

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

Exhibit BD

Texas Senate Committee on Congressional Redistricting Wednesday, August 6,
2025, Transcript.

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEOTAPE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSIONAL
REDISTRICTING, SPECIAL
Wednesday, August 6, 2025

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

2 20 minutes 31 seconds recording transcription, as
3 follows:

4 (Gavel struck calling meeting to order.)

5 THE CHAIR: The Special Committee on
6 Congressional Redistricting will come to order. The
7 Clerk will please call the roll.

8 THE CLERK: Senator King?

9 SENATOR KING: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Senator Creighton?

11 SENATOR CREIGHTON: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Senator Alvarado?

13 (Silence.)

14 THE CLERK: Senator Hinojosa?

15 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Present.

16 THE CLERK: Senator Hughes?

17 (Silence.)

18 THE CLERK: Senator Miles?

19 (Silence.)

20 THE CLERK: Senator Parker?

21 SENATOR PARKER: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Senator Paxton?

23 SENATOR PAXTON: Present.

24 SENATOR PAXTON: Present.

25 SENATOR SPARKS: Here.

1 THE CHAIR: We have six?

2 THE CLERK: Six. Yes, sir.

3 THE CHAIR: So, there being six present,
4 a quorum has been established, and Senator Hughes is en
5 route. He had a family matter come up, it turns out,
6 and he's just -- has a short ETA, but we're gonna go
7 ahead and get started.

8 Just housekeeping, members -- and this
9 is very important -- on Monday, an email was sent to
10 your staff stating a deadline for submitting committee
11 amendments by 9:00 a.m., Thursday morning, August 7 of
12 tomorrow.

13 Yesterday, a follow-up email was sent to
14 your staff with more detail on how to request or submit
15 committee amendments.

16 Again, the amendments are due by 9:00
17 a.m. tomorrow, August 7th. The amendments will be
18 published publicly on District Viewer so we can discuss
19 them at the hearing tomorrow, and documents will be
20 shared in the committee drop box.

21 Any questions? Anybody on that?

22 (Silence.)

23 THE CHAIR: Okay. So, the purpose of
24 today's hearing is to hear testimony from invited
25 witnesses on Congressional Plan "C" like "Charlie" two,

1 three, zero, eight (C2308).

2 The plan is available for the public to
3 view it at: dvr.capitol.texas.gov/congress/73/planC2308.

4 Let me say that one more time -- and
5 again, it's actually easier to find if you just go to
6 the legislative council's website and type in Plan
7 C2308, you'll be able to find it. But it's:
8 dvr.capitol.texas.gov/congress/73/planC2308.

9 The plan is also presented on the
10 posters on the sides of this committee room, and there
11 are also handouts of the map at the back of the
12 committee room.

13 Now today, the plan was to only be
14 taking testimony from invited witnesses.

15 However, any members of the public may
16 submit written comments through the public input portal.
17 And, as we've mentioned in all the prior hearings, at
18 the beginning of the session -- actually, I think before
19 it -- we opened up the committee's portal, which you can
20 find on the committee website, and any member of the
21 public can submit written comments there.

22 They can also upload documents, and
23 those are all made available to the committee and,
24 ultimately, to all the senators and to the public, and
25 they'll stay in that portal indefinitely.

1 Now, I wanted to discuss the purpose for
2 holding invited testimony today, and we'll hold -- we'll
3 have a hearing for public testimony tomorrow.

4 So, members, as you recall -- and anyone
5 who was watching the hearings, the public hearings we
6 had, the regional hearings -- that we had invited
7 testimony at the regional hearings.

8 And I had requested, the Democrat Caucus
9 to submit the names of any -- anyone that they wanted to
10 bring in as invited testimony, and we formally invited
11 all of those.

12 Quite a number testified, and many
13 mentioned that they had difficulty testifying without
14 having -- without knowing what the map looked like --
15 that we would ultimately be considering. Now, they all
16 gave very valuable testimony on the process itself of
17 redistricting.

18 But, since they had -- so many of them
19 had commented -- we really want to give testimony on the
20 precise map that the committee will be considering.

21 Because of that, we decided to hold a
22 separate committee hearing just for the purpose of
23 allowing those invited members -- which, by the way,
24 includes all the Democrat congressional members -- we
25 wanted to give them their own special day to simply come

1 back, now that we have a bill filed, and give us
2 specific testimony on that bill.

3 So, that was the purpose for having this
4 invited testimony hearing, is to allow those that had
5 been invited testimony -- at the request of our Democrat
6 members -- who had said, "we want to testify,
7 specifically, on a bill" -- we wanted to give them a
8 specific time and opportunity to come back and do that.
9 And that's what today is about.

10 Now, normally, you will see in a
11 committee hearing invited testimony, and then you open
12 it up that same day for testimony from the general
13 public. However, we decided to bifurcate, to split
14 those into two different committee days. So, we'll be
15 taking public testimony tomorrow.

16 The reason we decided to do that was
17 simply as a courtesy to the public. Because we may have
18 a large number of citizens show up to testify tomorrow.
19 And what we saw in the House Committee -- and it wasn't
20 their fault, it's just the way it worked out -- was they
21 had public testimony and invited testimony on the same
22 day.

23 Well, the invited testimony went first,
24 and it ended up lasting for a long period of time. And
25 so, what happened, was all the citizens who had come to

1 testify, ended up waiting hours and hours before they
2 could testify.

3 So, we, as a convenience to the
4 citizens, didn't want them to have to wait until the
5 invited testimony was over before they could begin the
6 work they came here to do. So, that's why we've divided
7 this into two days. So, we're going to meet back here
8 tomorrow -- we've already posted that -- at 9:00 in the
9 morning, and we'll take public testimony at that time.

10 But, again, today is just for the
11 invited witnesses. Now, for today's hearing, we had
12 invited the following people -- and I'm going to go
13 through them and I'll mention the response that we
14 received so that everybody knows where we're at.

15 For the following two people that we
16 invited we received no response back: That was Leah
17 Aden, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and Tanya Chavez, La
18 Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), both were invited, but
19 did not respond to the invitations to appear today.

20 The following, we received a response
21 that they were unable to attend or did not wish to
22 attend today:

23 Niyati Shah, Asian Americans Advancing
24 Justice (AAJC), Luis Figueroa, Every Texan, Roman R.
25 Palomares with LULAC, Gary Bledsoe with the Texas NAACP,

1 Michael Lee, Brennan Center for Justice, Ellen D. Katz,
2 University of Michigan Law School, and Nina Perales with
3 MALDEF.

4 Now, again, these were folks that had
5 been invited witnesses, many of whom testified in our
6 regional hearings. They had -- many had expressed that
7 they would prefer to come back and testify or that they
8 were disappointed that at that time they could not
9 testify on the bill specifically.

10 So, we invited them back today now that
11 there is a bill -- there wasn't at the time -- now that
12 there is a map, there wasn't at the time, we invited
13 them back for today so that they could have that
14 opportunity to testify on this map.

15 Now, additionally, all 12 Democrat US
16 congressional members were invited to personally testify
17 today. Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher, we communicated
18 multiple times with her staff. There was no definite
19 response given. Congressman Al Green, we did not hear
20 back from his office. Congresswoman Veronica Escobar,
21 didn't hear back from her office.

22 Congressman Joaquin Castro, we did not
23 hear a response from his office. Congressman Henry
24 Cuellar, we did not receive a response back from his
25 office.

1 Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, originally,
2 we were told she was going to attend -- we were told
3 just a little bit ago -- and when we called back to our
4 office to double-check because we didn't see her in the
5 committee room -- that she will not be with us today.

6 Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, we
7 received no response to our invitation from her.
8 Congresswoman Julie Johnson, we received no response to
9 our invitation from her.

10 Congresswoman [sic] -- Congressman Marc
11 Veasey, we corresponded with his staff. He did respond
12 with written testimony, which has -- it will be made
13 available to the committee members, but there was no
14 response as to whether or not he would be here today,
15 and I do not see him in the audience.

16 Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, we
17 received no response from his office. Congressman Greg
18 Casar, we received no response from him. And
19 Congressman Lloyd Doggett, we received no response to
20 our invitation from Congressman Doggett either.

21 So, we did want to wait a little while
22 to see if anybody just showed up. We have had no one
23 register to testify today, no one that had been invited.

24 Additionally, at the request of the
25 Democrat Caucus, the committee had sent invitations to

1 appear before the committee at any time to Harmeet
2 Dhillon, the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil
3 Rights Division at the US Department of Justice, and
4 Mr. Adam Kincaid.

5 Now those were letters that were sent --
6 Mr. Kincaid in particular -- but both were sent letters
7 of invitation if they wish to testify. However, the
8 committee also considered motions to subpoena their
9 attendance, and the committee voted those motions down,
10 and we declined to subpoena them to testify.

11 Members, just a personal comment here.
12 For the nearly two dozen witnesses who did not appear
13 today, invited witnesses, and I think we're very -- were
14 very important to the process -- we invited them because
15 we trusted that if they had legal or constitutional
16 concerns, about the map, that they would come and share
17 those concerns with us in this forum.

18 And, again, many of them had testified.
19 A number of them had testified in our regional hearings
20 and had said that they were having difficulty testifying
21 with specifics beyond just the redistricting in general.
22 They were having difficulty testifying on specifics
23 because there wasn't a map available at that time. I
24 had not filed a bill. That map has been filed. It is
25 the same map that the House passed out at the committee

1 last week.

2 This is filed as a companion bill, and
3 it has been before us for a number of days. And I had
4 presumed, based on their earlier testimony, that if they
5 have any concerns over legality regarding this map, that
6 they would come today and provide testimony regarding
7 their concerns.

8 Because, as we all know in
9 redistricting, now is the time to share such concerns,
10 if they exist. And, apparently, these witnesses have
11 chosen not to do that, and in almost all the cases
12 chosen not even to respond to our committee invitations.

13 Members, is there any -- would anyone
14 like to make any comments?

15 (Indicating gesture.)

16 THE CHAIR: Senator Hinojosa.

17 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman. Many of these witnesses that we invited
19 to testify today, many of them testified during the
20 regional hearings, correct?

21 THE CHAIR: A number of them did. Yes.
22 They all were invited.

23 SENATOR HINOJOSA: And there, they
24 expressed some of the concerns with the potential maps
25 that are being considered, as it relates to violations

1 of the Voting Rights Act and the United States
2 Constitution?

3 THE CHAIR: I can't remember the
4 specifics of each one's testimony but, in general, as I
5 recall, they testified about the topic of redistricting.
6 But many -- as well as many of the citizens who
7 testified, and I think we had 205 citizens testify --
8 but many, specifically, said, "it's hard to testify
9 because I don't have the map in front of me to point out
10 specific concerns about the map." And we just didn't
11 have one at that time.

12 So, going back to my original point --
13 and I understand completely what you're saying -- many
14 of them did express concerns about redistricting in
15 general, but we wanted to give them the opportunity to
16 come and have the map before them and tell us of any
17 concerns they had with regard to the map that the
18 committee is now considering.

19 SENATOR HINOJOSA: But, from my
20 recollection, many of those invited witnesses were very
21 specific expressing their concerns and their allegations
22 of violations of the Voter Rights Act and the United
23 States Constitution. They expressed those concerns.

24 And, yes, they didn't have a map, in
25 front of them, but as it relates to their concerns, as

1 it relates to redistricting, they were pretty expressive
2 of their main concerns with the proposed redistricting.

3 THE CHAIR: I would encourage everyone
4 to go back and listen to their testimony again.

5 Again, they did express strong concerns,
6 strong feelings, about redistricting in general. We did
7 not have a map for them to look at, at that time. One
8 had not been prepared or filed. And because a number
9 had expressed a desire to see the map and, I believe, to
10 testify on that map. That's why we wanted to invite
11 them back and give them another shot at telling us their
12 concerns, if they had any.

13 SENATOR HINOJOSA: And and I agree with
14 that. But, specifically, there were -- there was a
15 professor that testified and was very detailed as to the
16 different case law in effect and the Voting Rights Act
17 and the constitutional amendments that are related to
18 redistricting. But now...

19 THE CHAIR: Yeah. I think that was
20 Ellen Katz, as I recall.

21 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Correct. So, now
22 that we have a plan, a redistricting plan before us,
23 these invited witnesses will now be precluded from
24 showing up, let's say, tomorrow and testifying on the
25 map itself?

1 THE CHAIR: They certainly can --

2 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Okay.

3 THE CHAIR: -- because it's open to the
4 public, but -- and the congressional members can as
5 well.

6 But, out of courtesy to the public,
7 since we had set this day aside for the congress
8 congressional members and for the invited experts or
9 invited witnesses because -- out of courtesy to the
10 public that will be testifying -- I'm gonna hold them to
11 the same time restrictions that the general public would
12 be held to.

13 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Except for questions
14 that are being asked?

15 THE CHAIR: Except for questions. Any
16 Senator can ask as many questions for as long as they
17 want of any -- of one that registers and appears to
18 testify tomorrow.

19 SENATOR HINOJOSA: So, tomorrow, we
20 don't have -- we do not have any specific -- what is
21 this? -- that have been invited, other than just by the
22 testimony?

23 THE CHAIR: That is correct, sir.
24 They -- tomorrow is reserved for the general public to
25 give testimony on the map.

1 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Members, any
3 other thoughts?

4 (Silence.)

5 THE CHAIR: Okay. Members, is there any
6 other business to come before the committee today?

7 (Silence.)

8 THE CHAIR: Hearing none, Senator Paxton
9 moves that the committee stand in recess subject to the
10 call of the chair. And I want to thank those who are
11 here in the committee room for waiting patiently until
12 we got started today. And I want to thank the committee
13 members for being here. And, with that, we'll see you
14 all tomorrow morning.

15 (Gavel struck.)

16 [End of video recording]

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25


REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEOTAPE

I, Vicente Mendoza, 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 nor 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 13th day of September, 2025.



Vicente Mendoza, CSR, RPR, LCI
Certified Shorthand Reporter
CSR No. 6918 - Expires 04/30/2027
INTEGRITY LEGAL SUPPORT SOLUTIONS
9901 Brodie Ln, Ste. 160-400
Austin, Texas 78748
www.integritylegal.support
512-320-8690; Firm #528