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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Written testimony submitted by Claire Oxley to the Texas Senate and House of Representatives on July 24, 2025 on the subject of
redistricting:

Hello, my name is Claire Oxley. I live in U.S. House District 23. Tony Gonzalez is my representative. I am testifying on the redistricting process and why it is crucial that the legislature respect the Voting Rights Act and not discriminate against already-disenfranchised communities. Texas has a long history of passing discriminator election laws and of racially gerrymandered maps. This extraordinary and rushed mid-decade redistricting is a continuation of that pattern. Approximately 60% of Texans are people of color, yet only 34% of our Congressional delegation members are people of color.

The reason Texas has gained two seats in Congress is that our population has grown: 90% of that growth comes from minority groups. We should see that growth accounted rather adding seats for the slower-growing Anglo population. The Legislature must not ignore the context of race in America in drawing districts. For these reasons, the Redistricting Committee needs to ensure that any bill it passes protects the voting power of historically disenfranchised communities.

This entire process is deeply flawed. It is rushed: There has been notice and opportunity for public input; there are no proposed maps available; there are court cases from the 2021 redistricting that have not yet been concluded. This process should not happen until after those cases have been resolved. When it is time to redistrict Texas should create an independent Redistricting Commission that would offer a transparent way to draw maps that would reflect the true nature of our state's population,

Instead of allowing voters to choose our representatives this process is meant to allow politicians to choose their voters. That is not just. It does not reflect the highest values of America. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this crucial issue.

[REDACTED]