

Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church

STOP THE STEAL!

HANDS OFF OUR DISTRICT!

TOOL KIT





The future of fair representation in Texas is under attack — and we must mobilize NOW. We are sounding the alarm on the Governor’s illegal redistricting scheme. This is not business as usual — this is a call to action. Our districts are on the line. Our votes are under attack. Our time is NOW. Make your voice heard.

We have put together a toolkit that will empower you to let your state representatives and senators know that you strongly oppose the current shenanigans to silence our voices and dilute our power.

It contains:

1. A letter that can be sent to the House Select Committee on Redistricting
2. A phone script if you choose to call the legislators’ offices
3. Several samples for giving open testimony
4. A chart with each of the committee members' contact information
5. The NAACP Talking Points that can be used to help craft your testimony.

Also here is a link that allows you to send an email directly to your state representative and your state senator. Please share with friends and family.

<https://win.newmode.net/wheeleravenuebaptistchurch/stopthestealhandsoffourdistricts>

If you have additional questions, please email: socialjustice@wheelerbc.org

July 27, 2025

RE: Opposition to Unconstitutional Redistricting and Gerrymandering

Dear Members of the House Select Committee,

As a concerned constituent and proud resident of Texas, I am writing to let you know that I am strongly opposed to the redistricting plan being advanced by Governor Greg Abbott in coordination with national leadership. This plan, which seeks to create five additional Republican districts through blatant gerrymandering, is both unconstitutional and deeply harmful to the principles of fair representation.

This calculated effort to manipulate district boundaries for political gain undermines the integrity of our electoral process and erodes public trust in our democratic institutions. Redistricting must be rooted in accurate population data, conducted transparently, and shaped by public input, not crafted behind closed doors to entrench political power and marginalize communities like mine.

If implemented, this plan will:

- Dilute the voting strength of communities of color.
- Disenfranchise urban and diverse constituencies.
- Undermine the credibility of our democratic process, and
- Invite costly legal challenges and potential federal intervention.

As an elected official entrusted with representing the people of Texas, I urge you to reject this proposal. Stand for fair maps, uphold voter equity, and support a transparent redistricting process that respects the Voting Rights Act and reflects the true diversity of our state.

Texas belongs to all of us, not just those in power. I would appreciate it if you publicly state your position on this matter. I, along with many others in your district, am paying close attention and will remember your stance when casting my vote in the upcoming election.

Thank you for your time and your service to the people of Texas.

Sincerely,

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone Script: Stop Unfair Redistricting in Texas

Use this script to call your Texas State Legislators and urge them to oppose Governor Abbott's proposed mid-decade redistricting plan.

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a constituent living in [Your City or ZIP Code].

I'm calling to urge [Senator/Representative Last Name] to strongly oppose Governor Abbott's plan to redraw Texas' congressional districts mid-decade to create five new Republican districts.

This redistricting proposal is unfair, unnecessary, and likely unconstitutional. It is designed to silence voters — especially in urban, Black, Latino, and diverse communities — by cracking and packing districts in a way that violates the Voting Rights Act and undermines public trust.

Specifically, I'm concerned about the attack on coalition districts like TX-09, TX-18, TX-29, and TX-33, and the manipulation of other competitive districts like TX-07, TX-28, and TX-34 — all in a blatant power grab.

This is not democracy. This is gerrymandering. And Texans deserve better.

I urge [Senator/Representative Last Name] to:

- Publicly oppose the Governor's redistricting plan,
- Speak out in defense of fair and legal electoral maps, and
- Support transparency and community input in any redistricting discussions.

Please make it clear that you stand with the people — not political manipulation.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to seeing [his/her/their] leadership on this urgent issue.

Quick Tips for Callers:

- Be polite and stay calm — even if you're frustrated.
- If you get voicemail, leave the full message and include your name and ZIP code.
- If a staffer answers, ask: "Can you please pass along my message to the legislator and let me know their official position on this?"



Speaker Packet: 2-Minute Testimony Against Texas Redistricting Plan

This packet contains five sample testimonies for individuals speaking at a public hearing to oppose the proposed mid-decade redistricting plan in Texas. Each version reflects a unique voice or perspective to help speakers find a tone that fits their story.

Version 1: Direct & Empowering

Good [morning/afternoon/evening], my name is [Your Name].

I am a proud resident of [City/ZIP Code/District], a voter, and a concerned citizen.

I'm here today to speak against the Governor's redistricting proposal.

This plan to redraw the maps and create five new Republican districts is not about fairness — it's about power.

It's a partisan attack on democracy, done mid-decade, without public consent or justification.

This plan targets coalition districts like TX-09, TX-18, TX-29, and TX-33 — all of which have historically empowered Black, Latino, and immigrant communities.

Redrawing these lines would dilute our voices, disrupt representation, and violate the Voting Rights Act.

Districts like TX-28, TX-34, and TX-07 are also under threat — not because the people asked for change, but because the politicians fear losing control.

This is not what democracy looks like.

This is what fear looks like — fear of change, fear of inclusion, fear of the people.

I'm here today to say: we see what you're doing. And we will not be quiet.

We are not pawns to be moved on a map. We are people — and we deserve fair, legal, representative districts.

I urge you to reject this plan and protect the integrity of our elections. Thank you.

Version 2: Personal & Emotional Appeal

Good [morning/afternoon/evening], my name is [Your Name], and I'm a proud voter from [City or ZIP Code].

I came here today not as a political strategist, but as a daughter, neighbor, and community member who believes that representation matters — and that our voices should count equally.

The Governor's plan to redraw Texas' congressional maps is nothing short of a deliberate attempt to silence communities like mine — Black, Latino, immigrant, and working-class neighborhoods that have fought too long and too hard just to be heard.

I live in [District Name or Number], and I know the power that representation brings. When our districts reflect our communities, our issues are heard, our needs are met, and our dignity is protected. This plan erases that progress. It redraws lines, but what it really redraws is power — pulling it away from the people and placing it in the hands of a few.

This is not democracy. This is gerrymandering. And Texans deserve better.

I urge you to reject this plan and protect the integrity of our elections. Thank you.

Version 3: Legal & Policy-Based Appeal

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a resident of [City/ZIP]. I am here to speak in strong opposition to the redistricting plan being proposed.

The Governor's mid-decade redistricting strategy violates both the spirit and the letter of the law. The proposed creation of five new Republican districts is being done without population changes or census justification — and worse, it directly undermines protections under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This proposal targets key “coalition districts” — TX-09, TX-18, TX-29, and TX-33 — districts where Black, Latino, and Asian voters have come together to elect representatives who reflect their interests. These districts are being redrawn not to improve representation but to dismantle it.

Let's be clear: race-based gerrymandering is illegal. Partisan gerrymandering is unethical. And both, in this case, are being used to disenfranchise voters for political gain.

Public hearings like this are essential — but they must be more than symbolic. If the people speak and no one listens, democracy has failed.

I urge this body to respect the rule of law, to uphold federal protections, and to stop this redistricting effort before it causes irreparable harm. Thank you.

Version 4: Generational & Moral Framing

Good evening, my name is [Your Name], and I speak not only for myself but for the generations who came before me — and those who will come after.

My grandparents lived in a time when they couldn't vote freely. They marched, they organized, and they fought — so I could stand here today and speak into a system that once tried to silence them.

And now, in 2025, we're back here again — fighting a different version of the same battle. The Governor's redistricting plan is a betrayal of everything our democracy is supposed to stand for. It's a modern-day attempt to turn back the clock on voter representation.

By creating five new Republican districts, the state is not responding to population growth — it's responding to fear. Fear of change. Fear of equity. Fear of a rising, multiracial electorate.

But here's the thing: we're not going anywhere.

We are the future — and we're watching.

And we will not allow our communities to be cracked, packed, or erased.

I ask you: when your children look back on this moment, will they say you stood for justice — or that you stood silent?

Reject this plan. Defend our future. And do what's right — not what's political.

Thank you for hearing my voice. Don't ignore the people you were elected to serve.

Version 5: Faith & Civic Responsibility

Good [morning/afternoon], my name is [Your Name]. I'm a person of faith and a proud member of this community.

I come here today because I believe that justice is not just a legal principle — it is a moral one. And this redistricting plan being pushed by Governor Abbott is unjust.

Scripture teaches us to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.” But this plan does the opposite — it manipulates district lines for political gain, silencing the voices of the poor, the marginalized, and communities of color.

What kind of witness do we bear as a state when we prioritize power over people? What message do we send when we redraw maps to exclude rather than include?

This is not just about politics — it's about people. It's about families who need access to fair representation. It's about neighborhoods that deserve to be heard, not carved up.

I call on you to reject this proposal, not just as policymakers, but as people accountable to a higher standard.

May we govern in truth, and may we vote in love.

Thank you.

Committee Member	Congressional District	Email	District Phone #	Capitol Phone #
Rep. Cody Vasut	District 25	cody.vasut@house.texas.gov	(979) 848-1770	(512) 463-0564
Rep. Jon Rosenthal	District 135	jon.rosenthal@house.texas.gov	(281) 463-5056	(512) 463-0722
Rep. Charlie Geren	District 99	charlie.geren@house.texas.gov	(817) 237-2251	(512) 463-0610
Rep. Ryan Gillian				
Rep. Cole Hefner	District 5	cole.hefner@house.texas.gov	(903) 717-8238 (903) 882-3254	(512) 463-0271
Rep. Hillary Hickland	District 55	hillary.hickland@house.texas.gov	(254) 870-6940	(512) 463-0630
Rep. Todd Hunter	District 32	todd.hunter@house.texas.gov	(361) 949-4603 (361) 949-4634	(512) 463-0672
Rep. Will Metcalf	District 16	will.metcalf@house.texas.gov	(936) 539-0068	(512) 463-0726
Rep. John McQueeney	District 97	john.mcqueeney@house.texas.gov		(512) 463-0608
Rep. Katrina Peirson	District 33	katrina.pierson@house.texas.gov		(512) 463-0484
Rep. David Spiller	District 68	david.spiller@house.texas.gov		(512) 463-0526
Rep. Carl Tepper	District 84	carl.tepper@house.texas.gov	(806) 407-5633	(512) 463-0676
Rep. Terry Wilson	District 20	terry.wilson@house.texas.gov		(512) 463-0309
Rep. Josey Garcia	District 124	josey.garcia@house.texas.gov		(512) 463-0634
Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins	District 120	barbara.gervin-hawkins@house.texas.gov	(210) 822-2534	(512) 463-0708
Rep. R.D. Guerra	District 41	bobby.guerra@house.texas.gov	956-292-0407 956-292-0313	(512) 463-0578
Rep. Christian Manuel	District 22	christian.manuel@house.texas.gov	(409) 344-4022	(512) 463-0662
Rep. Joe Moody	District 78	joe.moody@house.texas.gov	(915) 751-2700	(512) 463-0728
Rep. Senfronia Thompson	District 141	senfronia.thompson@house.texas.gov	(713) 633-3390	(512) 463-0720
Rep. Chris Turner	Distict 101	chris.turner@house.texas.gov	(817)459-2800	(512) 463-0574
Rep. Gene Wu	District 137	gene.wu@house.texas.gov	(713)271-3900	(512) 463-0492



TEXAS NAACP TALKING POINTS

This effort to redistrict Mid-Decade is Racially motivated and it is NOT about partisanship. Trump's DOJ has misinterpreted the law and used that misinterpretation to go after 4 districts held by Black and Brown Congresspersons who were the candidates of choice for both the Black and Brown voters in their districts. The 9th (Alexander Green), 18th (Barbara Jordan, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Sylvester Turner, Craig Washington), 29th (Sylvia Garcia) and 33rd (Mark Veasey).

There is NO NEED to redistrict now, the courts just finished a 4 week trial challenging these districts and they are trying to pre-empt the court.

Texas is ONLY 40% white but white voters control 28 of 38 Congressional seats which is over 70 percent. If Black and Brown voters control only 10 seats and the President is seeking 4 or 5, then he is trying to reduce us to only 5 or 6 seats even though Latinos and African-Americans constitute a majority of our State's adult population? Is the intention for us to have no more representation, because except for the 30th held by Jasmine Crockett, all African-American voter controlled opportunity districts are on this list, and because of the proximity of CD30 to CD33 (Veasey), there is nonetheless still a threat to the 30th as well.

Since 1980 the additional Congressional seats in Texas are completely due to minority population growth. During this time if we could only use white growth in our State to determine how many Congressional Districts we have we would have lost districts since 1980.

Lawyers and consultants hired by Texas' Republican members of Congress drew these maps and it is completely dishonest to say they used race to draw the maps to favor Black folks. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Republicans in court testified that drew the maps race blind so the President is just plain wrong about what he is saying or the Legislators are lying, since the statements of Trump and those of the testifying legislators are completely contradictory.

There are other seats where voters are in a coalition majority that includes white voters, so it is telling that the Trump Administration chose ONLY to identify only those with black and brown coalitions as ones that must be changed. This is clearly evidence of their intention to discriminate.

The Black, Brown and Asian population all outgrew the White population in the last decade, but out of 2 new Congressional seats the State was awarded, both of them were awarded to white voters?

Since the Voting Rights Act was adopted the State of Texas has been found to have discriminated against Black and/or Brown citizens by the courts after every cycle of redistricting.

News reports say Republicans in Congress really don't want this because it may put their seats at risk like the 7th and 32nd districts this last decade. I hope if you don't listen to us you will listen to them—don't do this.

The DC Circuit as well as a 3 judge panel of judges in Texas have held that the 9th, 18th and 30th Congressional Districts are protected African American opportunity seats. The Justice Department can't come in and wave a magic wand and change that to them being coalition districts. One of the State's experts admitted that in the 9th, 18th and 30th Congressional Districts that African-Americans were able to elect the candidate of their choice, and the Senate Republican Chairperson even admitted this as to the 9th and 18th in floor debate and/or in the most recently completed federal trial.

African American Opportunity Seats-have arguably the highest level of protection under the law. These are seats where African American voters are able to elect their candidate of choice in a district WITHOUT the need to coalesce with other voting groups.

Minority Coalition Districts-these districts were the subject of the Department of Justice Letter to Governor Abbott. In these districts, minority voters of different races, backgrounds or ethnicities are able to join together and elect their candidate of choice and no one group is able to elect their candidate of choice alone. The Pettaway case out of Galveston that involved 3 NAACP units and a LULAC unit led to a decision that these districts were not mandated by Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. It did not hold, as the Trump Administration suggests, that these districts are illegal.

Crossover Districts-these districts involve white voters who must join with minority voters to elect a common candidate of choice. This is white plus Brown, Black or Asian. These seats have less protection than African American opportunity seats or Latino opportunity seats, and arguably have less protection than naturally occurring minority coalition seats that Trump's DOJ seems to be focused on.

Racial Gerrymander-Districts or maps that are drawn with the primary emphasis being on race. The Supreme Court says that race can be a consideration but it cannot be the predominate consideration in the drawing of districts. If when using traditional redistricting principles such as neighborhood traditional common alignment on important issues, close geographical proximity, mutually shared interests such as being in the same City, School District, and a number of other such principles, it is appropriate also to look at race. Chief Justice Roberts has said that it is appropriate to look at race in one of his majority opinions.

Partisan Gerrymander-The Supreme Court has said that it cannot decide on a Constitutional standard to assess when a party gerrymanders so much that they violate the Constitution, so based on this decision, these issues are ones that the courts are unable to decide because there is no standard in which to measure. This means that THIS IS A LOSING STRATEGY to fight against discriminatory districts, especially if there is evidence that they are treating white voters different from minority voters, white voters of a particular party different from a group of minority voters of the same party or as here they are targeting 4 districts that are both (i) DOMINATED by Black or Brown voters, and (ii) that also have ELECTED Black or Brown candidates of choice.

Intentional Discrimination-this is when the State or local subdivision can be shown to be motivated by illegal racial animus in the drawing of a map or districts. This can generally be shown by showing the harm of the map to a particular racial group AND THAT THE HARM WAS KNOWN TO THOSE VOTING FOR THE MAP, history of discrimination against that racial group that is continuing, comments by members of the group adopting the map that exhibit racial bias, actions by members of the group that may show racial bias, DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL PROCEDURES of the body in the adoption of the map such as shortening time for input or participation, making it more difficult for members of the public to participate in the process or for legislators supporting those minority voters from being able to effectively participate in the process. The history of the body and its disposition towards the group is important in this context too, with there being a need to show not just historical discrimination but a continuation into recent history too. The courts utilize what are called the Arlington Heights factors to assess these claims and frequently utilize an analysis of the totality of the circumstances to determine if any such action has occurred in this illegal manner.

Stay Away from saying this was about party. TALK RACE. DON'T call anyone a racist, though it is ok to say the actions that are taking place are racist in nature. Try to talk about conservative whites or conservative white voters as opposed to Republican and talk about candidates of choice of Black voters and not Democrats. It is clear that the State does have a hierarchy of treatment, even within the Democratic Party, and minority voters are harmed the most or treated the worst.

There may be Black or Brown Republicans in Congress, but they don't count in the assessment unless they were the candidate of choice of minority voters. Election analyses have shown that the Black Republican Congressperson from Houston was not the candidate of choice of Black voters. It is not simply electing a person of color, BUT ABOUT ELECTING A CANDIDATE WHO IS THE CANDIDATE OF CHOICE OF MINORITY VOTERS WITHOUT CONCERN FOR THE RACE OF THE CANDIDATE. To make this point, let's ask you this question: "Does Justice Clarence Thomas represent the interests and concerns of the African-American community"?