

# Texas Redistricting: 1980s Timeline

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## 1980

- April 1, 1980 Census Day
- December 31, 1980 Census Bureau reports total state populations to the president. Texas gains three new congressional seats.

## 1981

- January 13, 1981 67th Legislature, Regular Session, convenes.
- March 29, 1981 Legislature receives population data for Texas.
- April 7, 1981 Population data loaded into redistricting computer; analysis of district proposals begins.
- June 1, 1981 Legislature passes house and senate redistricting bills and adjourns sine die.
- June 18, 1981 Governor signs house redistricting bill and vetoes senate bill.
- June 19, 1981 Suit filed in state district court against house plan passed by legislature (*Clements v. Valles*)
- July 13, 1981 67th Legislature, 1st Called Session, convenes to consider congressional redistricting.
- August 10, 1981 Legislature passes congressional redistricting bill.
- August 14, 1981 Governor signs congressional redistricting bill.
- August 30, 1981 Legislative Redistricting Board (LRB) convenes to consider senate redistricting.
- August 31, 1981 Texas Supreme Court overturns house plan; as a result, the LRB also considers house redistricting.
- September 11, 1981 Congressional redistricting plan is submitted to the justice department for preclearance under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- September 14, 1981 Suit filed in federal district court against the congressional plan passed by the legislature in special session (*Seamon v. Upham*).
- October 27, 1981 LRB adopts senate plan.
- October 28, 1981 LRB adopts house plan.
- October 29, 1981 Suit filed in federal district court against the LRB senate plan.
- October 30, 1981 Suit filed in state district court against the LRB house plan.
- November 6, 1981 Suit filed in federal district court against the LRB house plan.
- November 23, 1981 Texas attorney general submits LRB house and senate plans to the justice department for Voting Rights Act preclearance.

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November 30, 1981 Secretary of state submits LRB house and senate plans to the justice department for Voting Rights Act preclearance.

December 3, 1981 House and senate cases consolidated for trial (*Terrazas v. Clements*).

## 1982

January 6, 1982 State district court upholds LRB senate plan.

January 25, 1982 Justice department issues letters of objection to house and senate redistricting plans.

January 25, 1982 Court hearing for the congressional case extends the filing deadline for selected congressional districts to February 22.

January 28, 1982 Court hearing the house and senate cases enters an order reflecting its intention to adopt temporary plans and asks for submission of modified plans; extends filing deadline to March 19.

January 29, 1982 Justice department issues a letter of objection to the congressional redistricting plans.

February 2, 1982 Original filing deadline for primary elections.

February 15, 1982 Court hearing the congressional case extends filing deadline for selected districts to March 19.

February 27, 1982 Court hearing the congressional case adopts new plan for the 1982 elections. The decision is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

March 4, 1982 Justice department withdraws objections to certain house and senate districts.

March 5, 1982 Court hearing the house and senate case adopts temporary plans for 1982 elections (MALDEF plans for El Paso and Bexar house districts; LRB plans for all other districts); the plans are to remain in effect until December 31, 1983, "unless valid apportionment plans are sooner enacted."

March 19, 1982 Date of court-ordered filing deadline for house and senate districts and for about half of the congressional districts.

April 1, 1982 U.S. Supreme Court finds that the court hearing the congressional case has erred in its decision to change districts in Dallas County without a finding that the districts drawn in special session violated any law; case remanded to district court.

April 5, 1982 District court hearing the congressional case decides that the elections should be held as scheduled using districts created by the district court in February.

May 1, 1982 Date of primary elections.

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## 1983

- January 11, 1983 68th Legislature, Regular Session, convenes.
- May 10, 1983 Legislature enacts bill making no changes in house districts used in the 1982 elections. MALDEF renews its challenge to Dallas house districts.
- May 16, 1983 Senate enacts a resolution requesting the court to make changes in eight senate districts.
- May 28, 1983 Legislature enacts congressional district plan making changes in seven congressional districts, but maintaining two minority-impact districts in Dallas County.
- May 31, 1983 House district plan submitted to the justice department for Voting Rights Act review.
- July 5, 1983 Senate district plan submitted to the justice department for Voting Rights Act review.
- July 29, 1983 Congressional district plan submitted to the justice department for Voting Rights Act review.
- August 1, 1983 Justice department announces that it would not object to house districts.
- August 6, 1983 Justice department announces that it would not object to senate districts.
- September 27, 1983 Justice department announces that it would not object to congressional districts.
- December 22, 1983 District court (which retained jurisdiction from 1981 legislative challenges) adopts senate districts as drawn in the May 16, 1983, senate resolution.

## 1984

- January 4, 1984 District court approves the house plan as adopted by the legislature on May 10, 1983.
- January 30, 1984 District court in the congressional case upholds the congressional district plan as adopted by the legislature on May 28, 1983.