

uncomfortable things. Uncomfortable things like whether it should be the purpose of politics to dominate other people... or is it to find common cause for creating a healthier community, healthier communities.

I have no doubt that most of the people in the Texas Legislature follow the first premise to dominate. And this should not be unexpected, since the domination principle has been in existence in earnest with our redistricting process. Unfortunately, this domination principle is not healthy for our public policy.

Unfortunately, incumbents often rig the system to benefit themselves, their party and special interest supporters, manipulating voting maps to dictate the outcome of elections. Two sources of discrimination in voting maps are partisan gerrymandering and electoral systems that under-represent most of us. The dysfunctional result is mistrust and bad public policies that intentionally ignore the will of the people.

So, as this Redistricting effort unfolds, I have little doubt that the redistricting effort will be about domination with the intention to create more “zig-zag” districts. Of little concern will be how much this pre-ordained process may hurt Texans. Instead of dividing a county into like six different senatorial districts, or 6 different federal representative electoral districts, as has been done in

Texas, maybe we could have districts that enhance communities of interest in a more compact geographic fashion. Compact communities might elect leaders who will work together to heal the vestiges of unfair domination that have plagued Texas for hundreds of years.

Seems like instead of working on healing, we just want to continue the injuries, and unfair domination. We do not have to continue this pattern willy-nilly into the future. If we do continue this behavior without some constructive reflection, some loving reflection, we may not have a future.

One of the methods for ending this fundamental structural redistricting domination battle is called redistricting commissions, a notion that has been popularized by such organizations as the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and other non-partisan and partisan groups. It is really very simple. Compact communities have a better chance to begin the process of healing the distrust that we have had for each other going back generations. It may not be easy, but it would seem to be the better choice.

A Redistricting Commission, whether it be non-partisan or even partisan, would be a whole lot better than what we have now. Rather than have the redistricting

process go on behind closed doors, the standards would be public and the work largely public.

I, and others like me, will be watching what this Legislature does with the new census data. Many of us do not have a lot of faith that the result will be fair districts. Democracy works best when our voting maps are fairly drawn to ensure that Texans can participate equally in the election of their representatives.

People should understand that the redistricting failure has been intentional. With luck, with the next election cycle, new faces will arise that do not desire to thwart the will of most of us.

Tim Mahoney: "Speaking Truth to Power"

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(1:30.14 -- 1:35.00 minutes into the 3:08:55 presentation)



Tim Mahoney: "Speaking Truth to Power"



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The Hearing Recording Message: *Texas Redistricts Should be Compact and Redrawn in 2023 with the New Texas Legislature*

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Four minutes of testimony, 1:30.14 minutes into the
3:08:55 presentation

Presentation to the Texas House Redistricting Committee on May 1, 2021

My name is Tim Mahoney, and I want to thank the Chairman and members of the House Redistricting Committee for allowing me to speak to you today.

I received my master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs in 1983. My Master's paper was a statistical study of municipal voting patterns which resulted in a new theory of the political spectrum and voter behavior.

It was not until years later that I figured out that my master's paper was more appropriate as a doctoral thesis because we really do not like to think about