

Date: 2025-07-29 First Name: Beryl Last Name: Shorter

Title: N/A

Organization: Self

Address:
City: Houston
State: Texas
Zipcode:
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

The 2020 Census showed that Texans of color accounted for 95% of the state's population growth, with Hispanic Texans making up half of this increase. Despite this, the 2021 redistricting maps reduced Black and Hispanic-majority districts, favoring more majority-white districts and diminishing fair representation. I as a Texans recognize that racial gerrymandering threatens fair representation. I also recognize that the current attempt at redistricting targets districts with majority Black and Brown populations.

As a resident of the 18th Congressional District—unrepresented since Congressman Turner's passing in March 2025—I am concerned that these changes will dismantle congressional districts long served by leaders such as the late Representatives Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland, and Sheila Jackson-Lee who were dedicated to our community.

The ongoing mid-decade redistricting initiative lacks transparency, equity, and adequate community participation, which raises significant concerns. Community members are being asked to comment on proposed maps and legislation that have not yet been made public. Accordingly, I respectfully urge the formation of an independent review board and recommend actively seeking meaningful input from affected communities during any new redistricting endeavors, as suggested by the Governor for this Special Session.

This move to gain more Republican seats undermines prior legislation and distracts from urgent issues such as the recent deadly flood and expanding healthcare access for Texans. Rather than redrawing districts maps that could disenfranchise voters, Texas should focus on its citizens' needs and fair representation. True electoral integrity is built by expanding civic access, not by suppressing it. Please halt the current redistricting process and refocus efforts on serving our Texans fairly.