

**State Defendants' Response to Brooks, LULAC, and
MALC Plaintiffs' Joint Motion for Preliminary Injunction**

Exhibit AU

Exhibit 22, Texas House Committee on Congressional Redistricting Transcript
(Aug. 2, 2025).

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEOTAPE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

Saturday, August 2, 2025

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: The time is
3 9:02 a.m. The House Select Committee on Congressional
4 Redistricting will come to order.

5 The Clerk will call the roll.

6 THE CLERK: Chair Vasut.

7 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Vice Chair Rosenthal.

9 VICE CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Representative Garcia.

11 (No audible response.)

12 THE CLERK: Representative Geren.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GEREN: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Representative

15 Gervin-Hawkins.

16 (No audible response.)

17 THE CLERK: Representative Guerra.

18 REPRESENTATIVE GUERRA: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Representative Guillen.

20 REPRESENTATIVE GUILLEN: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Representative Hefner.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HEFNER: Here.

23 THE CLERK: Representative Hickland.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HICKLAND: Here.

25 THE CLERK: Representative Hunter.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Here.

2 THE CLERK: Representative Manuel.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Representative McQueeney.

5 REPRESENTATIVE McQUEENEY: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Representative Metcalf.

7 REPRESENTATIVE METCALF: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Representative Moody.

9 Are you here, Moody?

10 (No audible response, but is present.)

11 THE CLERK: Representative Pierson.

12 REPRESENTATIVE PIERSON: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Representative Spiller.

14 REPRESENTATIVE SPILLER: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Representative Teppper.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TEPPER: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Representative Thompson.

18 (No audible response.)

19 THE CLERK: Representative Turner.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Representative Wilson.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Here.

23 THE CLERK: Representative Wu.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WU: Here.

25 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: A quorum is present.

1 Members, the Chair lays out House Bill 4
2 as a matter of pending business.

3 Members, this is the Congressional
4 Redistricting bill we heard yesterday. Are there any
5 amendments?

6 The Chair hears none.

7 The Chair moves that House Bill 4 be
8 reported favorably without amendments with the
9 recommendation that it do pass and be printed.

10 Members, the Chair invites any member to
11 make a comment before the vote is taken.

12 At this time are there any comments?

13 The Chair recognizes Representative
14 Turner to make a comment.

15 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Thank you. Thank
16 you, Mr. Chairman and Members.

17 This morning is a travesty. We're here
18 on a summer Saturday morning in a meeting announced just
19 before midnight last night, less than ten hours ago, to
20 ram through a discriminatory and racially-motivated
21 Congressional map to the full House of Representatives.

22 This morning my constituents are
23 attending back-to-school events in Arlington and in
24 Mansfield, getting their kids ready for a new school
25 year, in the hope and promise that the new school year

1 brings. That's where I wanted to be this morning.

2 Meanwhile, this Committee meets here to
3 rip apart and divide their communities, to rob them and
4 their kids of their voices in Congress, all to appease
5 the Republican Party's cult leader in The White House,
6 doubling down on our State's shameful history of
7 intentional racial discrimination.

8 I want to speak to the thousands of
9 Texans who drove for hours, stood in the heat, tried to
10 register to testify, despite the obstacles. They
11 called, e-mailed, submitted written testimony to express
12 their outrage over this racist power grab. And I want
13 to express to every Texan who did that my deep gratitude
14 and admiration.

15 Even though Republicans here at the
16 legislature can't put aside their fear of disobeying
17 Donald Trump, please know this fight is far from over;
18 and Democrats will continue to stand shoulder to
19 shoulder with you in this fight. What is happening here
20 is wrong and everybody knows it, but we will not give
21 up.

22 This map intentionally dismantles
23 multiple majority-minority congressional districts in
24 which voters have repeatedly demonstrated the ability
25 and power to elect the candidates of their choice. To

1 take that ability and power away is straight-up
2 intentional racial discrimination and a violation of the
3 Voting Rights Act of 1965.

4 Finally, it's remarkable that the bill
5 author and other proponents of this radical map have
6 stated repeatedly they have no idea who drew it. You
7 would think that when we are considering a piece of
8 legislation that reengineers how more than 30 million
9 Texans will be represented at the highest level of
10 government, we would at least know who had their hand on
11 the steering wheel -- or, in this case, the keyboard and
12 mouse; but we still do not know.

13 As the proverb says: Success has a
14 thousand fathers; failure is an orphan.

15 Donald Trump's HB 4 is an ugly, racist
16 orphan.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: Thank you,
19 Mr. Turner.

20 The Chair recognizes Mr. Manuel to make a
21 statement.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chair and Members.

24 I promise I'm going to make this short.
25 I know yesterday and a lot of times I talk about race

1 because it is important; but the reason this committee
2 is so important to me, which a lot of you don't know, is
3 what happened in 2003, what happened in '94 with
4 redistricting, with playing political games, that
5 affected my area. And it wasn't a predominantly all
6 Black area. It was a true coalition, working-class
7 district. It was moms and dads who worked 9:00 to 5:00
8 who were trying to make it work.

9 And I grew up seeing my city get to a
10 point where it could have risen to something, and now
11 it's in decay. And when you have people who come to a
12 committee and say because I'm a Democrat-run city in
13 Beaumont, people are poor. And that wasn't what
14 happened. We lost our representation and economic
15 engines to larger parts of the district that had nothing
16 in common with us. That's why I bring up the
17 historically Black and Hispanic and Latino districts,
18 because it hurts knowing what could happen to them
19 because I know what happened to me.

20 I'm very blessed that I was raised
21 between the West Coast and the South by a dad who was in
22 the Coast Guard for 33 years. I have not always lived
23 my entire life in Jefferson County. I have been
24 represented by people of all races, political
25 backgrounds. And I will never forget, my father told

1 me, he said, "Why is it that we ask more of our soldiers
2 than we do of our citizens?"

3 And what I don't understand is yesterday
4 and the days before, we heard people who were telling
5 you they were hurting and that they're scared. And this
6 is the same thing that happened when Democrats didn't
7 listen during the era of the tea party, and we paid for
8 that.

9 And that's not a threat. I'm wanting you
10 to understand, just like some of you remember what that
11 fear felt like; you thought that big government was
12 coming in to take over everything. That is the real
13 fear that some people have, people who see districts
14 like mine who remember what it looked like and how we
15 have never been able to get back to that, how we have
16 literally been poor, Black, and destitute. And it has
17 given people every reason to invoke our race to say that
18 we are not intelligent, that we're not smart; and it
19 promotes racism. And that is why sometimes people say
20 that and they don't really, truly understand; but it
21 does. It promotes racism.

22 I'm fortunate to have a family that was
23 in civil rights, a father who forced me to learn my own
24 answers; but I know people my age who are in jail,
25 people who don't even understand that we're not in a

1 democracy; that we're in a republic. And they teach
2 school, some of them.

3 I understand, again, that politics wins
4 the day; and I understand that everybody wants to do
5 what they can for their political survival. But we are
6 messing with people's lives. We have taken political
7 resources from two historically Black districts that
8 were represented by Black women for a very long time.

9 And you know what? I'm going to go off
10 exactly what the author of the bill said, that he didn't
11 write it, that he used an outside legal team, a legal
12 team that, as we've seen, has said, "Racism is over,"
13 when we know people still are racist. We know that
14 they're someone who submitted a map that the Supreme
15 Court has kicked out because they saw that it was
16 gerrymandering Black districts.

17 I wouldn't want to do that to any of you
18 all, and I would really hope you all would understand
19 that I get winning; but at what cost is it okay to harm
20 people? At what cost is it okay to say: As long as we
21 win and we stay winning?

22 I know all of you here and I know that's
23 not how you all think, but I am telling you -- and I'm
24 sorry I'm emotional -- but I am telling you there is
25 real harm in breaking up communities of interest like

1 this, taking away airports from people, taking away
2 businesses that they have relied on for their
3 representation to make sure that they do right. Even if
4 you don't agree with DEI, just being able to make that
5 call in your districts to say, "Hey, can you give this
6 young person a chance? He really is doing good work."
7 When you take that out, we don't have a voice.

8 And sometimes those economic engines are
9 in that district that those people need. We always say,
10 "Pull yourself up by the bootstraps," but some people
11 don't have boots. And all we're -- all I'm saying is:
12 Please, listen to these people's hurt. If you want to
13 pass the bill, pass it; but, please, just listen to what
14 they were saying before you pass it. We can always come
15 back. I will come back; but, please, there are people
16 who are real-life scared.

17 And I would never wish anything on anyone
18 for what I have seen happen to my community the entire
19 time I grew up because a White Republican was mad with a
20 White Democrat and drew him out of his district because
21 he had the respect of people of every ethnicity and
22 background and it was a Republican district and he
23 consistently won.

24 I appreciate you, Chairman. I thank you
25 all for working with all of us, and I really hope you

1 all will listen with your heart.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: Thank you,

4 Mr. Manuel.

5 The Chair recognizes Mr. Wu to make a
6 comment.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WU: For the record, in
8 my, I think, 13 years here I've not seen a process like
9 this, hiding the ball not only from the public but from
10 members themselves, members not only of this body, but
11 of this committee. For weeks members here asked, "What
12 is the intent? What is the purpose of being here? What
13 is the issue? What is the deal," because the law
14 requires us to redistrict after the census. Nothing
15 says that you're supposed to or can in the middle of a
16 census, in between censuses.

17 We redistrict after a census because
18 populations change and the Constitution requires us to
19 have equal representation. What is the impetus here?
20 We tried to ask. We said, "Would you bring the governor
21 or his staff or somebody in his office who knows what is
22 in his mind? What's the problem? What is the issue
23 we're solving?" We know that for every other topic
24 except this. It's almost like it was intentionally
25 hidden.

1 We know the governor's intent is based
2 off of Donald Trump's orders and Donald Trump's letter
3 from the DOJ, who, by the way, is probably in violation
4 of the Hatch Act for conducting politics from a federal
5 office; but that's not the point.

6 The point is we know where this came
7 from. We know what sparked it. We know what the
8 impetus is; but, yet, here in the committee, the Chair
9 refused to inquire why. Just: Well, we'll send an
10 e-mail; if it bounces, who cares.

11 "Can we bring somebody? Can we ask them?
12 Did you call? Did we call anybody from the governor's
13 office?" I asked repeatedly in this committee, "Hey,
14 have you talked to the governor? Have you talked to
15 somebody in his office? Maybe you should find out what
16 his intention is." And through all those weeks, all
17 those opportunities, all that time, "Nope."

18 I bet today if we asked the Chair, "Hey,
19 have you talked to the governor about what he wants, why
20 he made this call?" You know the answer is, "No." Of
21 course not, because that's the point.

22 The point is to hide from the public.
23 The point is to hide from the membership. The point is
24 to hide from the court to do as much in secret and in
25 the dark as possible, and that is the legacy of this

1 body, to take our democracy and to shove it in a back
2 closet and do whatever you want.

3 This -- this is not just an attack on
4 Democrats. Democrats have said repeatedly, especially
5 the members of Congress who came here and have spoken
6 publically they don't care if they come back or not; but
7 what's important are those communities. Those
8 communities should be allowed to pick the person of
9 their choice. I'm sorry that person is not you; but
10 they have made their choice, these communities who have
11 suffered together through the ages, communities that get
12 special treatment because this body has intentionally
13 discriminated against them for centuries.

14 Since the founding of this state, the
15 people in these communities have been treated not even
16 as second-class citizens, treated as animals, treated as
17 slaves, treated as indentured servants and whatever
18 else, people to be seen -- people to neither be seen nor
19 heard; but, "Just go do your little jobs. Serve us."

20 The moment you gain power, the moment you
21 gain representation is the moment they'll snatch it from
22 you. They'll put you back in your place. That's not
23 the America that I believe in. The America I believe
24 in -- the America I was taught growing up is a place
25 that welcomes competition, welcomes a challenge of

1 ideas, welcomes people of all places to share in their
2 vision and to hear all their voices. I know that's not
3 something that we've always lived up to, but we have
4 strived for it.

5 This action, this body does not move us
6 forward. It takes us very far back.

7 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: Members, any other
8 comments?

9 The Chair recognizes Vice Chair Rosenthal
10 to make a comment.

11 VICE CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 This body is now demonstrating yet again
14 why the Voting Rights Act was so important, and it seems
15 like leadership in Texas cannot wait to jump on the
16 opportunity to strip people of their rights. So when
17 the Supreme Court nullifies a provision of the Voting
18 Rights Act that requires this state in particular to
19 preclear election laws, the State cannot wait to pass
20 draconian restrictions to make it the hardest.

21 The most difficult state in the union to
22 register and cast a ballot is the State of Texas, and
23 that set of laws was enacted after the Supreme Court
24 struck down that provision of the Voting Rights Act.

25 And now, we have just seen this State's

1 response to the Courts weakening another provision of
2 the Voting Rights Act, where these districts that are
3 majority-minority that allows those communities to elect
4 their candidate of their choice can now be dismantled
5 solely on the basis of race -- or at least that's what
6 the Department of Justice letter instructing the
7 governor, that's what that letter told the governor to
8 do.

9 And the governor could not wait to do
10 that, and this body has been complicit in complying with
11 the order of the -- of the president to deliver five new
12 seats; and the governor's justification is: Well, just
13 because those type of districts are no longer explicitly
14 protected, we have our -- that's all the motivation that
15 we need to dismantle them.

16 So the people of Texas spoke. They came
17 out in overwhelming numbers to these hearings. They
18 submitted thousands and thousands of testimonials
19 online; and we saw that 1.2 percent of the responses
20 were in favor, while 98.8 percent were opposed. To
21 assert that the people of Texas want this is strange
22 credulity. It's -- it's unbelievable.

23 I think even conservative -- true,
24 conscientious conservative Texans know this is a racist
25 attack on Black and Brown communities; and I won't stand

1 for it. We will continue to fight this with everything
2 we have.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: Thank you, Vice
5 Chair.

6 Members, any other comments?

7 The Chair recognizes Speaker Moody.

8 REP. JOE MOODY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 I appreciate that.

10 Members, I spent all of Thursday at a
11 hearing in Kerrville. What happened there was
12 devastating. We heard from a mother who identified the
13 body of her baby girl by her charm bracelet, people who
14 clung to trees for hours while homes and cars were swept
15 away around them. Parents have been burying their
16 babies. People have lost everything, truly everything.

17 That was only the second public hearing
18 on flood relief. We spent so much more time on this
19 mid-decade redistricting. And I initially had written
20 here I wanted to tell you how sad that made me; but
21 quite honestly, it pisses me off.

22 Do you know there's a nonprofit right now
23 that is trying to reconnect kids with their stuffed
24 animals and, in a lot of cases, connect parents with the
25 stuff animals that maybe were the last things that gave

1 their kids comfort? That's the kind of digging in and
2 love and compassion people are showing around this
3 state. And, yet, here we are.

4 We were told these maps had to be
5 redrawn, that it was a constitutional problem, until
6 yesterday. Yesterday we heard these crazy-looking maps
7 with cracked, packed, and jacked districts were drawn
8 for political performance, to keep some votes from
9 mattering. The Felon in Chief said, "Get me five
10 seats," and so here we are. That shameless admission
11 was made to cover up that they are drawn along racial
12 lines. The DOJ letter proves that.

13 And let me be very clear: I'm not saying
14 any member sitting here with me is a racist. I never
15 would, not at all. I don't know what's in everyone's
16 hearts or in their minds. What I am looking at is the
17 effect of what this does.

18 Congresswoman Crockett mentioned that
19 three-fifths compromise. At the dawn of America, a
20 Black person was worth three-fifths of a White one. The
21 effect of these maps is that now a Black person is worth
22 only one-fifth.

23 I guess I should feel lucky because
24 people who look like me are worth at least one-third.
25 We are truly doing worse in 2025 Austin than in 1787

1 Philadelphia.

2 And it's not just votes. Politicians
3 want to choose their voters and rob the rest. These
4 lines snake in the districts to grab airports and
5 industry and medical centers. These maps steal the
6 economic engines that we built, and we're supposed to be
7 grateful for that. We didn't have to have this hearing;
8 it was given to us, scraps.

9 We shouldn't be here. We shouldn't be
10 doing this at all. Across all hearings people were
11 almost 100 to 1 against it. On social media that's
12 called getting ratio'ed.

13 Where we should be is back in Kerrville,
14 helping people. That's the kind of thing we run for
15 office to do, not this. This is politics over people in
16 the grossest way possible. It's a power grab, and I
17 feel sick in my soul that we have stooped this low.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: Members, any other
20 comments?

21 The Chair hears none.

22 The question occurs on the motion to
23 report House Bill 4 without amendments with the
24 recommendation that it do pass and be printed.

25 The Clerk will call the roll.

1 THE CLERK: Chair Vasut.

2 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Vice Chair Rosenthal.

4 VICE CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Nay.

5 THE CLERK: Representative Garcia.

6 (No audible response.)

7 THE CLERK: Representative Geren.

8 REPRESENTATIVE GEREN: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: Representative
10 Gervin-Hawkins.

11 (No audible response.)

12 THE CLERK: Representative Guerra.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GUERRA: No.

14 THE CLERK: Representative Guillen.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GUILLEN: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Representative Hefner.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HEFNER: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Representative Hickland.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HICKLAND: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Representative Hunter.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Representative Manuel.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: No.

24 THE CLERK: Representative McQueeney.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MCQUEENEY: Aye.

1 THE CLERK: Representative Metcalf.

2 REPRESENTATIVE METCALF: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Representative Moody.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MOODY: No.

5 THE CLERK: Representative Pierson.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PIERSON: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Representative Spiller.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SPILLER: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Representative Tepper.

10 REPRESENTATIVE TEPPER: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Representative Thompson.

12 (No audible response.)

13 THE CLERK: Representative Turner.

14 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: No.

15 THE CLERK: Representative Wilson.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Representative Wu.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WU: No.

19 CHAIRPERSON VASUT: There being 12 ayes,

20 6 nays, and zero present not voting, the motion

21 prevails.

22 There being no further business for the

23 Committee, the Chair moves to adjourn, subject to the

24 call of the Chair. Is there objection?

25 The Chair hears none, and the House

1 Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting stands
2 adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair, at
3 9:27 a.m.

4 (Adjournment.)

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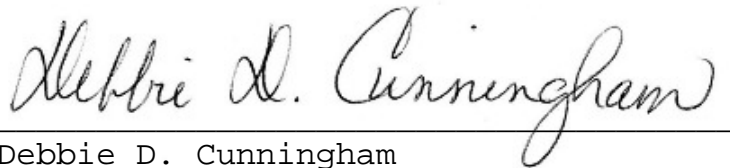
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEOTAPE

I, Debbie D. Cunningham, the undersigned
Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of
Texas, certify that the foregoing pages are a true and
correct transcription of the videotaped recording to the
best of my ability to understand and decipher the words
and identify the speakers based on information provided.

I further certify that I am neither attorney
or counsel for, related to, nor employed by any parties
to the action in which this testimony is taken and,
further, that I am not a relative or employee of any
counsel employed by the parties hereto or financially
interested in the action.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO under my hand and seal
of office on this 11th day of September, 2025.



Debbie D. Cunningham
Certified Shorthand Reporter
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