

Texas Redistricting: 2000s Timeline

1999

- January 25, 1999 The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Clinton v. Glavin* that the Census Bureau cannot use statistical sampling in the 2000 census to determine the population of the states for congressional apportionment purposes.
- February 24, 1999 The Census Bureau announces that for the 2000 census it will conduct a traditional head count, with the results to be used for congressional apportionment, and an “accuracy and coverage evaluation,” involving the use of statistical sampling methods to correct for the expected undercount, resulting in a second set of population data to be used for other purposes such as redistricting.

2000

- January 2000 Texas Senate and House of Representatives committees with redistricting jurisdiction announce that they will hold regional public hearings from February through September to provide opportunities for persons interested in the redistricting process and the location of district boundaries to offer public comment.
- April 1, 2000 Census Day.
- December 2000 Three plaintiffs file suit in Travis County district court regarding congressional redistricting in Texas. Three different plaintiffs file a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Marshall Division, regarding congressional redistricting in Texas.
- December 28, 2000 The Census Bureau releases the first results of the 2000 census. By traditional census counting methods, Texas had 20,851,820 people residing in the state on April 1, 2000. As a result, Texas gains two new congressional seats.

2001

- January 9, 2001 77th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, convenes. Senate Committee on Redistricting is appointed.
- March 6, 2001 The U.S. commerce secretary [accepts](#) the recommendation of the Executive Steering Committee on Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Policy and the acting Census Bureau director to send the actual Census 2000 enumeration data, unadjusted by statistical methods, to the states for the purpose of redistricting.
- March 12, 2001 The Census Bureau delivers official population data for Texas to the governor and state legislature.
- May 8, 2001 The House passes H.B. 150, the state house redistricting bill (PLAN01189H).
- May 9, 2001 The Senate Committee on Redistricting reports favorably a committee substitute to S.B. 499, the state senate redistricting bill (PLAN01047S). S.B. 499 is not considered by the full Senate, so the legislature adjourns without enacting new Senate districts.

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- May 11, 2001 The Senate Committee on Redistricting reports favorably H.B. 150, but H.B. 150 is not considered by the full Senate, so the legislature adjourns without enacting new House districts.
- May 26, 2001 The House Committee on Redistricting reports favorably a committee substitute to H.B. 722, the congressional redistricting bill (PLAN01021C). H.B. 722 is not considered by the full House, so the legislature adjourns without enacting new congressional districts.
- June 6, 2001 Legislative Redistricting Board (LRB) convenes.
- July 3, 2001 Governor Rick Perry notifies Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff and Speaker Pete Laney that he will not call a special session to consider congressional redistricting.
- July 24, 2001 LRB adopts new state senate districts ([PLAN01188S](#)) and new state house districts (PLAN01289H). These plans are submitted to the justice department for preclearance under the Voting Rights Act.
- September 12, 2001 The Texas Supreme Court rules 8–1 that the Travis County district court has dominant jurisdiction to hear congressional redistricting cases in Texas. The court orders that similar proceedings in Harris County (*Associated Republicans of Texas v. Cuellar* and *Rivas v. Cuellar*) be abated and that the cases in Travis County (*Del Rio v. Perry* and *Cotera v. Perry*) be allowed to proceed to trial.
- [Supreme Court Order](#) | [Majority Opinion](#) | [Dissent](#)
- October 3, 2001 Travis County district court begins hearings in the congressional cases of *Del Rio v. Perry* and *Cotera v. Perry*.
- October 10, 2001 District Judge Paul Davis issues an [order](#) adopting congressional districts for Texas (PLAN01065C) in the two cases pending in Travis County district court.
- October 15, 2001 District Judge Paul Davis issues an [order](#) and [findings](#) modifying his previous congressional districts for Texas (PLAN01089C).
- The U.S. Department of Justice [grants preclearance](#) of the Senate plan drawn by LRB ([PLAN01188S](#)).
- October 22, 2001 The Texas Supreme Court vacates the order in the *Del Rio* congressional redistricting case and remands the case back to state district court after the U.S. district court deadline for the state district court to complete its work has passed.
- November 2, 2001 The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas issues orders adopting SBOE districts ([PLAN01018E](#)) for the 2002 elections.
- November 5–6, 2001 The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas hears oral arguments on the LRB Senate district plan ([PLAN01188S](#)), which had been precleared by the justice department on October 15.
- November 13–15, 2001 The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas holds hearings on the LRB House redistricting plan.

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- November 14, 2001 The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas issues an order adopting congressional districts ([PLAN01151C](#)) for the 2002 elections.
[Judgment](#) | [Opinion](#)
- November 16, 2001 The U.S. Department of Justice [denies preclearance](#) of the LRB House district plan.
- November 28, 2001 The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas upholds the Senate district plan adopted by LRB ([PLAN01188S](#)).
[Judgment](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Concurring opinion of Judge Hannah](#)
- U.S. district court orders a new House district plan ([PLAN01369H](#)), which modifies the LRB House plan to address justice department objections.
[Judgment](#) | [Opinion](#)

2002

- June 17, 2002 The U.S. Supreme Court affirms federal district court rulings in the Texas congressional and legislative redistricting cases.
- November 5, 2002 Congressional elections are conducted under a court-ordered plan drawn by a three-judge federal panel in *Balderas v. Texas* ([PLAN01151C](#)).

2003

- January 14, 2003 78th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, convenes.
- January 16, 2003 The Senate Committee on Jurisprudence, with jurisdiction over redistricting, is appointed.
- January 30, 2003 The House Committee on Redistricting is appointed.
- June 2, 2003 78th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, adjourns sine die without passing a congressional district plan.
- June–August 2003 78th Texas Legislature, 1st and 2nd Called Sessions, adjourns without passing a congressional district plan.
- August 2003 Two court actions, *Raymond v. Texas* and *Barrientos v. Texas*, are filed in federal court asserting various Voting Rights Act and constitutional challenges to the redistricting process and to the state's attempt to compel attendance of absent legislators.
- August 7, 2003 Two state court actions, *Van de Putte v. Dewhurst* (Travis County district court) and *In re Perry* (Texas Supreme Court) are filed, relating generally to the duty of elected lawmakers to attend legislative sessions and the state's authority to compel their attendance.

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- August 11, 2003 The Texas Supreme Court denies *In re Perry* petition for writ of mandamus with the notation “[t]he Court denies the petition for writ of mandamus without regard to the merits of the constitutional arguments.”
- October 12, 2003 78th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, adopts the congressional district plan ([PLAN01374C](#)), which is submitted to the justice department on October 20, 2003, for preclearance under the Voting Rights Act.
- December 11–23, 2003 *GI Forum of Texas v. Texas, Session v. Perry, Jackson v. Texas*, and a joint pleading consisting of *Balderas v. Texas, Mayfield v. Texas, and Manley v. Texas* are consolidated under the title of *Session v. Perry* and heard by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.
- December 19, 2003 The U.S. Department of Justice [preclears](#) the congressional redistricting plan ([PLAN01374C](#)) under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

2004

- January 6, 2004 In *Session v. Perry*, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas [upholds](#) the validity of the congressional plan enacted by the Texas Legislature ([PLAN01374C](#)). Various parties in the *Session v. Perry* case appeal the district court’s decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- April 2004 The U.S. Supreme Court affirms a three-judge panel’s decision in *Barrientos v. Texas*, holding that a change in Senate practice to allow the Senate to require a simple majority rather than a two-thirds vote for enactment of a redistricting plan does not require Section 5 preclearance under the Voting Rights Act.
- October 18, 2004 The U.S. Supreme Court [remands](#) the Texas congressional plan ([PLAN01374C](#)) to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas for further consideration in light of the June 2004 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Vieth v. Jubelirer*, a partisan gerrymandering case from Pennsylvania.

2005

- January 21, 2005 The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas hears oral arguments in the remand of *Session v. Perry*.
- June 9, 2005 The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas issues an [opinion](#) in the remand of *Session v. Perry* adhering to the court’s earlier judgment that there is no basis to declare the plan invalid ([PLAN01374C](#)).
- December 12, 2005 The U.S. Supreme Court schedules a March 6, 2006, hearing on the *LULAC v. Perry* challenge to Texas’ 2003 redrawing of congressional districts.

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2006

- February 14, 2006 Legal briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court for *LULAC v. Perry*.
- [Brief](#) for League of United Latin American Citizens et al.
 - [Brief](#) for Travis County et al.
 - [Brief](#) for Jackson et al.
 - [Brief](#) for GI Forum et al.
 - [Brief](#) for Appellee Charles Soechting in Support of Appellants
 - [Brief](#) for State Appellees
 - [Reply brief](#) of Appellee Frenchie Henderson in Support of Appellants
- June 28, 2006 The U.S. Supreme Court issues a [decision](#) finding that the federal district court's judgment was partly correct and partly in error and returns the case to the district court for further action. The court finds that Congressional District 23 violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and that the creation of a new District 25 does not remedy the problem.
- August 4, 2006 The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas issues an [opinion](#) in the remanded *LULAC v. Perry* case [ordering](#) changes to five congressional districts ([PLAN01438C](#)) to address the Voting Rights Act violation.
- November 7, 2006 Special elections for these five districts are held concurrent with the 2006 general election. The five court-ordered districts from [PLAN01438C](#) are incorporated into the legislature's 2003 plan ([PLAN01374C](#)) to create a statewide plan, [PLAN01440C](#).

2009

- September 30, 2009 The House Redistricting Committee meets to hear testimony on the upcoming 2010 census, including a [presentation](#) from the Census Bureau.