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Regarding: Congressional

Message:

**\*\*Public Comment on Redistricting  
in the DFW Region\*\***  
\*Submitted to the Texas Senate  
Committee on Redistricting\*

Dear Members of the Senate,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment regarding the redistricting process in the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex. As a resident of North Texas, I urge this committee to ensure that the maps drawn reflect the region’s growth, diversity, and the constitutional right of every Texan to fair representation.

### Historical and Legal Context

Texas has a long history of redistricting challenges based on racial discrimination. In *\*Shelby County v. Holder\** (2013), the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the preclearance formula of the Voting Rights Act, but not before Texas had been required to seek federal approval for every redistricting plan since 1970 due to repeated violations of minority voting rights.[1] Even post-*\*Shelby\**, federal courts have found that Texas maps

intentionally discriminated against voters of color—most recently in *\*Perez v. Abbott\**, where a three-judge panel concluded that the Legislature acted with discriminatory intent in redrawing districts in 2011.

[2]

Despite 95% of Texas’s population growth from 2010 to 2020 coming from communities of color,[3] the 2021 maps added no new majority-minority districts. Senate District 10 in Tarrant County, once a coalition district where Black, Latino, and Asian American voters successfully elected a candidate of choice, was redrawn in a way that weakened those voters’ influence.[4] Federal courts have scrutinized this change, though the maps remain in place pending ongoing litigation.

[5]

#### ### Representation Matters

Splitting cohesive neighborhoods in DFW—such as parts of Fort Worth, Arlington, and Garland—into multiple districts reduces the voting power of those communities. Similarly, packing large minority populations into single districts prevents them from building coalitions or influencing multiple elections. These tactics, often referred to as racial gerrymandering, are not just undemocratic—they’re illegal under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and continue to spark costly lawsuits that Texans pay for.

The result is frustration, lower civic engagement, and reduced responsiveness to local needs.

#### ### Call for Fair Process and Maps

As you carry out this critical process, I respectfully ask the committee to:

- \* Restore and protect coalition districts, such as SD10, where diverse communities have worked together to elect leaders who reflect their values.
- \* Avoid tactics like “cracking” and “packing” that diminish the voices of voters of color.
- \* Provide timely, accessible public hearings—ideally with evening or weekend options and sufficient notice—to ensure meaningful participation from working Texans.[6]
- \* Honor public commitments made by elected officials who have called for fairness and transparency in the redistricting process.[7]

Texas is changing. North Texas in particular is one of the most diverse and rapidly growing regions in the nation. Our redistricting process should reflect that reality—upholding the principle of one person, one vote—and ensure that every Texan has an equal opportunity to shape their future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dalton Ortega  
Plano, Collin, Texas

#### ### Footnotes

[1]: *\*Shelby County v. Holder\**, 570 U.S. 529 (2013). Texas was previously subject to preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act due to repeated voting rights violations.

[2]: *\*Perez v. Abbott\**, 250 F. Supp. 3d 123 (W.D. Tex. 2017). The court found that the Texas Legislature had acted with discriminatory intent in crafting 2011 maps.

[3]: U.S. Census Bureau (2020); Texas Tribune, July 11, 2025:

“95% of Texas’ growth over the last decade came from people of color.”

[4]: See [Texas Tribune, July 11, 2025] (<https://www.texastribune.org/2025/07/11/texas-redistricting-racial-gerrymandering-coalition-districts-trump/>) on the dismantling of coalition districts like SD10 and the resulting litigation.

[5]: \*LULAC v. Abbott\*, ongoing federal litigation filed by civil rights organizations in 2021, consolidated in 2022, continues to challenge Texas' 2021 maps under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

[6]: Testimonies during the 2021 redistricting cycle documented complaints of hearings held with little notice, during work hours, and without interpreters or disability accommodations.

[7]: Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and other legislative leaders pledged during the 2021 redistricting session to "ensure a fair and transparent process" (Senate Redistricting Committee hearings, September 2021).

[REDACTED]