

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-26
First Name: Meg
Last Name: Barnes
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Meg Barnes. I live in northside Houston in the 29th congressional district where we've been very well represented by Sylvia Garcia since 2018.

There's an old saying, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Well, this is most certainly not our first rodeo.

In 2002, after a Republican electoral sweep, Governor Rick Perry and House majority leader Tom Delay introduced legislation to redraw the districts "mid-decade" after the 2000 census map was drawn. If you don't remember Mr. Delay, let me remind you he was convicted of money laundering and election tampering in 2010. His appeal was upheld, so nothing was ever concluded, but you could certainly say he had his own agenda.

Then in 2006, Justice Department lawyers concluded that their plan violated the Voting Rights Act. They found that Republican lawmakers were aware it posed a high risk of being ruled discriminatory and proceeded with it anyway. As a result, another "mid-decade" redistricting had to be enacted.

I lived in Harris County in the Katy area at the time. Our congressional district ran along the "bacon strip". It stretched from western Harris County all the way out to East Austin. This was for the purpose of diluting the Latin-American, possibly Democratic votes with the primarily Republican-leaning Katy votes. As one of the lonely Democrats of Katy, I perhaps should have appreciated the help? But no, I resented the redistricting for using my neighborhood as a tool.

We need fair maps that reflect population and geography as was originally intended. But no lessons have been learned. We had redistricting battles in 2011 and in 2019. In fact, that one isn't even over yet!

And now, here we are in 2025, repeating the same insanity. Please just stop.

[REDACTED]