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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

To the Honorable Members of the Texas Senate Special Committee on Redistricting:

I respectfully submit this public comment in opposition to the proposed redrawing of Texas’s congressional districts during the current special legislative session. I urge you to reject this effort, which appears primarily designed to shift political power rather than improve fair representation.

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1. This mid-cycle redistricting is unprecedented, unjustified, and politically motivated

- Redistricting is constitutionally required once every ten years after the decennial Census. The last map revision occurred in late 2021, following standard procedure .
- Republican leaders—including Governor Abbott—only placed redistricting on the special session agenda after urging from President Trump, aiming to secure up to five additional GOP-leaning districts ahead of the 2026 midterms .
- Observers contend that the timing—amid devastating recent flooding—is a diversion from urgent public needs. Thousands of Texans are still recovering, yet legislative energy is being diverted toward political gain .

2. The proposed maps threaten minority representation and democratic fairness

- Experts warn this scheme would likely employ “packing” and “cracking” tactics—diluting the political influence of urban and minority communities in Houston, Dallas–Fort Worth, South Texas, and Austin .
- The DOJ has already flagged four coalition

districts—areas where minority groups together reach a majority—as potentially unlawfully drawn under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act .

- Texas has a long history of legally invalidated racial gerrymanders, including *Bush v. Vera* (1996) and *League of United Latin American Citizens v. Perry* (2006), which demonstrate that when race or politics dominates map drawing, it can violate constitutional protections .

3. Transparency, public participation, and trust must come first

- The capital’s redistricting site explicitly encourages public proposals and commentary to ensure maps reflect community input and scrutiny—not just partisan objectives.

- At the first public hearing on July 24, about a hundred citizens testified—and not a single one spoke in favor of redrawing the maps mid-cycle. Support for the move has been virtually nonexistent among constituents. Listen to them.

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Conclusion & Recommendations

For the sake of democratic integrity, public trust, and fair representation, I urge you to:

- Reject the proposed mid-decade congressional map changes.
- Remain committed to decennial redistricting following standard procedure—not political expediency.
- Uphold opportunities for transparency, including full public participation and access to proposed maps.
- Respect the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause; ensure any map revision protects—not undermines—minority community representation.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Texans deserve maps drawn in good faith, not for partisan advantage.

Respectfully,
Tori Ferrante, San Antonio, TX

