

Texas Republicans have done it again!

On October 25, 2021, Gov. Abbott signed off on new maps drawn by the Republican-controlled redistricting committees. These maps are designed to protect GOP majorities while diluting the voices of voters of color, and of Democrats in general. The new districts will be used for the first time in next year's primary and general elections, barring any court interventions. All three of our districts change. Here are the details.

U.S. Congressional Map

Travis County remains "cracked" into 4 Congressional Districts. We will be shifted from Rep Roger Williams' district (#25) to another Republican district (#10) which stretches all the way east nearly to Houston and encompasses Waller, Grimes, and Walker counties. It's a ridiculous looking district with a tiny neck that connects northwest Travis to a huge batch of rural white Republican voters to the east. The current incumbent of district #10 is U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul (R) who may be a slight improvement over Williams. We'll see.

<https://dvr.capitol.texas.gov/Congress/56/PLANC2193>

Texas State Senate Map

The new map redraws the lines for Democratic Senator Sarah Eckhart's district to exclude us, and puts us into Republican district #25. The good news is that we are reunited in the same district as Lakeway which has a very active Democratic club. The bad news is that the current incumbent of district 25 is Republican Senator Donna Campbell. She's probably best known for sponsoring a bill to prohibit the sale of the Alamo to a foreign government, based on the ridiculous conspiracy theory that the UN was trying to take over the mission.

<https://dvr.capitol.texas.gov/Senate/56/PLANS2168>

Texas State House Map

Travis County will go from 6 House districts to 7. Six of these are totally contained within Travis, but we are being cut off and attached to a huge Republican district (#19) that stretches west to includes Burnet, Blanco, Kendall, and Gillespie counties. Sadly we lose our current rep, Democrat Vikki Goodwin. The current incumbent of district #19 is long-time Rep James White, the only Black Republican in the Texas House. He is not planning to run for reelection in order to run for a state-wide office, so the seat will be up for grabs next year.

<https://dvr.capitol.texas.gov/House/56/PLANH2316>

The Conclusion

Each map groups us with large populations of Republican voters. And it's unlikely the courts will intervene on our behalf. (They tend to go after the more obvious cases of minority gerrymandering.) So we are stuck with these maps for the next 10 years.

But we can defeat them. We need to register every Democrat we can find. And launch Get Out The Vote efforts for every election. So don't give up. Keep the faith! We can still turn Texas blue!