

# **Texas Redistricting Public Hearings**

# Flawed and unfair process

- It's clear that partisan State leaders have already made up their minds. We expect you to ignore the public and run over the legislators who represent minority districts. Unfortunately, that has been your track record.
- I left my house and used my time to come here because I believe in the Democratic process, and I'm calling on you to stop this relentless drive to pass maps that do not reflect the racial or the political make-up of Texas.
- If you refuse to change the current maps, it won't matter if you hold one hearing or 10 hearings or 20 hearings. Your actions will reflect the same indifference and disrespect of the Texas public and legislators who represent minority districts that a federal court has ruled to be intentionally discriminatory.

# Needed changes in the congressional map

• There are problems with the current congressional map that you will address if you have a sincere interest in fairness and have basic respect for Texas citizens.

#### Dallas-Fort Worth

- In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, we now have two districts where African Americans elect their candidate of choice. They are district 30 represented by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson and District 33 represented by Congressman Marc Veasey. Both of these districts must be protected.
- Draw a third district, which will elect the Latino candidate of choice. There are over 1.2 million Latinos living in Tarrant and Dallas Counties. A new Latino district can be drawn without harming the two African American districts. Both Representatives Yvonne Davis and Rafael Anchia have proposed maps that accomplish this goal. These maps would result in fair representation in north Texas for Africans, Latinos and Anglos.

#### <u>Austin</u>

 An Austin-based congressional district in Travis County should be included within any new map. The federal court in Washington DC cited the destruction of our Austin-based district as a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

## Corpus Christi

• In Corpus Christi, the interim map strands over 200,000 Latinos in an Anglo Republican-controlled district. Corpus Christi should be returned to a Latino opportunity district.

## San Antonio/West Texas

• The Latino voting strength in District 23 in San Antonio/West Texas is improperly diminished. The Latino voting strength in CD23 should be fully restored and/or enhanced.