

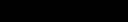


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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

The notion that the Texas Legislature would consider mid-decade redistricting while Texans recover from the July 4th floods is not only tone-deaf, but an outrageous betrayal of public trust. Simply put: Focus on floods, not redistricting.

Redistricting at this moment is a cynical political move that will break up communities of color. Breaking up communities of color is an obvious violation of federal law. Further, redistricting is distracting from the urgent needs of everyday Texans, many still without power, homes, or basic supplies.

I strongly oppose this mid-cycle redistricting. This brazen move by the Governor and the DOJ to increase Republican representation in the U.S. House at the expense of communities of color is shameful. It is blatant racial discrimination.

How districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education. If politicians are elected from districts that don't reflect the population, situations emerge in which politicians support policies that the vast majority of people oppose, or they won't support policies that the vast majority of people support.

Wake up, Senators! The state is in crisis. It is poor leadership to force new representatives on the people of Texas while still recovering from floods.

Let's be serious. Redistricting came out of nowhere, and now it's the number one agenda item – ahead of flood relief. The Legislature is shoving redistricting down Texans' throats – Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, and Independents alike.

This is not a homegrown initiative. A frightened White House fears for its narrow Congressional majority, and, like carpetbaggers, has ordered Gov Abbott and the Texas GOP to “find” four or five new seats. Sounds like Georgia, where the GOP presidential candidate in 2021 told state leaders to “find” another 11,780 votes. Déjà vu much?

Why are they so scared? Because they know that Americans despise and, in an honest election, will reject their cruel and ineffective policies.

The lame excuse driving this mid-cycle redistricting is the outrageous claim by the US

Department of Justice that four congressional districts established in 2001 and representing communities with majority Black and/or Latino residents, are "unconstitutional racial gerrymanders."

But the DOJ sued Texas over the 2021 maps, claiming those were unconstitutional gerrymanders. The DOJ just dropped that lawsuit the other day.

State leaders have consistently denied that the districts were racially drawn. State Senator Joan Huffman, who chaired the 2021 Senate Redistricting Committee, even testified that race was not a factor in drawing the maps.

Now, suddenly, the party line has done a 180. In a dizzying turnabout, Gov Abbott is reported as "acknowledging concerns that some districts were drawn "along strict racial lines."

Is this another example of "alternate realities"?

Who was lying which time?

It is obvious that the White House fears the voice of the people, and seeks more collaborators in Congress to cushion its fraught majority.

It won't work.

Explain how citizens can make informed comments when neither the House nor Senate Redistricting Committees have proposed maps available for public viewing? How do you expect the public to actually participate in this process?

The Legislature clearly plans to ignore public input and pass maps that discriminate against communities of color. Therefore, I am asking that this Committee to commit to holding a public hearing after the maps have been drawn but before they pass through committee. You must also give the public at least 5 days' notice and capability to review the maps before this hearing.

I also demand explanations from the legislators who draw the maps on why they drew them the way they did, and to not hide any communications they have had regarding drawing the maps. This is an opportunity for the Texas Legislature to finally get this process right and avoid millions of taxpayer dollars and years of lawsuits, so I hope that you will take these comments seriously.

If the Legislature follows the White House's orders, it will deny Latino and Black voters an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process. Your vote to redistrict will clearly disenfranchise people, solely to secure power unethically.

Power belongs to the people. You can only have it if we the people choose to give it to you in a fair election.

Legislators, you work for the people of Texas – not Donald Trump.

Texas Legislators, don't use your votes to unethically perpetuate the power of a single party. That is not what democracy should look like.

Redistricting helps politicians, not Texans. Do your job. Help Texans.

[REDACTED]