Message:
The district maps proposals for the Senate, state House and Congress are intentionally discriminatory. The proposed House map reflects intentional racial discrimination. Despite, or because of, 95% of population growth coming from communities of color in both suburban and urban areas the proposed may adds 6 more districts where white residents make up the majority of eligible voters while the number of Hispanic and Black districts would each drop by three. Sadly Texas has a history of discriminating against voters of color. Once again Texas lawmakers failed its citizenry by proposing very gerrymandered maps, and failing to provide a fair and transparent redistricting process that allows time for proper deliberation and community input. The House map proposal was released four days (FOUR DAYS) before the hearing and the first hearing on the House map is being held at the exact same time as the Senate's hearing for amendments on the Congressional map proposal. Because of all the apparent discriminatory acts, I would ask for a written explanation of how communities of color will be to elect representative of their choice. I would ask that the explanation be provided in advance of future hearings so the public can comment and certainly before any committee vote. I would ask the committee provide written explanations showing the demographic and statistical basis for its reasoning. Lastly I request that the legislators involved in drawing proposed maps waive their attorney-client privilege with the Attorney General's office. ALL Texans are owed a full explanation of the thought process that went into making the maps which clearly lacks compactness, contiguity and the clearly disrupts electoral minority-opportunity districts. This is shameful and unjust.