

From:
To:
Subject: Indivisible TX Lege Weekly Actions
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Hi y'all,

With just a few days left in the third special session of the Texas Legislature, redistricting, trans rights, and more on the agenda, we can't afford to be distracted by [the latest temper tantrum by wanna-be dictator Greg](#) and his little buddy Dan. Here are some important actions you can take this week to stand up for the rights and safety of Texans!

1. Testify for Fair Maps

Testify against SB 6, the US House of Representatives Map for Texas, on WEDNESDAY October 13 at 10 am

From our allies at All on the Line TX: The Texas House has announced a hearing on Congressional Maps tomorrow! The rules of a Special Session allow the committee to post this information at the last minute. We just found out - so, now we're telling YOU!

The House Redistricting Committee has announced ONE HEARING ONLY on Congressional Maps (SB6).

COMMITTEE: Capitol Extension, Auditorium, E1.004

DATE: Wednesday, October 13th

TIME: 10:00 AM or upon final adjournment

Bill: SB6 Congressional Map

Support: NO

Broadcast Link to Hearing: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

Testimony will be limited to 3 minutes

VIRTUAL TESTIMONY

RSVP to the Committee using this link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpd-CoqDgvHd28whJ6rRnxlogaN_IKTPml

You will need to return the Witness Affirmation Form that you receive after from the Committee Clerk AFTER you RSVP with the link above. - If you have questions about this step, please email vanclave@redistrictingaction.org.

Registration to testify virtually at the hearing is now open and will close 12 hours prior to the start time of the hearing (10:00 pm on October 12, 2021)

In-Person Testimony

1. To testify in-person at the Capital, you'll need to register when you arrive at one of the kiosks dispersed throughout the building. Please register on or around 10am.
2. To view a video of how to register go to this link:
<https://mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov/HWRSPublic/About.aspx>
3. Items to bring with you: copy of your testimony, COVID mask, phone charger, and light

sweater.

4. Make sure to drop by your Senator and House member's office to let them know you testified. (Optional)

Written Testimony

1. To submit written testimony, [click on this link](#).
2. Written testimony is available for each hearing and must be turned in by the time the hearings finish.
3. Submissions are limited to 3,000 characters.

Talking Points: Congressional Maps

This proposed congressional map passed by the State Senate confirms Texas Republicans did exactly what we expected they would do - eliminate all competitive seats, ignore the growth and influence of communities of color, and gerrymander the map for their own partisan power.

- The Texas Legislature STILL has an opportunity to undo current gerrymandering and draw a fair map that reflects census data, but instead it is proposing a gerrymandered map that clearly ignores community input and the census data.
- The congressional map is a partisan power grab that fails to accurately reflect the 2020 Census data that shows 95 percent of Texas' population growth came from people of color and was centered in urban and suburban communities.

This map does not give the voters in the Lone Star State the fair representation and fair maps they deserve.

- Texas legislators failed to create a single competitive seat across 38 districts.
- Despite the fact that the growth in Texas came almost entirely from people of color, the map actually increases the number of majority-white districts.
- The votes from the cities and suburbs of and around El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth are drastically diluted.

Get Mad - Get Active!

2. Call to Save Lives

Call the Calendars Committee Chair Dustin Burrows at 512-463-0542 and your State Rep

to OPPOSE HB 25 - the anti-trans athlete bill

HB 25 passed out of committee last week. Now it sits in the Calendars Committee that works to prioritize (or stall) bills as they make their way (or don't) to the House Floor. After your testify (in written or in person) at the Redistricting Hearing tomorrow, make a couple of phone calls on HB 25! For more background and a script you can use, see [our previous Call to Action on HB 25](#).

3. Testify to Protect Public Health

Keep calling your State Rep to OPPOSE Anti-Vaccination Legislation, and Testify against HB 155 on Wednesday at 1 PM at the House State Affairs Committee Hearing

We asked you to make calls about this issue last week, and now one of the bills is scheduled for a committee hearing (which will no doubt overlap with the Redistricting hearing).

Testify: [State Affairs Notice of Public Hearing - includes link for written testimony](#)

For more: [Indivisible TX Lege's CTA](#)

4. Make Your Plan to Vote!

Learn about the 8 Texas Constitutional Amendments that are on the ballot in November, then make your plan to vote!

Early voting starts October 18! Our democracy huddle has put together an explainer on the 8 constitutional amendments, as well as their recommendation on which way to vote for each. Check it out, and please share it with your circle!

[2021 Indivisible TX Lege Voters' Guide](#)

[League of Women Voters' Texas 2021 Amendments Guide](#)

5. Call

Call Governor Abbott at 512-463-2000 and let him know what you think of his anti-vaccination, anti-business, anti-public health executive order

If you have some extra time after taking the 4 actions above, give Governor Greg Abbott your feedback on his recent executive order that bans companies from requiring vaccinations. When you call, a receptionist will pick up the phone. Let them know that you want to speak with a staffer regarding the Governor's recent COVID order. While you're at it, give your State Rep and State Senator a call too!

It's always darkest before the dawn, y'all. One foot in front of the other. [Insert your favorite cliché about persistence here!!] We are facing a historic moment in Texas. Let's make sure that each of us do what we can to push for a future with thriving Texas communities and thriving Texas families.

Take care of yourselves!

Marieke

Indivisible TX Lege

#TexansDeserveBetter

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