

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-08-06  
First Name: Gayle  
Last Name: Kanies  
Title: N/A  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Committee Members for providing an opportunity for voters to provide input to the newly released maps drawn by the House Redistricting Committee. I am representing myself and my name is Gayle Kanies. I have lived in Texas for 20 years and am retired. In the 2021 redistricting I was moved from District 10 to District 37. I was thrilled, as this put me in a District comprised of individuals in Austin who share my community of interest.

Unfortunately, it is deeply troubling that that I have been moved back to District 10 in the 2025 maps. This district includes many rural communities that extend 211 miles to the east of my home. In Travis County the population is 1.3M and the average population in the other counties in my district is 49K and the median size is 29K.

Consequently, the issues I experience are very different from the other counties in my District and my interests are ignored. Just to attend a town hall hosted by my representative on average I would need to drive over 100 miles where today I can drive 15 miles.

Texans usually look out for one another—except, it seems, when politicians draw district lines. It’s disheartening to see maps designed to silence voters instead of empowering them. Freedom means ensuring every Texan has a voice, regardless of political affiliation.

My key concerns include:

1. My North Austin neighborhood is again grouped with rural counties that do not share my community interests. When I was previously in District 10, my representative did not respond to my concerns. I felt unrepresented.
2. The purpose of HB 4 redistricting is solely political to get more Republicans elected to Congress. This has been reiterated by the Governor and the President. Priority is given to what Washington wants over Texas citizens.
3. At the same time this proposal is trying to disguise illegal racial gerrymandering as political gerrymandering since the proposal would increase Republican representation by 5 seats by taking away representation from communities of color.
4. Extreme packing and cracking further dilute fair representation and ignore the reality of where and how Texans live today.
5. Despite 95% of Texas’s recent population growth being in communities of color, the map increases majority-white districts.

Texas must still abide by Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth Amendment. This proposed map ignores public input and takes away representation from Texans of color and urban and suburban communities. Freedom should mean the freedom for every Texan to be heard not just those of a certain political leaning.

I urge you to stop this effort to redraw the maps for political purposes only rather than to address a change in population from census information.

Thank-you!

