

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-08-06
First Name: Jo Beth
Last Name: Krankel
Title: n/a
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Elgin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

From an article from Rep John Bucy III "A fight for Austin's future, not political theater."

On Sunday, I joined Texas Democrats on a flight to Chicago — not to run from a fight, but to protect my community from a dangerous and coordinated power grab.

Gov. Greg Abbott, at the explicit request of President Donald Trump, has called a special session of the Legislature with one priority: redraw Texas' congressional maps and rig the 2026 election by handing Trump five more Republican seats in Congress.

Trump didn't just influence the process. He initiated it. He asked Abbott to rig the maps, and Abbott responded, "How fast?"

Now they're trying to do it in just 30 days — quietly, while many Texans aren't tuned in to what's happening at the state Capitol. There's no new census data. No court order. No constitutional mandate. This isn't redistricting — it's desperation.

And Austin is directly in their crosshairs.

Under the proposed maps, two of our most effective progressive representatives, Lloyd Doggett and Greg Casar, are drawn into the same district. Communities that have stood together for decades are being sliced apart. One new district stretches from North Austin nearly to the Texas-New Mexico border, a five-hour drive.

Republicans claim they're making the maps more "compact." But anyone who's ever driven in Texas knows that's a joke.

Let's be honest: They can't win in Austin on ideas, so they're trying to erase us from the map.

Austin is one of the fastest-growing, most dynamic and most inclusive cities in the country — and that terrifies Trump Republicans. They've targeted our city budget. Attacked our LGBTQ+ kids. Blocked our ability to raise wages or protect our environment. And now they're trying to silence our voice in Congress.

All while our community is still reeling from tragedy.

Just weeks ago, Central Texas experienced catastrophic flooding. On July 4, more than 130 Texans died. A cabin of eight-year-old girls was swept away in the middle of the night. Emergency systems failed. Families are still grieving and rebuilding. If ever there was a reason to call a special session — that was it.

But instead of dedicating this session to emergency preparedness and disaster relief, Abbott made redistricting his top priority.

So far, the Legislature has held eight hearings on redistricting — and only two on flooding. That's not just misguided. It's offensive.

We tried everything: We testified in hearings. We called for transparency. We asked for negotiations. But when the governor made it clear that this session would be about silencing voters, we used the last tool we had left: breaking quorum.

This is not political theater. This is a fight for Austin's future.

I ran for office to represent people — not to help a president with the lowest approval rating in decades handpick voters to stay in power. Trump doesn't want to build an agenda that works for America. He wants to build a Congress that works for him. And if he can gerrymander five seats out of Texas, he'll think he can get away with it anywhere.

When Republicans can't win fairly, they cheat. When voters reject their agenda, they change the rules. If we let them succeed here, we're inviting more of the same across the country.

So on Sunday, I left.

Not because I wanted to. Because I had to. Because Austin deserves better than this. Because democracy works only if voters choose their leaders, not the other way around.

And that's why I'll keep fighting until every Austinite, every Texan, and every American has the freedom to be heard.

Rep. John Bucy III is a Democrat whose district includes parts of northwest Austin, Round Rock and Cedar Park.

