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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I strongly oppose the Texas Legislature's current redistricting process, which is being conducted without proposed maps, during active federal litigation, and under direct political pressure from national figures with documented histories of racial and partisan intent. This process is premature, opaque, and constitutionally suspect.

Let me be clear: I am not advocating for maps to be hastily or unfairly drawn. In fact, the responsible course of action is for the Legislature to cease this process altogether. There is no constitutional or statutory requirement mandating redistricting at this time—certainly not under these circumstances. Continuing forward now is an abuse of process and a waste of public resources, particularly as Texans in Central Texas and the Hill Country are still reeling—and many missing—from catastrophic flooding.

CD-18: Delayed Special Election and Representation Crisis:

I must also raise serious concern about the unexplained delay in calling a special election to fill a vacant congressional seat. The U.S. Constitution places an affirmative duty on governors to call elections to fill congressional vacancies. This duty is not discretionary. Federal law, constitutional principles, and persuasive case law make clear: a governor's delay in calling a special election must be reasonable, timely, and must not infringe upon the public's right to representation; especially when that seat represents a federal office.

Any unreasonable or politically motivated delay—particularly when timed alongside redistricting schemes or ongoing litigation—raises serious constitutional concerns under Article I, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 2 prohibits any voting practice or procedure that results in the denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race or language minority status. These protections exist to prevent exactly this kind of abuse—where procedural manipulation is used to silence voters, suppress

democratic input, and entrench power during moments of political vulnerability. Texans deserve—and are constitutionally guaranteed—the right to full and timely representation, not a politically engineered and extended vacancy.

Ongoing Litigation and a Documented Pattern of Discrimination:

As of July 2025, multiple lawsuits remain pending in federal court challenging Texas's current congressional and legislative maps under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. These lawsuits allege—and are supported by extensive evidence—that the 2021 maps were drawn to intentionally dilute the political power of Black, Latino, and Asian voters, despite these communities accounting for over 95% of the state's population growth. Section 2 prohibits not only intentional racial discrimination, but also voting practices that have a discriminatory effect, including redistricting schemes that dilute the voting strength of racial or language minority groups. The law is clear: discriminatory intent can persist across legislative cycles, especially when the same actors control the process, target the same communities, and repackage the same discriminatory intent under a new narrative.

Here, the very leaders who defended their 2021 maps as “race blind” are now attempting to redraw them—without releasing maps, without demographic justification, and while litigation is ongoing—based solely on vague and unsubstantiated claims that these districts are now racially problematic. That reversal, occurring under federal political pressure and no intervening census, is not principled. It is collusive, disingenuous, and pretextual.

This is not normal. This is not neutral. And Texas has had at least one redistricting plan struck down every decade since 1965. So, this rushed, secretive, and politically driven process fits squarely within that long-standing and well-documented pattern of constitutional violations and voter suppression. It also fits within the escalated pattern of discrimination that has been happening by the Trump administration since the inauguration. What is more, there is ample evidence and information within the public record that shows the clear discriminatory animus and discriminatory actions that Trump and his key operatives have executed upon for many years predating the inauguration. Let's be honest: we all see what's happening.

Federal Influence, Political Pressure, and Discriminatory Intent:

Former President Trump has openly called for five more congressional seats in Texas through redistricting. That demand has been echoed by Texas Republican state leaders and reinforced by a letter from Trump's Department of Justice. This is not a coincidence. It is coordination and collusion.

The number of hearings has been severely limited. There are no maps. Communities recently devastated by flooding have had no meaningful opportunity to participate. Veterans overseas will also be severely and negatively impacted by exclusion from this process. Ultimately, all of this represents a severe departure from normal redistricting practice and an effort to suppress the voices of the marginalized and particularly communities of color.

There has been no new census, no credible demographic shift, and no legitimate basis for reversing the state's prior defense of the existing maps. The only variable that has changed is the political landscape—driven by pressure from a federal administration aligned with Project 2025, a strategy explicitly designed to dismantle civil rights protections, centralize executive power, and nullify the Voting Rights Act through state complicity.

The sequence of events, lack of legitimate state interest, and targeting of minority-represented districts collectively support a clear finding of intentional racial discrimination—with real, measurable harm. The intent is clear, the effect is harmful, and the harm is racially targeted.

Violation of Voters' Procedural Due Process Rights:

Despite the maps being drawn just four years ago and aggressively defended by the state, the label “racially problematic” is now being accepted by the state's leadership—with no new data, process, or explanation other than Trump's publicly stated desire to obtain five more GOP seats and his direct communication with the Texas Governor regarding same. This contradiction undermines the state's credibility and violates voters' procedural due process rights.

The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear: voters must be able to understand how redistricting affects them to assert legal harm. When the Legislature withholds maps, offers no demographic analysis, suppresses public engagement, and advances contradictory legal positions, it violates those constitutional safeguards. What is more, redrawing while current maps are under active litigation undermines judicial oversight, reinforces vote dilution, denies plaintiffs a remedy, and erodes public trust.

Intentionally Designed Barriers to Participation-Exclusion by Design:

This process has failed to provide a meaningful opportunity for Texans to participate. Hearings have been scheduled during normal work hours, excluding shift workers, hourly employees, caregivers, and those whose employers prohibit political engagement during work time. Texans should also not be forced to risk their jobs or lose wages to participate in democracy.

I offer my own experience as a clear example. I did not fully know about nor understand how the hearing processes would work until after the hearings had already begun. Even if I had known earlier, I could not have participated in any M-F hearings between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., which is a common work schedule for many Texans.

On Saturday, July 26, I attended the in-person House hearing in Houston. I arrived before 10:00 a.m., navigated the parking and campus logistics, registered to testify, and secured a seat. Because of that commitment, I could not simultaneously participate in the Senate hearing held concurrently. Cell reception was poor due to the size of the crowd at the University of Houston, and I was unable to stream the Senate hearing from my phone. After waiting nearly eight hours, I was lucky enough to be called to testify—as the last speaker of the day. Many others who

waited just as long were not so fortunate.

I also raise serious concerns about the House Committee's UT Arlington hearing, which failed to meet even the most basic standards of accessibility for a large crowd. Overflow attendees lacked access to video or audio feeds to know when they would be called—if they registered to testify. Likewise, due to the amount of people in attendance, I am sure many encountered the same issues I encountered with cellular service. There were comments made on the committee record that there was no seating accommodations for the elderly or disabled within the overflow attendees. However, a major university like UT Arlington is fully capable of providing these resources—if they are requested. That they were not made available indicates that the House Committee Clerk either failed—or refused—to request them. That is not an oversight. That is an intentional and insidious exclusion.

I also object to the Senate Committee's decision to conduct all redistricting hearings via Zoom, with no in-person option for public testimony. This approach is deeply exclusionary. It assumes all Texans have high-speed internet, digital devices, quiet environments, and the time or technical ability to testify virtually. This format disproportionately excludes elderly Texans, rural residents, flood victims, low-income households, and working-class individuals. Holding all Senate hearings online—while the very few House hearings were conducted in person—appears to be designed to reduce access and suppress public voice. It violates basic standards of transparency and fairness. In sum, this process must be immediately stopped. While Texas is in desperate need of fair districts, now is not the appropriate time. Texas faces urgent priorities, including natural disaster recovery and the resolution of pending litigation. No redistricting should proceed until there is updated census data and sufficient, accessible, regionally distributed hearings that provide meaningful public participation. In addition, all proposed maps must be made public, and voters must be given the time and tools to evaluate and respond. Without these baseline safeguards, this is not representative government—it is targeted disenfranchisement.

Finally, public officials are not shielded by governmental immunity when they knowingly engage in unconstitutional conduct. The law does not protect those who weaponize their power to suppress votes, dilute representation, or manipulate public process in violation of constitutional rights. Any local or state actor who advances or implements this unconstitutional initiative should understand—they are not immune. They are accountable. We see it. We will remember it. We will challenge it, and we will vote you out.

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