

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-29

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Title: STOP THE STEAL! HANDS OFF OUR DISTRICTS

Organization: WHEELER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Written Testimony of Rev. Dr. Angela Ravin-Anderson

Public Hearing on Redistricting | July 29, 2025

I am Rev. Dr. Angela Ravin-Anderson, leader of the Social Justice Ministry of the historic Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, located in the Third Ward of Houston, Texas and in Congressional District 18. I live in Congressional District 9, and my business is also located in District 18.

I write today in defense of democracy and dignity.

During the American Revolution, our foreparents declared a simple yet profound truth: “No taxation without representation.” That cry was not merely about taxes—it was about power, voice, and justice. It was a declaration that the people—not the privileged few—should shape the future of this nation.

This is a democracy. We decided a long time ago that no king—no one person, no ruling class—would govern over us. We would govern ourselves, through fair and free representation. That’s why the current efforts to redraw Congressional Districts 18 and 9 and other coalition districts like them are deeply troubling. These districts are more than lines on a map—they are legacies.

District 18 is sacred ground. It gave us the thunderous voice of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan—the first Black woman elected to Congress from the South. It gave us Mickey Leland, who fought hunger around the world while advocating for justice at home. And it has been powerfully served for nearly three decades by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a fierce defender of civil rights and dignity for all people.

District 9, equally, is a district of resilience, advocacy, and truth—a district that reflects the voices of everyday working-class people who deserve to be seen, heard, and respected. These communities have consistently stood up for what is right, not only for themselves but for the good of Texas and the nation.

Let’s be clear: Every line that is drawn in redistricting determines more than political

boundaries—it determines the allocation of resources, access to quality of healthcare, access to education, infrastructure, safety, and the protection of civil rights. These lines tell us who matters and who is allowed to thrive.

We also recognize a troubling pattern: when those in power cannot win fairly, they attempt to change the rules. Whether through voter suppression laws, intimidation at the polls, or unfair redistricting—this is nothing more than modern-day disenfranchisement. And it must be called out for what it is: a direct threat to democracy. This power grab is a racist manipulation rooted in fear and greed.

As a person of faith, I am reminded of Psalm 12:5, where God declares:
“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the Lord. “I will protect them from those who malign them.”
Let this be a reminder to all in authority: God sees. The people see. And we will not be silent.

We pay taxes. We serve this country. We build its economy. We vote. And we demand what we have earned—representation.

So I close with this call, rooted in history, legacy, and moral resolve:
STOP THE STEAL. Hands off our districts. Let the people choose their leaders—not the other way around.



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