

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-25
First Name: Andy
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I was raised in Texas (what is now US-6 Rep Ellzey's district and TX-2 Senator Hall's) and have chosen to put roots down here as an adult to give back to the great state that raised me. I am a state employee at one of our state agencies and a member of TSEU. I now live in the new US-35 (Casar) and TX-21 (Dean Zaffirini). As a public servant, I know while much of the work you do is in the public eye, much is also behind the scenes and goes unthanked so thank you for being here and listening. Also as a public servant, let me remind you that you do not work for the governor let alone the president. You and I work for, represent, and are paid by the people, and you in particular have your jobs at their (our) will. Do not forget that your voice, your seat, is not your own. It is ours.

I am aware that comments and testimony at this time must be considered neutral, but please hear loud and clear that I am AGAINST any redistricting at this unprecedented time, mid-decade, with no new census data, simply at the "concern" of the president. This does not make sense. The only reason this is happening is because of a flimsy DOJ letter that we can reasonably assume is a result of the president's very public desire to obtain additional republican seats in Texas. And many legal and advocacy professionals have already testified on the record about the errors of this letter.

Even if this were not the source of the letter, the solution to these "concerns" is not immediate redistricting mid-decade without new census data; the solution ought to be investigating the "concern" to find out if it even has backing. After all, the letter does not require anything and even the call from the governor to address it in special session is not a charge to redistrict. It is not fair to the people to rush redistricting within a matter of weeks and expect them to be able to participate in a process that normally requires months in a regular session.

I also heard on the senate floor Monday about whether the redistricting process has been or should be "race blind." And I heard from Chair King and others that redistricting should only be about party lines, which was surprising and distressing to me. The Legislature and Congress should be about EQUAL representation, not a competition between parties for seats. If representation were actually fair and equal, it would be race AND party blind. It would represent our population in the geographies and communities that already exist. The Independent Voter Project estimates that of the 18 million odd registered voters in Texas, ~47% vote dem and ~38 vote republican (with remaining "unaffiliated," as you know we don't register to a party here). Which begs the question why Dems are so outnumbered at the State and federal level?

So please: gather the info you must to answer the governor's call, address the DOJ's "concern,"

but do NOT redistrict when unwarranted, and when there are more pressing items on the governor's agenda.

