

Sammy Easterday Coronado Hills Neighborhood

Thank you for this opportunity and thank you for your commitment to work for an equitable distribution of districts conforming to your governing regulations.

You have been and will continue to be presented with various redistricting maps drawn up by groups often with the intention of preserving a given geographical neighborhood. Many of the maps may not meet your mandated standards.

I am here to urge you to determine districts based on populations and reasonable neighborhood boundaries. **This would preclude manmade obstacles such as IH35 as a dividing line between east and west Austin. Please do not perpetuate dividing our city, or further polarize our various communities within this city by using unnatural barriers to real community.**

Much has been said and written and more will come regarding empowering or disenfranchising various minorities or populations. This will not happen if you act in conformity to your legislated mandate. We need to look towards districts that unite us rather than polarize us by ethnicity or any other artificial barriers created historically or currently. **We all need now to be concerned about what unites our neighborhoods rather than believe our particular neighborhood, culture or ethnicity is more important than equality for all in our city. We do not need to perpetuate polarization.**