

[REDACTED]

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I am writing to correct a comment I submitted Aug 7, 2025.

In my haste to submit my thoughts before the hearing ended, I incorrectly copied the number of majority-CVAP districts into my comment. Here are my amended comments regarding Harris County:

1. My analysis shows that an unbiased map should have 7 districts where non-Anglo voters make up a majority of voting age citizens (i.e. "CVAP"); the proposed map has only 5 (as does the current map).
2. In the current map, Hispanic CVAP is concentrated in district 29; in the proposed map HCVAP voters are split into district 29 and district 9.
3. In the current map, Black CVAP is substantial in both districts 9 and 18; in the proposed map, Black voters have been packed into 18. This packing is wholly unnecessary, as Black voters were already able to elect candidates of their choice in districts 9 and 18.

The treatment of Congressional District 9 deserves special consideration here:

1. CD9 is a new district, amalgamating pieces of 2, 36, and especially a big chunk of 29, the current Hispanic opportunity district.
2. The Hispanic areas are more Democratic but also have lower turnout
3. Within new CD9, Hispanic CVAP is highly correlated with BOTH the Democratic voting percent and turnout percent.
4. This correlation is larger than in any of the constituent districts that contribute.
5. This suggests the map drawers deliberately joined (a) high-turnout non-Hispanic precincts and (b) low-turnout Hispanic precincts, to ensure Hispanic voters do NOT elect their preferred candidate, despite constituting a numerical majority. This is vote dilution.

I have yet to perform an ecological inference analysis to confirm that there is racially polarized voting in this region but I feel pretty sure what it will show. At a minimum, lawmakers should not be passing maps without doing this analysis and thinking carefully about the results. This has clearly not happened, or if it has happened, it has been behind closed doors out of the public's eye. This only highlights the absurdity of a process wherein a single map, which will reallocate political power in a state of 30 million people, is proposed, "debated", and possibly passed within a week or two.

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