

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-24
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

In his essay on the 2000s redistricting brouhaha, "A Republican Lawyer's Perspective" (collected in the anthology Rotten Boroughs, Political Thickets, and Legislative Donnybrooks: Redistricting in Texas), J. D. Pauerstein notes that "Republican interests" were motivated by the bare fact that "Republicans were carrying roughly 60 percent of the vote in statewide races, and we believed the composition of the state's congressional delegation should reflect that fact." He characterizes the goals of GOP district-drawing in that era as "to undo the previous decade's gerrymander through plans that we believed reflected the existing political balance in the state and also advanced minority voting interests." While the redistricting actions of that decade were controversial, there was a clear rationale in redrawing maps then that is unequivocally absent from the current attempt at mid-decade redistricting. Now, there is talk that, with 58-59% of the Congressional vote going to Republican Congressional candidates in 2024 and about 65% of the seats subsequently held by Republicans (a relatively proportional share), the districts should be redrawn to give Republicans well over 75% of the seat share. This is patently at odds with any sense that the composition of the state's congressional delegation should reflect the existing political balance in the state, and no attempt to frame the matter otherwise can be seen as legitimate. Please do not carry out this attempt to calcify Texas' political structure to benefit one party out of all proportion, the very thing that the Republican Party of Texas was so dexterous in combating during the 1990s and early 2000s.

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