

[REDACTED]

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Republicans know that their policies are unpopular, otherwise why do they have to cheat in order to win? The plan to gain 5 more Republican seats is just that: cheating. Typically the party in power loses seats in the midterms, and given the unpopularity of Project 2025, which the White House is rushing to implement, and the cuts in the omnibus bill, they are now working to rig the game against ordinary Americans by trying to find 5 more Republican seats in Texas.

Texas was apportioned two additional seats after the 2020 census. While the population growth was fueled by Latinos, the Republicans in the state legislature deliberately redrew the maps to disenfranchise and drastically diminish the political power of Latino and African-American voters by reducing the number of districts that were minority-majority, and instead increased the number of majority white districts.

The Voting Rights Act demands that the legislative maps must not disenfranchise voters based on their race and ethnicity. In 2019, in a devastating blow to equal representation, the Supreme Court ruled that gerrymandering along partisan lines did not violate the Voting Rights Act.

Republican lawmakers insisted that they did not use racial data to create the districts, despite adding majority white districts, thus impacting communities of color. The maps were challenged by the civil rights organizations. The challenges were consolidated and a bench trial was held in Spring, 2025. The maps remain under legal review by the Federal courts. The reason is clear and concise: racial data must be used to ensure legislative maps remain fair and that they comply with the Voting Rights Act. The integrity of democracy depends on it.

The Department of Justice has questioned some of the districts, saying that race was a factor and the districts are racially gerrymandered, and demanding that they be redrawn. Republicans are trying to have it both ways: The maps did not take into account race and ethnicity, but they have to revisit them because they were racially gerrymandered to favor non-whites, even though more majority white districts were added. Who can follow that logic?

Texas has a long history of discriminating against minorities when composing their maps after the census, and this effort to redraw them midway is yet another way the Republicans are cheating in order to win. The current maps are under review, and this attempt to change them

again will make congressional representation even more discriminatory.

Fairness in representation matters because all citizens deserve equal opportunity to be represented, heard, and shape policy. All Texans deserve fair representation, especially those that have historically been disenfranchised and discriminated against. Federal courts need to weigh in on the current maps before any changes are made.

