

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-28
First Name: Daniel
Last Name: Black
Title: N/a
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Dallas
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I testify today to echo the MANY people who have previously spoken on this topic. Texas' history of redistricting and the subsequent legal fallout from disenfranchised groups is embarrassing. AGAIN. In every decade since the Voting Rights Act was enacted in 1965, Texas has been found by a federal court to have violated federal law by illegally discriminating against voters of color. The consistent efforts of those in power to remain in power by diminishing the vote of the people (specifically, historically marginalized groups) runs counter to the values and standards enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Supreme Court has affirmed

what the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment has established:

that voting is a "fundamental right" on the same plane as marriage.

These rights, as they relate to proposed new legislation, are what bind the concept of Strict Scrutiny to whether a court will rule new voting laws constitutional or not.

I know what you're thinking...

"What the hell is strict scrutiny?" Strict scrutiny is the most demanding standard of judicial review, making it difficult, but not impossible, for the government to justify its actions. In other words, it demands the government have the clearest and legally justified reason for making changes that impact our rights.

Right now, we have a State and Federal government that has already explained their most recent actions to the people. On the topic of gaining more seats in congress:

On July 16th, Trump said, "There could be some other states where we are gonna get another three, four or five in addition, Texas would be the biggest one and that'll be five."

The Department of Justice, as wholly and improperly influenced by Trump as it is, has called four seats currently

held by Democrats
as illegal, which appears to be a fig leaf to cover the improprieties of partisan motivation.

The Texas Tribune reported that Gov. Abbot was initially reluctant to redraw the maps, but agreed to put it on the Special Session agenda AFTER a phone call with President Trump.

I'm no lawyer, or Supreme Court Justice, but I don't need strict scrutiny to recognize that what is happening here doesn't even pass the laymen's basic smell test. This stinks of corruption.

Marina Jenkins, the executive director of the National Redistricting Foundation, has said "The long-term effects of depriving a community of a seat at the table can be seen in disparities in multiple aspects of life, such as higher poverty and unemployment rates, lower incomes and being underrepresented in public office," she said at the briefing. "This case isn't just about the congressional map, it's about representation and living up to the fundamental ideal that should guide our democracy, that every individual has the right to exercise self determination at the ballot box."

Jenkins said this about the redistricting lawsuit that was filed over the most recent redistricting, and here we are... before the outcome of that lawsuit has been determined, attempting to redistrict at the corrupt direction of President Trump again.

I wish I had more time to tell you how much this infuriates me, a veteran, who has fought for the ideals, values, and protections recognized by the Constitution and its Amendments. But, here is where I must say, respectfully, thank you for your time and Fuck Donald J. Trump.

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