

[REDACTED]

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I reside in El Paso, TX and my city is close to Juarez, Mexico and Las Cruces, new Mexico. My neighborhood is close to Fort Bliss Installation, 2nd largest military installation in the country. My city's population is 680,000 a 0.7% decrease since 2020. My city's main ethnic groups in El Paso comprise of 81.4% Hispanic, 12.8% White and 3.2% Black.

Seventy percent of El Paso speak Spanish making it one of just 22 U.S. cities with more Spanish speakers than English speakers. The Medium income is \$54,000 so it is relatively poor with a poverty rate of 23.4% (national average)

What I would like to add is no one has been harmed more by map manipulation and voter suppression than our El Pasoan community. Because we also are in the far corner of the Texas map we are easily forgotten and ignored to be represented by the State, in the ballot box and in Congress. Our State House of Representative districts are #75-79 and our Congressional Districts are #16 and 23. In addition, it has taken a Latina Congresswoman to be our voice and our representative for our city to be heard and seen.

I am deeply concerned about the deep division in our country. Gerrymandering and map manipulation continues to increase in our State with the cultural and political divide worsening by disenfranchising the minority population. This was "Evident" during the 2020 election when the Governor reduced the curbside ballot boxes to one per county which disenfranchised counties like Harris County with population of 4.713 million back then especially affecting Black and Minority votes. Our city, El Paso had one curbside ballot box. The attempt to gerrymander and do a map redistricting occurred in 2021 to make it even harder on future elections for the Black and Latino voters and Republicans were looking at removing districts to make it easier for the Conservative to gain votes. NOW it is happening again in 2025 (four years later because the man in the White House is mandating Gov Abbott to do it again and gain more red seats).

You want greater transparency, disclosure, accountability and public input for the people of Texas??? Then...

\*Don't draft maps in secret backroom conferences with privately hired lawyers and a few select legislators. Open the map drafting process to the general public. Show us the maps!

\*Give ample opportunity for public involvement, including advanced notice for any public hearing, not the last minute

\*Give public at least 5 days to review any privately drawn maps after they are disclosed.

\*Public input on any map proposal should be taken seriously and should be reflected in the maps. Brazen pursuit of partisanship does not give the Legislature a legality to exclude public input on the maps, especially input from communities of color. We are not living in the Jim Crow era even though Republican. I expect legislators to follow the Voting Rights Act and NOT discriminate against people of color

Stop the abuse from continuing to our voters

[REDACTED]

