

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-29
First Name: Wesley
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Title: State Democratic Executive Committeeman CD-23
Organization: Self
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Dear, members of the Texas Senate Special Congressional Redistricting Committee.

My name is Wesley Lawrence and I proudly serve on the State Democratic Executive Committee serving the great people of Congressional District 23 and previously served as the SDEC Committeeman for Texas Senate District 29, but most importantly I'm a community advocate who has served on a redistricting committee for my local community college and someone who understands the issues that face everyday Texans. I'd like to begin by saying: I wish I could stand before you today focused on what truly matters. But instead, it seems this committee has made a deliberate choice to hold as few in-person hearings across the state as possible. A deliberate move to silence working-class families who simply cannot afford to take time off to speak with you today, those in rural areas who are affected by the technological divide, and the very people who will be impacted the hardest by these redistricting decisions in the 5 main areas you are targeting .

I wish we could be focused on the issues that really matter during this special session like ensuring that no family in Texas has to worry about losing a loved one to a preventable natural disaster caused by a lack of investments in flood infrastructure, Fixing our broken public education system and ensuring that no child gets left behind by eliminating the wasteful, inefficient, harmful, and stressful STAR test, delivering real and honest tax relief for the millions of working class Texans who struggle every year to pay their property taxes caused by a never ending property value increase and an out of control CAD, and Protecting survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking.

But instead—here we are.

Once again, being forced to defend our communities, our voices, and our democracy from another shameless redistricting ploy—led

by the Texas GOP, Governor Abbott, and former President Donald Trump and his allies. I want to be crystal clear: When your team is down in the last quarter, you don't move the goalposts—you campaign better. All in an effort to flip 5 seats in Texas in order to help President Trump skirt accountability with the Epstein files, continue their ICE raids against migrants and tearing apart communities like mine, to continue his crusade against affordability which is only strengthening inflation, and protect President Trump from what will probably be one of the worst midterms in American history after Republicans passed the big bs bill.

This isn't about fair maps,(in fact it never was) it's about desperation and power grabs to rig an election, carve up a communities of interest, and to protect the powers at be. We've seen the maps submitted by some Texans. The plan is clear: Ignore communities of interest, crack the districts to death, abandon fair representation, and silence and dilute communities of color across the RGV, Dallas, Houston—and anywhere Republicans see a threat to their power. Their presidential decree is simple: redraw the lines and keep republicans in the majority party in the US Congress (no matter the cost to hardworking Texans).

El Paso knows this fight all too well. We've lived it in the last redistricting process, we've stood against it, and we will not be silent or go away easily. As someone who has served on my local community college redistricting committee I want to give you some goals to make this process at least seem like it's not a shame: increase the number of in person meetings (especially in rural parts of Texas), have multiple meetings with those elected officials who would be impacted, keep communities of interest together, don't silence and dilute the voices and hard work of minorities in our state and those you don't agree with, but most importantly make sure that no one is unjustly cracked or packed out of their districts due to political expediency (because the cost for them to get their issues addressed shouldn't ever be taken lightly).

We're not just fighting for our two congressional districts—we're standing with every Texan who refuses to be gerrymandered out of their voice and their vote. To the members of this committee:

Do what's right. Serve the people—not your party. Put our democracy ahead of political survival and future endorsements by President Trump. You were elected by hard working Texans who deserve fair maps, not by the DC establishment swamp. Texans deserve representation, not manipulation. I'll leave you with this: no matter how many times you redraw the lines—we will not be erased. Thank you.

