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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Members of this Committee. My name is Randy Purham, I am a member of the State Republican Executive Committee for Senate District 21, Precinct Chair for Precinct 422 in Travis County, and I am a Consultant and Campaign Manager for two US Congressional campaigns - 35 and 37. I am testifying for myself.

For over 60 years gerrymandering and political consolidation of communities with minority populations have been subjected to being forced into district lines that consolidated voters under the assumption that they belong to a political party. What is often overlooked is that not everyone in these communities support assuming party and would like to have choices when they go to the ballot when they want to have their voices heard - too often it is not the case. Often opposing parties don't run candidates because of the improbability or unlikelihood of winning; stripping voters of choice.

Making districts competitive or

shifting the political strongholds gives voters a choice and a chance for change. With these new maps that opportunity is existential. Down in the RGV (Rio Grande Valley) where a majority of my district lies saw dramatic shifts in political affiliation and voting sentiment.

District 35 and 37 have been rigged up for years locking in minorities to vote a certain way without choice or a voice. If political parties are confident in their policies and their platforms then how the lines are drawn should not matter - they will win if they have a winning message.

So goes Texas, so goes the nation. It's time to give people a voice and the opportunity to run campaigns and win elections based on their merits and not their skin color. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

