



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

Conference Committee Report SB6 Congressional Redistricting Map – PLAN C2193

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Recommendation: Unfavorable

Analysis

Although 95.2% percent of Texas' population growth was non-Anglo, both of the two new congressional districts (CD) created by this plan are majority Anglo, an unconscionable indicator of intentional discrimination that denies full representation to Texans of color. The two new seats are based in Travis County (CD37) and Harris County (CD38). Drawing an additional Anglo majority district in Harris County is particularly troublesome, given that the state's largest county experienced a net Anglo decrease during the last decade.

North Texas

Despite the significant growth of communities of color in Dallas Co., which experienced a net decrease in Anglo population, and the diversity found in Tarrant Co., there are no new minority opportunity districts in the Dallas – Fort Worth (DFW) area. Instead, the plan packs Black voters in CD 30 and splits Latino voters between CD's 6 and 33. CD 6 and CD 25 pairs communities of color with far away rural, predominantly Anglo counties. CD 33 has a loop configuration around CD 6 and crosses the Dallas Co. and Tarrant Co. border in two locations, splitting minority communities with narrow strands.

Harris Co. and Ft. Bend Co.

US Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee and Al Green are no longer paired in Harris Co. Al Green is in CD 9 and Sheila Jackson Lee is in CD 18. Although, this is an improvement over the Senate Map, there are still significant concerns regarding representation of people of color. In Harris Co., more than 100% of the population growth is attributed to people of color because there was a net decrease in the Anglo population, but the new CD 38 has a majority Anglo VAP. There is still only one Latino Majority District in Harris Co. (CD 29), although another could easily be drawn. Additionally, the region's Asian communities are split into CD 7, 9, and 22, diluting their voting power. Lastly, CD 8 now dips into western Harris Co. pairing communities of color with distant Anglo rural communities.

Central Texas

Travis Co. is home to CD 37, one of the new congressional districts. CD 37 is placed in the middle of Travis Co. with a majority Anglo VAP. CD's 10, 17, and 31 split diverse communities of color and pair them with rural Anglo communities. CD 10 stretches from western Travis Co. all the way to the western border of Harris Co. CD 17 goes all the way up to Nacogdoches Co. CD 31 goes up to Bosque Co. CD 35, a minority opportunity district, narrowly stretches down to downtown San Antonio.

South Texas

Due in large part to a serious census undercount in communities along the Texas-Mexico border, CD's 28 and 15 stretch from the Rio Grande Valley/Border region to rural Anglo areas in central Texas. CD 28 includes parts of Bexar Co. and CD 15 contains parts of Guadalupe Co. The plan packs CD 34 and weakens CD 15 by removing Latino communities in Jim Hogg and Duval counties and including Anglo communities in Wilson, Karnes and Guadalupe Counties.

El Paso

The plan splits El Paso Co. between El Paso-based CD 16 and Bexar County-based CD 23. The plan pairs Latino voters in El Paso Co. with high turnout Anglo communities in Bexar Co. diluting the Latino voting strength. This plan keeps the El Paso Airport and parts of Ft. Bliss in CD 16, an improvement over the Senate map.