



Description of Senate District 10

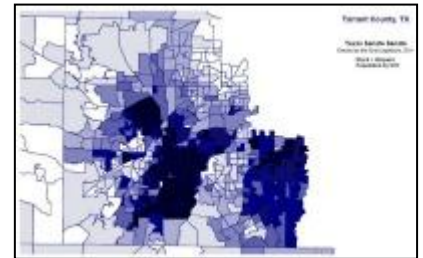
Texas Senate District 10 (see map on right) is an urban district entirely contained within Tarrant County, but is experiencing much more rapid demographic and political change than Tarrant County as a whole. The district is based in the City of Fort Worth and also includes half of the City of Arlington, the cities of Forest Hill, Mansfield and Kennedale, and all or parts of over a dozen other smaller municipalities in Tarrant County. SD10 is a majority minority district and contains virtually every predominately African American neighborhood and most predominately Hispanic neighborhoods in Tarrant County. In 2001, the Texas Legislature drew the district in its current configuration. Earlier this year, a federal district court ordered this same configuration be used for the 2012 elections. Republican Kim Brimer, who previously had never faced serious primary or general election opposition, lost to Democrat Wendy Davis in 2008 in the district's current configuration.



[Click to enlarge map](#)

Demographic Changes and Trends in Senate District 10

When SD10 was configured in 2001, Anglos made up a majority in the district, then standing at 56.6 percent. However, SD10 is now a majority minority district (see map on right). Over the decade both the African American and Hispanic populations grew dramatically while the Anglo population percentage fell. The 2010 Census reported the Anglo population in SD10 at only 47.6 percent – a nine-point drop in just 10 years.



[Click to enlarge map](#)

Senate District 10 Total Population 2000 and 2010

	%Anglo	%Black	%Hisp	%Black+Hisp	%Other
2000 Census	56.6%	16.7%	22.9%	39.4%	4.0%
2010 Census	47.6%	19.2%	28.9%	47.5%	4.9%
Change	-9.0%	2.5%	6.0%	8.1%	0.9%

Sources: US Census Bureau, Texas Legislative Council

From 2000 to 2010, the Anglo population percentage in SD10 fell by an average of 0.9 percent per year. Currently, SD10 contains the third largest concentration of African American voters in the State of Texas and one of the fastest growing urban Hispanic populations in our state. It is fair to assume that the minority population percentage has continued to grow at a steady pace since 2010, so it is likely that the combined minority population in SD10 now stands at approximately 54.2 percent while the Anglo population likely stands at no more than 45.8 percent.

Wendy Davis' Win in 2008

Republican Kim Brimer was elected in SD10 in 2002 and never faced serious Democratic opposition until 2008. In 2008, local Tarrant County leaders, frustrated with the poor service of Brimer and aware that the demographics in SD10 had changed significantly, recruited Wendy Davis as the 2008 Democratic nominee. Davis, as local leaders expected, proved to be an excellent candidate. Her campaign expanded

upon the strong Democratic base in the district and built a winning coalition of Democratic, independent and fair-minded Republican voters. Davis not only beat Brimer soundly by a margin of over 7,000 votes, but Brimer also received fewer votes within SD10 than President Obama.

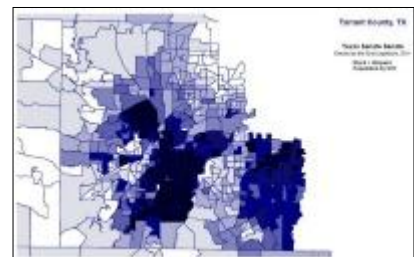
	Votes	% of Total
Wendy Davis	147,832	49.90%
Kim Brimer	140,734	47.50%
Richard Cross	7,591	2.60%
Barack Obama	143,351	

Source: Texas Legislative Council

Davis' election in 2008 showed not only her talent and strategic abilities as a candidate, but revealed the latent Democratic voting strength within SD10. The 2008 election results demonstrated that the large and growing minority population in the district had the ability to vote in a coalition with a smaller number of like-minded Anglo voters to elect their candidate of choice.

Texas Republicans' Failed Redistricting Strategy

Texas Republican leaders also recognized that the dramatic growth in the minority population in SD10 over the decade had changed it from a safely Republican district to a swing district steadily trending Democratic.



[Click to enlarge map](#)

In an effort to undermine the strong and growing impact of minority voters in SD10, during the 2011 Legislative Session, Republican leaders passed a Senate redistricting plan that converted SD10 back into a safe Anglo-controlled district by cracking its large minority neighborhoods into three separate districts (see map above) – all controlled by suburban, exurban or rural voters. However, Senator Davis, along with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) challenged the Republican Senate plan as a violation of the Voting Rights Act. A federal court in San Antonio ordered that SD10 be restored to its exact configuration as a majority minority district for the 2012 election cycle. More recently, a federal district court in Washington, DC confirmed that the Republican redistricting plan for SD10 was intentionally discriminatory in violation of the Voting Rights Act.

The fact that Republicans were willing to violate the US Voting Rights Act in order to redraw SD10 into a majority Anglo district favoring Republicans is confirmation of their own belief that the district in its current configuration is likely out of reach for Republicans in 2012.

Republicans Field 2nd Tier Candidate in 2012

Further confirmation that Republican leaders know that they are not likely to reclaim SD10 is their abandoning efforts to recruit a top tier challenger to Wendy Davis. Republicans are currently stuck with junior Republican State House member Mark Shelton. Shelton was the only credible Republican willing to stay in the race after the federal court ordered that SD10 be returned to its original configuration.

Earlier, when Republicans believed their proposed District 10 map would be used for the 2012 elections, they urged other stronger Republican candidates such as State Representative Kelly Hancock to run.

Hancock and others, though, quickly concluded that their prospects in the restored district were not good and instead filed in other districts or stood down altogether.

Even in his own State Representative District 97, Mark Shelton has underperformed compared to other Republican candidates. Shelton lost his first race for the State House to a Democrat, even though his House district is safely Republican. In later elections, Shelton ran behind statewide Republican candidates in the district, while Wendy Davis ran ahead of statewide Democratic candidates, both in SD10 and within the boundaries of Shelton's HD 97. For a more detailed analysis of Shelton's weaknesses, see the Lone Star Project report [here](#).

Shelton has struggled so far in 2012. The most recent campaign finance reports show that Shelton raised only [\\$282,037](#) compared to Wendy Davis' [\\$824,871](#), and he trails Davis badly in cash-on-hand. Even though Shelton is a doctor, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians rejected his candidacy and endorsed Wendy Davis. Shelton also lost endorsements from the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters, Arlington Professional Fire Fighters, the Arlington Police Officers Association, the Fort Worth Police Officers Association and the Tarrant County Combined Law Enforcement Association to Wendy Davis.

Wendy Davis Poised to Win in 2012

Since winning election in 2008, Wendy Davis has quickly established herself as one of the most effective and constructive members of the Texas Legislature. She has built a mainstream, centrist voting record while also displaying the courage to stand up to destructive efforts by State Republican leaders to badly underfund public schools and to eliminate access to healthcare for thousands of Texas families.

In 2009, Wendy Davis was recognized as the [Rookie of the Year](#) by Texas Monthly Magazine. Locally, she has won key endorsements by organizations that endorsed Kim Brimer in 2008 including the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters, Arlington Professional Fire Fighters, the Arlington Police Officers Association, the Fort Worth Police Officers Association and the Tarrant County Combined Law Enforcement Association.

Polling commissioned by the Davis Campaign and conducted by the respected firm [Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research](#) shows Wendy Davis with an eight point lead over Shelton and receiving more than 50 percent support overall, a threshold generally considered a key benchmark for incumbent candidates.