

## Testify at a House Redistricting Hearing

You can submit written testimony and email testimony to the Committee:

To sign up to testify, use this link:

### PRO TIPS: Make the most of your TWO minutes!

- **Prepare.** Practice what you're going to say before you arrive. DO NOT WING IT.
- **Use the KISS Rule:** Keep it simple, Sally

## My Testimony for the Redistricting Hearing

### A. Thank the Committee and tell them your name and if you represent yourself or a group.

**EXAMPLE:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm here to represent myself.

### B. Describe your district and community.

**EXAMPLE:**

I live in the \_\_\_\_\_ area of Dallas. My neighborhood is close to \_\_\_\_\_ school, where most of the kids speak English and Spanish. Our community has grown a lot in the last 10 years, but our leadership is the same.

**EXAMPLE:**

I live in Dallas County. The population of my area has exploded;, I understand that we may get a new congressional seat.

### C. Why is gerrymandering harmful to you?

**EXAMPLE:**

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

**EXAMPLE:** I care about addressing gun violence and believe we should expand Medicaid. Neither of these issues have been addressed. Instead, we've had special sessions about bathrooms. I don't get it. People in my district and across the state want solutions not more division.

**EXAMPLE:** I worry about how divided we are as a country. Gerrymandering and map manipulation only make the problem worse.

## **D. What do you want from your elected leaders?**

**EXAMPLE:** I ask that in future you hold hearings with 2 weeks notice before hearings and a less cumbersome process to register to testify virtually. I went through a series of steps to appear before you today including - finding the unpublicized hearing on the state website, finding the hearing announcement, using a link in the announcement to sign up, waiting to hear from a committee clerk to send me an affidavit, printing out that form, signing it, taking a picture of the form with my camera phone, sending it to the Committee Clerk, and waiting again for the zoom link. I did all of that just to sign up. The impact of redistricting on our state lasts for a decade, given the gravity of the process - the hoops I had to jump here to be here seem to cut out millions of people who will have to live with the results of your work.

**EXAMPLE:** I ask that the Committee draw maps that are fair, competitive, and represent ALL Texans.

**EXAMPLE:** I ask that you work to end map manipulation and gerrymandering.

## **E. Thank the Committee and wait to be excused.**