

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-08-07

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

This redistricting initiative is a move to silence the voices of African American and LatinX Texans. Gerrymandering creates less incentive for lawmakers to respond to what voters want and undermines democracy by letting legislators, who are supposed to be democratically elected, choose their voters instead. For many years, my East Austin neighborhood was included in an Italy shaped district, # 25, and was represented by Roger Williams, a car salesman from Arlington. The district boundaries ran from the Dallas area, all the way down through central Austin. I continuously felt politically invisible and unrepresented in this state, and as a Texas public school educator for the past 35 years, honored to serve our community for the greater good, alongside fire fighters, police officers, and medical professionals, has felt particularly frustrating.

Gerrymandered districts are almost never competitive. Candidates feel more beholden to party leaders and their funders than they do to their constituents. Texas is a prime example of the ill effects of gerrymandering, as a party can win the majority of votes in a state, but end up with only a small minority of the legislative seats because for years, the Republicans have controlled the last remapping.

Research supports that geographic districting lends an advantage to the GOP. That's because Democratic voters tend to cluster in urban districts and Republicans in the more numerous rural ones. There are more democratic voters in urban districts for many reasons, one of which is that democratic lawmakers have historically been more supportive of family, woman, and worker friendly policies. In urban areas, we live, work, have conversations, and play with our neighbors, which typically represent a wide diversity of cultures and lived experiences. This leads to enhanced empathy, care, and motivation to support one another. In the words of the great Jim Hightower, Everyone Does Better When Everyone Does Better.

Despite one of the largest natural disasters in modern Texas history, Republicans are making Trump directed redistricting their priority. It should be flood first! Every citizen should have a right to be heard. Citizens should be able to elect someone to represent them in Congress, who can related to their lived experiences, be accessible, and accountable.

Do not draw and quarter Texas communities! Let's support a government of the people, by the people, and for the people! Not one dictated by one person.

Kelli Kirk  
Austin, Texas [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]