

[REDACTED]

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

As a resident of Congressional District 30 currently represented by Congressman Jasmine Crockett, I am appalled by the current attempts of Governor Abbot to attempt to redraw district lines just before mid-term elections. It is painfully obvious that the governor is reacting to a request by President Trump to gerrymander districts in order to support the President's efforts of maintaining a white Republican majority in congress. Even more than that, the effort to redistrict now is a blatant attempt to silence voices of black and brown people who may oppose the president's policies which are not aligned with the majority of people in the named districts as well as the United States. As someone who has long believed in the responsibility to uphold my civic duty and responsibility, I have voted in nearly all of my local and national elections since I was able to do so at age 18. As an educator, it is something I have encouraged students to do for decades—long before such a polarized political climate began to erode the nation's democracy. As an educator, I have also taught about the beginnings of the country and how taxation without representation was a major factor in the revolt of the colonists. We all know that is what led to the beginning of the great experiment known as American democracy. Now the current government wants to test the idea of governing without representation. I would make the assertion that if that happens, the country should prepare for another revolt. It is simple --- the people that live in a nation must have a voice in order for democracy to work—ALL those voices should be represented and heard. We have already seen the impact of gerrymandering in the state of Texas. We know that Texas is not a RED state, unfortunately it is a state where money buys influence and too many of its citizens do not vote because they already believe their voices don't matter. As a voter, I want my congressional representative to actually speak for me and represent the area where I live. Redistricting should be a transparent, inclusive process that ensures every community has equitable representation. Unfortunately, the current maps (which are being hidden from the public) dilute the voting power of people of color and divide cohesive neighborhoods-further undermining public trust in our democratic system. This is unacceptable and I urge the committee to reject any plan that perpetuates gerrymandering and voter suppression.

Janice Houston

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DeSoto, TX [REDACTED] CD30

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