

**EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF
REDISTRICTED #FAIRMAPS IN ALABAMA**

Example #2

By Stephanie Barnett, CROWD Fellow

[Written for Madison County, AL. Adapt to your county's/community's issues.]

TO:

Permanent Legislative Committee on Reapportionment

ATTN:

Donna Overton Loftin, Supervisor, Legislative Reapportionment Office

donna.overton@alsenate.gov

[or in person or virtually at a public hearing]

My name is _____. I have lived in _____ in Madison County for _____ years. The growing population of Huntsville/Madison County from approximately 185,000 to 215,000 since the last census, while other cities/counties have shrunk, demands a close look at how we will get fair representation in the State Legislature and the State Senate. It is only fair that each person and each vote will have the same share of power. Thus, a new district map based on the 2020 census must account for shrinking areas of the state vs. our growing population in Huntsville/Madison County.

1. North Alabama should have additional House and Senate representation.
2. Keeping communities together is a standard philosophy of fair maps. A county can be considered as a community. However, in Alabama, House Districts 6, 22, and 25 cross county lines between Madison County, Limestone County and Jackson County. This can be considered gerrymandering.

A community should not be governed by two counties/local governments. When it needs advocacy or resources, it has to go to two different state legislators, who may have more allegiance to one county than the other. This is seen as a disadvantage in power.

It is only fair that the redistricting committee identify a configuration of districts that will stop splitting our communities and diluting our votes. We only have a chance every 10 years. We respectfully ask that you take the opportunity before us to erase the gerrymandering of the past.

We could keep communities whole with something more like the following. It matters how you slice the pie!