

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

Exhibit AY

Governor Newsom and California leaders host Texas officials amid their fight to protect democracy (Aug 8, 2025), <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/08/08/governor-newsom-and-california-leaders-host-texas-officials-amid-their-fight-to-protect-democracy/>

Document title: Governor Newsom and California leaders host Texas officials amid their fight to protect democracy | Governor of California

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Aug 8, 2025

Governor Newsom and California leaders host Texas officials amid their fight to protect democracy

What you need to know: Governor Newsom, California officials, and Texas leaders met in Sacramento to discuss options to respond to the Republican gerrymandering attempts.

SACRAMENTO – As Donald Trump and Texas Republicans push rigged congressional maps to seize power before a single vote is cast in the 2026 election, Governor Gavin Newsom and California leaders hosted Texas Democratic lawmakers who are breaking quorum to defend democracy against the GOP's hyper-partisan gerrymander.

The Governor and state leaders have floated a potential statewide ballot measure that would reaffirm California's commitment to national independent redistricting and allow voters to temporarily adjust the state's congressional map only if Texas or other GOP-led states manipulate theirs.

Donald Trump is tipping the scales of justice toward injustice for us all – he realizes his agenda is so unpopular that he'd rather rig the next election and prevent voters from holding him accountable and provide a check on his deeply unpopular policies. California stands ready to flex its muscle to ensure the integrity of our democracy nationwide.

Governor Gavin Newsom

Recent news

California announces funding to create thousands of affordable homes for California families

Sep 22, 2025

Governor Newsom signs laws to protect school children and hospital patients, and limit fear tactics used by Trump's secret police force to terrorize communities

Sep 20, 2025

Governor Newsom issues emergency proclamation to help Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties recover from TCU Lightning Complex Fires

Sep 19, 2025





"We came here knowing the risks. Lawsuits, threats, and intimidation won't stop us. We swore an oath — not to Trump, not to Abbott, and not to any party. We swore to defend the Constitution and the people we represent. We're not backing down," said **Texas Rep. Ann Johnson**.

"Now that Republicans know they are going to lose the House next year, they're trying to change the rules to redraw Congressional district maps and rig the elections in their favor. Democrats must respond to Republicans' blatant partisan power grab. We cannot and will not unilaterally disarm," said **Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi**

"When Republicans in Texas, Indiana, Florida and other states are lining up to steal additional congressional seats, something has to be done. I want to thank our Texas lawmakers for standing up for democracy and the rule of law. Our congressional delegation is united and ready to take on this fight with Governor Newsom and our state legislative partners. California cannot stand idly by and watch as Republicans and Donald Trump strip food programs from California schools, cut millions of Californians from their health insurance, do permanent damage to California's clean air and clean water, and through their tariff scheme drive small businesses into bankruptcy and force hard working Californians to lose their jobs. This is a blatant power grab, and we will not stand for it," said **Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation**.

"Today, we are at a flash point set in play by Donald Trump and Texas Republicans who see the writing on the wall that they'll lose the midterms—and they're trying to cheat to win. President Trump's cynical ploy to redraw congressional maps in Texas is rotten to its core. It is our sacred responsibility to defend our democracy and the people of the Golden State, so if Texas moves forward, we need to be prepared to do the same," said **Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire**.

"California Democrats will not allow Trump's Republican Party to rig the system and take permanent control of the U.S. House of Representatives. We are prepared and we will fight fire with fire. We will do whatever it takes to defend our democracy. We will do whatever it takes to protect the voices, the votes, and the rights of every American," said **Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas**.

In July, the Governor hosted other Texas state leaders to discuss the special session that is underway in the Lone Star State. President Trump has publicly and repeatedly pressured an uneasy state legislature to take the unprecedented step of redrawing their congressional map — mid cycle — to more favorably support Republicans. In fact, recent polling found 63% of likely Texas voters view its Trump-backed redistricting plan as unnecessary.



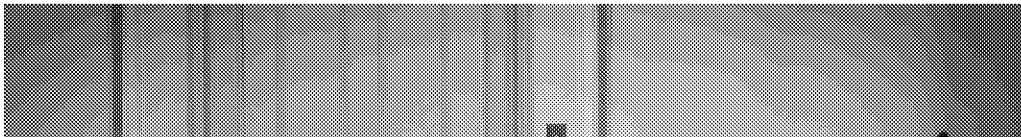


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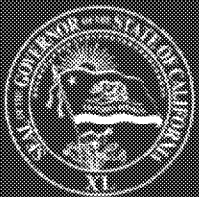
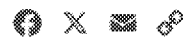
Today's meeting participants

- Governor Gavin Newsom
- Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (CA-11)
- Congressmember Zoe Lofgren (CA-18), Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation
- Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast)
- Senator Sabrina Cervantes (D-Riverside)
- Senator Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara)
- Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Salinas)
- Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters)
- Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles)
- Assemblymember Avelino Valencia (D-Anaheim)
- Texas State Rep. Rhetta Bowers
- Texas State Rep. Gina Hinojosa
- Texas State Rep. Ann Johnson
- Texas State Rep. Ray Lopez
- Texas State Rep. Mary Ann Perez
- Texas State Rep. Vince Perez





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