

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-28

First Name: Cathy

Last Name: Boyd

Title: n/a

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Friendswood

State: Tx

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Hello, my name is Cathy Boyd.

I live near the City of Friendswood in Harris County in Congressional District 36. I am providing public comment on the Legislature's attempt to redistrict our congressional districts mid-census. I am strongly opposed to these efforts. This audacious move by the Governor and the DOJ to increase Republican representation in the U.S. House by taking it away from communities of color is shameful. It is blatant racial discrimination. Already the makeup of Texas' congressional delegation does not reflect the diversity of our state. There is no justification for this congressional redistricting. It is unnecessary, confusing to voters and will cause the state to waste time and money.

The State of Texas has opposed redistricting litigation for over 4 years by claiming its maps were drawn entirely without consideration of race. So now to Claim that districts are racial gerrymandered is not consistent. The only consistency is that the State's position will suppress the votes of people of color.

How districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education. If politicians are elected from districts that don't reflect the population, you end up with situations where politicians support policies that the vast majority of people oppose, or they won't support policies that the vast majority of people support. When politicians manipulate maps for personal or political gain, it prevents residents like me from having our voices heard on all of these policies that affect us.

For example, here in Harris County there are many people struggling to afford healthcare coverage, and the Tax Bill that was just passed by Congress by the narrowest of margins threatens to kick even more people off the Medicaid rolls. Texas already has the highest rate of medically uninsured in the country. If we had adequate representation for their communities in the Houston area, this Tax bill might not have passed. But instead, the State has chosen to shamefully draw voting districts that break up or limit influence of communities of color in Houston, diminishing their voice in Congress. And even worse Gov. Abbott has taken away the voice of CD 18 voters for 4 months and will continue to take away their voice for a total of 8 months, by delaying the Special Election to replace Sylvester Turner until Nov 2025.

In order for our democracy to function, the public needs to have a voice in the process. It is absolutely unacceptable for both the House and Senate Redistricting Committees to be holding

hearings without having maps visible to the public a map. How do you expect the public to actually participate in this process? The Legislature clearly plans to ignore public input and pass maps that discriminate against communities of color. How do you expect to even draw maps that reflect the population when you have 5 year out of date Census numbers?

Therefore, if this Texas legislature chooses to press ahead with this shameful redistricting effort, I am asking that this Committee commit to holding a public hearing after the maps have been drawn but before they pass through committee. You must also give the public a minimum of 5 days notice and capability to review the maps before this hearing. I also want the legislators who draw the maps to explain why they chose to draw them the way they did, and to not hide any communications they have had regarding drawing the maps. This is an opportunity for the Texas Legislature to finally get this process right and avoid millions of taxpayer dollars and years of lawsuits, so I hope that you will take my comments to heart. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and recognize my voice.

Cathy Boyd

