

Dear Mr. Tounget,

Please add my interest to the citizen input bank.

I have lived in Austin since 1969. My childhood in Northwest Hills, college and beyond in near East Austin and south Clarksville, the last 23 years in Travis Heights. I voted for the 10-1 plan, recognizing that being fairly represented and giving voice to the suburban neighborhoods is a good thing for local government. I am currently in US Congressman Lamar Smith's district. He does not represent me in the true sense of the word. The voices of the citizens in precinct 421 and other Travis County precincts were purposely squelched by the Texas Legislature's redistricting process. This process purposely disenfranchised me and other Travis County citizens.

The publicized map seems thoughtless and mean and makes me feel disenfranchised on the local level. The publicized ICRC map splits my immediate neighborhood into 2 different districts. This makes me think that the districts are being drawn by people who are interested in just completing the assignment and not in crafting districts that support neighborhoods and enrich the civic discourse in local government.

I support Lorraine Atherton's maps for Compact Districts in Austin, as it answers the charter requirements for this new way of electing City Council members while maintaining the strength of traditional neighborhoods.

While no map will ever make every single person happy, I hope that the commissioners in the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission will seriously study Lorraine Atherton's map and consider the harmony of Austin's traditional neighborhoods when drawing the final map.

I don't envy your job, but there is a way to come out it with some pride that the commissioners were thoughtful, sensitive, and judicious by drawing district boundaries that make sense to new and long-term Austinites alike.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Byrd