



Date: 2025-07-25
First Name: Katia
Last Name: Mackintosh
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Testimony to the Texas Senate Special Session
Redistricting Committee
Submitted by: Katia Mackintosh
Date: Friday, July 25, 2025 12:16 PM

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katia Mackintosh, and I am a constituent of Congressional District 18, which currently lacks representation following the passing of Representative Sylvester Turner in March 2025 . I write to urge that any redistricting actions fully comply with Texas law and federal constitutional protections, safeguarding fair and open elections for all Texans.

Texas law and the U.S. Constitution establish clear rules for redistricting:

- Equal Population: Under Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment, districts must be drawn to balance population and uphold “one person, one vote.”
- State Constitutional Timeline: Article III, Section 28 of the Texas Constitution mandates that redistricting occur in the first legislative session after the decennial census, barring special judicial findings otherwise.
- Legislative Oversight: Plans must be approved by both chambers of the Texas Legislature and signed by the Governor or passed via a two-thirds override.
- Implementation Deadlines: The Texas Election Code requires county precinct alignment with new maps by October 1 of the redistricting year

to facilitate orderly elections.

Additionally, redistricting must comply with the Voting Rights Act Section 2, which prohibits dilution of minority voting strength through district design. Courts have struck down Texas maps in the past under Section 2 violations. While the Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering is not unconstitutional, racial gerrymandering remains illegal. Districts cannot be drawn in ways that reduce representation for Black, Hispanic, or other minority voters .

CD-18 (where I reside) is a longtime Democratic stronghold deeply rooted in communities committed to equity, social welfare, and inclusive leadership. According to 2023 census data, Hispanic voters now comprise approximately 43.4% of the district population—outpacing white voters at 16.7%—while Black residents account for 32.2% . It is essential that any redistricting reflect these demographic realities. Maps that ignore this data risk disenfranchising the very constituents who have been historically underrepresented.

Transparency and public participation are also key: Texas law requires public hearings and draft map publication before legislative action. Reports indicate that while Republican leadership has initiated redistricting hearings, no new maps have been published, despite the unusual nature of a mid-decade process . Communities deserve visibility into proposed boundary changes before decisions are finalized.

We cannot move forward with mid-decade redistricting while the 2021 maps remain under legal scrutiny. Judicial resolution is necessary before legislators proceed with new plans. Citizens deserve a process rooted in clarity and fairness—not one that delays relief or undermines community representation.

For CD-18 and communities throughout Texas, I respectfully urge the Committee to follow all legal requirements—equal population, Voting Rights Act compliance, appropriate legislative process, public input, and adherence to established timelines. Texans deserve representation that reflects their diverse voices, grounded in law and dedicated to democratic integrity.

Thank you for considering this testimony. I request that the Committee ensure any redistricting process upholds the legal protections afforded to every Texan.

Sincerely,
Katia Mackintosh
Houston, TX

