

Mr. Tounget,

I would like to make a comment on the Proposed Final Map of Austin City Council Voting Districts.

I know that the task of drawing new voting districts is complex, difficult, and politically charged. I appreciate the efforts that the Commission has made and generally agree with the product for most of the areas. I also strongly support the concept of City Council districts in Austin and believe it was the right thing for the voters to do.

I do want to point out one particular area in which I am confused by the choice of boundary and take issue with it. My wife and I own and reside at our home at 5109 Brookdale Ln. near the intersection of Manor Road and East 51st street. The Proposed Final Map indicates that we would be included in District 1 of the proposed voting districts. Looking at the three-way intersection of Districts 1, 4 & 9 shows a pattern that is not generally exhibited in many of the district boundaries, which is a "bite" out of District 4 using small residential roads, to include my home and those of our neighbors in a District that is generally separated from ours by collector and arterial roads and which differs from our neighborhood significantly and stretches as far as the City of Manor.

If you walk the streets of my neighborhood, you would find a distinct economic and demographic boundary along East 51st Street and Manor Road, two arterial streets that form natural dividing lines between neighborhoods and communities. When we walk our dogs and go to neighbors' houses for parties, dinners, and social gatherings, we go to Singing Brook, Sunny Brook, Peacedale, as well as to our own street Brookdale and the next street over Robinsdale. We generally head west, into Bartholomew Park and the areas around us that feel and look like our neighborhood. We do not cross the busy streets of 51st and Manor into unfamiliar areas with significantly different communities.

If the idea is representative government, which I believe it is, I think any brief walk through our neighborhood or conversation with a resident would result in a conclusion that **a much more logical southeastern boundary of District 4 would be for it to continue along Westminster to Manor, and from that intersection south to 51st**, including my home and those of my immediate neighbors with the rest of our neighborhood and our greater community, rather than with those unfamiliar areas of the City of Manor, Loyola Lane, Springdale, and East MLK. Thank you for your time in considering my comment.

Dennis Lozano, P.E.