

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-29
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Rebecca Saldaña. I live within the 9th Congressional District of Texas.

My comments today are in opposition to any additional revisions to the congressional redistricting for the following reasons:

These hearings are a clear example of misplaced priorities. Given the recent loss of life in Kerr County and inaction by Texas leadership to prioritize public safety, the focus of the special legislative session SHOULD be on improving, implementing, and funding better emergency plans. Instead, it appears this session intends to redistrict mid-decade and remove representation from communities of color nefariously. You should honor your oath and live up to the ideals of a true public servant!

Texas redrew the maps in 2021, and those maps are currently under litigation. At the time of these hearings on July 29, 2025, we, the public, do NOT have a proposed map to review. To host these hearings at this time is a blatant waste of taxpayer money!

The state of Texas has historically passed discriminatory election laws and racial gerrymandering maps. Federal courts have found at least one of Texas' maps to violate the Voting Rights Act every decade since 1965. The targeted districts referenced in the DOJ letter would negatively impact black and brown districts. To intentionally dilute their voting power is racial discrimination.

This current process is rushed, with limited notice and opportunity for public input.

To preserve a true democracy, any attempt at redistricting should be done so by an Independent Redistricting Commission in a transparent and timely manner.

- Maps should NOT discriminate against voters of color. They should reflect the diversity and growth of the population.
- Maps must be made public at least 5 days in advance of any public hearings during a special session, allowing sufficient time for the public to review the maps, prepare testimony, and propose alternative maps.
- Any amendments offered to a map proposal must be presented at least 5 days in advance of any vote, allowing sufficient time for the public to analyze the proposed

amendments and advocate for or against them.

- The public must be provided with an analysis of how the new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color.

Thank you for your time.

