

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-23

First Name: Susan

Last Name: Smith

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: McAllen

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

The proposed redistricting is not a good use of our legislators time during this special session announced by Governor Abbott on July 9, 2025 and includes 18 agenda.

Redistricting is not a process that should be rushed. The candidate filing deadline for the 2026 midterms is in November. Any new maps will probably face a legal challenge and result in lengthy litigation that will cost Texas taxpayers for years to come. Federal courts have found at least one of Texas' maps to be in violation of the Voting Rights Act every decade since the Voting Rights Act went into effect in 1965.

The Texas Legislature last redrew the state's maps in 2021. The map was challenged in court. During a federal lawsuit challenging the current maps, Republican leadership argued that the maps were drawn "race blind."

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits election and voting practices that disadvantage minority groups, including drawing boundaries that dilute their ability to elect their preferred candidate by packing them into a single district or dispersing them throughout multiple.

The decision to now redistrict is based on DOJ question on minority "coalition districts". However, according to the Texas Demographic Center, white residents comprise less than 40% of the Texas population, so it appears this is not a valid point since most of our districts should be minority coalition districts based on minority representation in the Texas population.

Don't tie us up in courts again as we approach the 2026 midterms and upcoming candidate filing deadline.

Thank you.

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