

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-24  
First Name: Alesha  
Last Name: Russey  
Title: Dr.  
Organization: Self  
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City: Houston  
State: TX  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Texas Senators, Senate Special Committee on Congressional Redistricting, Governor Greg Abbott, and the People of Texas,

I hope this message finds you in good health and spirits. My name is Dr. Alesha K. Russey, a resident, and voter in the state of Texas, and I write to you today in opposition to the proposed congressional district maps currently under consideration in the ongoing redistricting process.

As a concerned constituent of Congressional District 18, I feel compelled to express my profound concern regarding the current iteration of the district maps, which I believe fundamentally undermine the principles of equal representation and democratic fairness. These newly proposed districts threaten to dilute the political power of historically marginalized communities, particularly Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous populations, thus perpetuating a system of representation that fails to reflect the demographic diversity of our state.

The importance of fair redistricting cannot be overstated. Historically, the state of Texas has been a focal point for racial discrimination in the electoral process, particularly under the Jim Crow laws and the policies of voter suppression that have historically disenfranchised communities of color. As such, it is essential that we do not repeat the errors of the past, where gerrymandering and other exclusionary practices systematically marginalized the voices of these communities.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), which was enacted in response to the systematic disenfranchisement of Black voters, was designed to safeguard against the dilution of voting power through practices like racial gerrymandering and the packing and cracking of minority communities. Texas has been a focal point in VRA litigation for decades, particularly with respect to its redistricting plans, which have repeatedly been challenged for violating the Voting Rights Act by diluting the voting strength of racial and ethnic minorities. The Supreme Court's decisions, including *Thornburg v. Gingles* (1986) and *Shaw v. Reno* (1993), have underscored the importance of intentional fairness in redistricting practices. Unfortunately, the current maps under consideration seem poised to reverse the gains made through decades of advocacy and legal battles for fair and equal representation.

Redistricting should not only reflect the diversity of Texas but also ensure that every voter

has an equitable opportunity to participate meaningfully in the electoral process. By consolidating and strategically drawing district lines in ways that dilute the voting power of communities of color, the state would be perpetuating a system that historically undermined the ability of Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous voters to elect representatives who accurately reflect their political, social, and economic interests.

In light of the historical and contemporary challenges that Texas voters of color have faced, I urge you to take a principled stand against any redistricting proposal that perpetuates racial discrimination through gerrymandering or diminishes the collective voice of minority communities. It is critical that the redistricting process be both transparent and inclusive, ensuring that the needs and concerns of all Texans, regardless of race or ethnicity, are adequately represented. The public deserves a process that is not only free from discriminatory intent but also actively works to enhance political inclusion.

I implore you to advocate for a redistricting process that fosters equity, transparency, and democratic integrity in the face of ongoing challenges. The decisions made during this critical juncture will shape the political future of Texas for years to come, and it is imperative that these decisions reflect the true diversity and values of our great state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will consider the historical context and long-term implications of these redistricting maps as you work toward a solution that best serves the interests of all Texans.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Alesha K. Russey

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Dr. Alesha K. Russey.