

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-26
First Name: Susan
Last Name: Barnes
Title: Citizen and reliable voter
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

So many citizens have already made excellent points about the craven and deeply undemocratic nature of redistricting plan. I am adding my voice to the chorus. As a Texan whose family has been here since before Texas was a republic, I am disgusted. I love my State, but I see its deep flaws. We are backsliding and both greed and cowardice are to blame.

We have a history of gerrymandering. We seceded from the union because we wanted to keep fueling our economy with enslaved labor. As Reconstruction ended, we quickly found a way to disenfranchise Black citizens. We held white primaries until the Supreme Court deemed them unconstitutional in *Smith v. Wainwright* in 1944. Our gerrymanders have morphed into increasingly grotesque shapes, particularly since the early 2000s. All Texans should possess true representation in Congress and yet fewer do now than did 25 years ago.

The latest redistricting effort is coming from a president who is deeply unpopular and fears accountability. Our governor is has already worked with the president to deny representation to the TX-18th since the untimely death of Sylvester Turner. The manner in which this majority Black district has been denied representation harkens back to the days before LBJ signed the Voting Rights Act. It is cruel and deeply undemocratic. Mid-decade redistricting at a time when our current maps are still under court review seems like a move you might make if you think your side will never lose power.

“Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear.” -Harry Truman, 1950
This whole effort is shameful. Stop it now and focus your time to helped Central Texas recover from the floods.

[REDACTED]

