For Unbiased Maps Texas (MUM\_TX) to speak to you today. We have provided a slide deck to which I will refer throughout my time. You have heard from four of my colleagues from MUM\_TX about how to assess proposed redistricting plans using ensemble sampling analysis. Ensemble sampling gives us baselines against which we can objectively measure maps for partisan advantage, minority opportunity and compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Ensemble sampling is transparent. We are working on a code repository that anyone will be able to use to see for themselves our processes for generating ensembles and statistical analyses. Our results are replicable; the methods we use in our analyses can be used by anyone else to verify our conclusions.

Ensemble analysis of redistricting plans is reliable and easy to implement in practice. The computations can be done in a matter of hours on a standard laptop. It has already been used in a number of court cases, including cases in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, notably in the “Mathematicians’ Brief” before the Supreme Court in *Rucho vs. Common Cause* in 2019. On Slides 23 and 24 we highlight some of these cases.

In our brief time together today, we can share only a sample of our work. We have much more to share: we have ensemble analyses for the TX House, and TX Senate, as well as the US Congress, and we can also generate ensembles that preserve leave “communities of interest”. Please contact us at [mathforunbiasedmapstx@list.smu.edu](mailto:mathforunbiasedmapstx@list.smu.edu) to learn more. On slide 26, we have provided links to reports and software from other researchers who have studied the problem of gerrymandering from a mathematical and statistical point of view and have developed tools for assessing redistricting plans.

In the *Rucho* case, the majority stated that while “distasteful,” partisan gerrymandering was not up to the federal courts to resolve. Instead, Justice Roberts wrote, it was up to the legislatures. That means that it’s up to you. We urge you to use ensemble sampling as a tool to ensure that redistricting makes our government more, not less, accountable to voters. We stand ready to assist. On behalf of MUM\_TX we are grateful for your time and the opportunity to present our proposal of redistricting map assessment tools to you. Thank you.

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Elaine Campbell

Self - Precinct Chair 3011 - Deep Ellum

Dallas, TX

My name is Elaine Campbell - I am publicly changing my position to neutral since the maps are not available yet - I am a resident of Dallas Texas, the Precinct Chair of precinct 3011 - Deep Ellum which is currently in House District 108. HD108 does not align with my community and does not allow residents of Deep Ellum to be represented fairly. Keeping Deep Ellum in HD108 silences our Community and I ask that we are grouped with our Community of Interest which is House District 100.

I do also request a fair and transparent redistricting process and ask that any and all new maps are made public at least 14 days in advance and that additional virtual hearings are held to comment on the maps after we are allowed to see them.

I am testifying today to explain my community. Deep Ellum is a truly diverse community in every way, gender, race, economically, religion and family structure and we are very proud of that.

The high school that my community attends is in HD100, the parks that we walk to, the community center that provides services

for us, MLK, Jr. center and Health Care Center that supports us - Juanita J. Craft Center, the awesome BSW Wellness Center are all in HD100.

Fair Park, which we are able to walk to, I often go there to work because there is free wifi and beautiful Gazebo's to sit and work - that is our community and is in HD100 where we belong in order to be represented appropriately.

I am an election judge in HD100 as well as a VDR and Vice-Chair of the County Election Advisory Committee and know that many in my community vote in HD100. I am also a substitute teacher and sub in HD100 because that's my community.

These are the reasons that Deep Ellum used to be part of HD100 and is why I support the Crockett Map as Deep Ellum, precinct 3011 is a community of common interest with HD100

The Crockett Map, which I believe the Chairman has, resembles what HD100 looked like before the last redistricting cycles and keeps my community, Deep Ellum, rooted. My Community of Interest is HD100 and look forward to being redistricted back into my Community

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Carol Elder

Crazy Water Bottling and Famous Mineral Water Co.

Mineral Wells, TX

I am a life long resident, community advocate and business owner in Mineral Wells located in Palo Pinto, District 60, a rural district represented by Dr Glenn Rogers. I am adamantly opposed to any redistributing plan that would move Palo Pinto County into a larger, more urban district such as Parker county. Pairing Palo Pinto county's rural needs and vision with Parker county's urban growth plan and challenges would rob us of our voice in Austin. Our counties demographics, growth plans, needs and people could not be more different.

My husband, Scott and I chose to be small business owners and raise our family in a community with rural values and a strong sense of community. We have spent the past 22 years bringing back the history of Mineral Wells through the mineral waters. It has been a balancing act of preserving the rich history and heritage while also progressing with today's consumer needs. Mineral Wells is on a path unlike any other community in Texas. With our town undergoing extensive revitalization we need the support and voice of a Representative that understands and knows the opportunities and challenges that we are facing. Representative Dr Glenn Rogers has been and will continue to be instrumental in the continued success of Mineral Wells and Palo Pinto County.

We DO NOT want to be another urban community of DFW. We have a history and heritage we want preserved and if we are paired with an urban county our interests will be side lined to the larger population

As a freshman Representative, Dr Rogers has shown great promise as a public servant and dedicated to all of Texas. Dr Rogers understands and relates to the common farmer, rancher, businessman and parent. He has strong morals and work ethic and we as Texans cannot afford to lose his leadership.

I want to thank you for your consideration of my view points on the Redistricting of District 60.

Respectfully Yours,  
Carol Elder

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Genevieve Villa

Deeds Not Words UTEP

El Paso, TX

Hello, My name is Genevieve and I am a student at The University of Texas at El Paso. I am a #Changemaker with Deeds Not

Words and I live in El Paso, Texas. I am in support of fair and transparent redistricting. As a Hispanic single mother of two young daughters I want to ensure they are provided with the opportunity to be able to overcome the same economic and social barriers that have left women, like myself, living under the poverty line. This can only be done if my children, and the children in my community, are afforded resources that give them an equal chance at success. School funding, healthcare access, and community recreation centers all impact the community my children and I live in and how we are able to progress in our lives.

Texas has grown rapidly and a majority of this new growth is coming from young people of color. The U.S Census Data states that Texas has seen a 95 percent increase of Latino and Asian communities in the last 10 years. The type of representation that my community receives should reflect that. Redistricting will determine who speaks for my children, myself and my community for the next 10 years. If maps are drawn unfairly, my children, myself and the children of these new communities will not be adequately represented. We will remain unheard and unseen. Being heard when it comes to school funding is important as it provides our children the necessary resources to be able to succeed in their future life goals. Including extra curricular school programs such as dual language programs that will help these new communities adjust, creative arts, media, robotics, music and empowerment courses are all essential to ensuring our children have access to multiple opportunities regardless of income or family situations. If a politician is elected to my district, who does not share the same views as my community, our needs and wants will continue to be overlooked.

Proper representation would benefit the access my daughters receive through proper funding to our communities. Simple things like a shaded park in 100 degree weather or even one within walking distance would improve the quality of my children's lives and those in our community. Access to water fountains, bathrooms and dog parks would create a space that would allow our community to come together comfortably for longer periods of time.

Whether or not my daughters have the right to autonomy over their own body is something I fear for their futures. I would like to believe, in a city with a population of over 50.6 percent women, we would have the right to govern our own body. Without the correct representation, we are unable to speak on topics that are life changing to us.

Fair and transparent redistricting is important to me because my daughters and I need to be represented by someone who shares the same values and goals as we do. We need representation that will help benefit our community and give us the chance to succeed and have our voices heard.? Thank you

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