

Date: 2025-07-25

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Ruiz

Title: NA

Organization: self

Address:

City: Dallas

State: TX

Zipcode:

Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

1. Redistricting to dilute urban Democratic votes undermines representative democracy

- The core principle of representative democracy is “one person, one vote”, established by Reynolds v. Sims (1964), ensuring that legislative districts are roughly equal in population and represent genuine community interests.
- When the Texas government redraws districts specifically to limit Democratic urban power, it distorts fair representation and nullifies the political will of large populations in cities like Houston, Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio.

—

2. Historical context shows redistricting has been used as a tool for racial and partisan discrimination

- Texas has a documented history of gerrymandering to suppress minority voters, who often align with the Democratic Party. For

example:

- In Shelby County v. Holder (2013), the Supreme Court struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act, removing Texas from federal preclearance, after which Texas immediately implemented strict voter ID laws and attempted district maps later struck down by federal courts for racial discrimination (2017 rulings).
- In 2017, federal judges ruled that Texas’ congressional and House maps intentionally discriminated against Latino and Black voters to minimize their electoral influence.

—

3. Harmful consequences for governance and public trust

- Reduced political accountability: Gerrymandering creates “safe seats” for the party in power, making representatives less responsive to constituent needs, as they do not fear electoral consequences.
- Polarization increases: Districts drawn to favor one party eliminate competitive elections, leading to more extreme candidates and policies, reducing bipartisan cooperation.
- Loss of public trust: When voters believe district maps are manipulated to predetermine outcomes, it breeds cynicism and

disengagement, weakening civic participation.

4. Cities are economic engines and deserve proportional representation

- Urban areas like Houston and Dallas generate the majority of Texas' GDP through energy, technology, health care, and trade.
 - Diluting their political power ignores their crucial contributions and undermines policies needed for infrastructure, public health, housing, and economic growth that sustain Texas as a global economic leader.
-

5. Undermining democracy affects Texas' national reputation and legal standing

- Texas risks federal intervention and costly lawsuits over unconstitutional maps, diverting resources from public services to legal defense.
 - Systematic disenfranchisement can harm Texas' business climate and attractiveness to talent, as companies and professionals increasingly seek states with inclusive and stable political systems.
-

Conclusion

Redistricting to limit Democratic cities in Texas is harmful to democracy because it:

- Violates equal representation.
- Continues a historical pattern of discriminatory gerrymandering.
- Reduces public trust in elections.
- Weakens governance by silencing economic and demographic power centers.
- Risks legal challenges that waste taxpayer money and damage the state's credibility.

A robust democracy should encourage competitive elections and fair representation, not manipulate maps for partisan gain. This ensures policies reflect the genuine needs of all Texans and protects the legitimacy of government by the people.

