

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-31

First Name: Thomas

Last Name: Allen

Title: N/A

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Lancaster

State: Texas

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I have been a lifelong resident of the area now described within the limits of the 30th Congressional District. I was in the 6th Congressional District, then briefly in the 3rd, then the 24th, then the 30th. I have been active in every facet of elections, from voter identification to phone banking, to door-to-door literature distribution, to get out the vote calling, to election judge, to poll watcher. I understand that, as population grows, district boundaries have to change to accommodate proportionate representation.

As a former precinct chairman and election judge, I had to oftentimes explain to voters why their polling locations had changed. I looked for official maps that would make it clear to voters where the boundaries of their representative districts were. It took considerable effort to do so.

The local election authorities didn't always get it right. When I was running for city council, I was calling my voters and discovered for the first time, after early voting had already started, that people were wrongly assigned to my council district. Then, when I was serving as a poll watcher, I objected to a voter in a non-incorporated area voting in a city election, but the county elections official overrode my objection.

The process of drawing district boundaries needs to be more intuitive and less charged with racial considerations. Draw districts that make sense to the average voter to dispel any suspicion that they were drawn with a racial bias in mind.

We are supposed to be a color blind society. Leave race completely out of the redistricting process. Start with the objective of making voting districts that have uniform shapes.

Eliminate fingers that protrude into areas just to fill a racial quota.

The present boundaries of the 30th and 32nd are heavily gerrymandered and do not make intuitive sense. If the districts are gerrymandered to achieve a specific political end, that discourages people like me from engaging in the process of electioneering in order to attempt to win the hearts and minds of people on a grass roots level. When we discourage community engagement, we turn the process of electing candidates over to the election professionals who use propaganda techniques rather than direct voter engagement to win over the hearts and minds of the people. That is not democratic. Instead, it favors those who have the biggest budgets. We the people don't want to be marginalized simply because we are of a certain race. We don't want to be excluded in order to make way for a more privileged racial class. That goes for all races. Let the chips fall where they may.

[REDACTED]