



Date: 2025-07-24
First Name: Kyra
Last Name: Newton
Title: Student
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Pflugerville
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:
Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Kyra Newton. I'm 17 years old — a student, a future voter, and the co-founder of Beyond Boundaries, a youth-led organization. I helped bring young people here today because we care about the future of Texas, and we are watching this redistricting process closely.

I'm writing to express strong opposition to any mid-decade redrawing of Texas's congressional maps. This process is not neutral. The 2021 maps already sparked serious concerns, and Texans have argued they fail constitutional standards and harm communities of color. The state's long history of voter suppression and racially polarized voting cannot be ignored.

In fact, just last year, a federal court struck down Galveston County's redistricting map for dismantling a district where Black and Latino voters could elect candidates of their choice. That map diluted their voting power by splitting them into majority-white districts, clear evidence of racially discriminatory practices still at play.

Reopening redistricting now, without transparency or court resolution, feels like a bad-faith attempt to rush change before communities can respond. It erodes public trust and suppresses voter engagement, especially among youth.

Young Texans already face some of the lowest civic engagement in the nation. According to CIRCLE and the Alliance for Youth Action, only 22–26% of youth voted in 2022, and just 39.6% of 18–24-year-olds were even registered. When the process feels rushed, inaccessible, or manipulated, it reinforces the belief that our voices don't matter.

But we do live in these districts. We walk their streets, attend their schools, and grow up in the communities your lines define. We deserve a say in how they're drawn.

Redistricting is not just about maps, it's about equity, resources, and representation. It must be fair, transparent, and grounded in the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. Racial and demographic data should be used to protect communities, not divide them.

Please commit to a process that honors all Texans, not just those in power. Young people are watching. Draw maps that reflect the Texas we live in — and the one we deserve to inherit.

Thank you.



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