

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-24

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Gilroy

Title: Ms

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Driftwood

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I have lived at my current residence in Driftwood Texas for over 45 years, and am now in Congressional District # 21. Due to recent extreme gerrymandering, I feel I no longer have a voice in Texas policies or government. I am strongly opposed to the current effort to redistrict our state in mid-census for this and several other reasons.

After the devastating floods over July 4th, this special session should be dedicated to assisting with flood relief and planning for future flood protection. The Driftwood/Wimberley area was severely impacted by the 2015 Blanco River flood, and it is clear then that the legislature had a responsibility to facilitate better warning for these recurring events. Why is the session starting with re-districting???

Second, districts were just redrawn FOUR YEARS ago, and officials have provided no credible reason for this new mid-census effort. And those 2021 maps are still being challenged in court!

Third, the process itself is an embarrassment to our state- the lack of notification (at most, 3 days!) and very limited public input (only 5 hours in the House, 2 min time limit) along with no actual maps to review- this all indicates Republican lawmakers' complete disregard for their constituents. Is this really what you want to be remembered for?

But most importantly, the districts targeted are clearly those of majority-minority populations, in other words, people of color. This shows that communities of color are being split up in order to weaken their power and voice, much like in the Jim Crow era. Minority rule is already a fact in Texas, where whites are only 45% of the population but control 70% of congressional districts. That begs the question- what are you afraid of? Why not have districts that reflect the actual population of the state rather than concentrating power in one group?

Please slow down and provide Texans with the deliberative process we deserve- allow time for the court case to conclude, then draw districts that reflect our population to include more communities of color, instead of turning more districts into "safe, red" ones.

All of America is watching Texas. Make us proud to live here by showing your respect for our voices. Prove that you actually work for ALL of us, not just a select few. Protect Texas democracy and give ALL your constituents the voting power they deserve.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mary Gilroy

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Mary Gilroy.