

From: rtruairf@gmail.com [<mailto:rtruairf@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Rachel Farris
Sent: Monday, July 08, 2013 5:50 PM
To: ICRC
Subject: Fwd: My idea on redistricting (and thanks)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kurth, Lynn** <Lynn.Kurth@tetratech.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 5, 2013 at 12:19 PM
Subject: My idea on redistricting (and thanks)
To: "rachel.t.farris@gmail.com" <rachel.t.farris@gmail.com>

Hi. Congrats on making the commission (I applied too – made the 60 – but that’s it) and congrats on your recent posting on HuffPost. Once I saw that, I was more thrilled you made the commission. Anyway, I have what I think is a brilliant (IMHO) suggestion for slicing up the new districts. I’d like to talk with you about it, if that’s appropriate, but I’ll give you the short version. My utmost motivation is to NOT dissect Austin into enclaves and cause more divisiveness, and to not cause outlier enclaves that don’t care about Downtown Austin. So, picture a wagon wheel with the center circle being Downtown. Then wagon spokes going out. You all could spin the wheel to keep neighborhoods intact, pop size equal, whatever. But that way everyone abuts downtown and should care about what happens to it (ie light rail, etc.). My hope for this concept is that it also keeps each district somewhat diverse within itself. I think carving out “Hispanic,” etc., districts is actually less inclusive and too prescriptive – isn’t designating “Hispanic” neighborhoods what we are trying to get away from – the old keeping “minorities on the East side” mentality? Also, if all neighborhoods are not able to be kept intact, people will scream, but they should stop and realize that they may actually be able to get more than one council member – not such a bad thing.

Thanks for letting me say my piece – not sure how else to get my opinion in there. Good luck and thanks for your willingness to serve your community!! (Also, on a completely different note – have you heard of Leadership Austin yet? You are the perfect candidate for several of our programs.)

Lynn Kurth | Principal Scientist

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