

Texas Redistricting: 1980s Timeline

1980

- April 1, 1980** Census Day.
- December 31, 1980** The 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** The legislature receives the population data for Texas.
- April 7, 1981** The population data is loaded into the redistricting computer; analysis of district proposals begins.
- June 1, 1981** The legislature passes the House and Senate redistricting bills and adjourns sine die.
- June 18, 1981** The governor signs the House redistricting bill and vetoes the Senate redistricting bill.
- June 19, 1981** A suit is filed in state district court against the House plan passed by the legislature (*Clements v. Valles*).
- July 13, 1981** 67th Legislature, 1st Called Session, convenes to consider congressional redistricting.
- August 10, 1981** The legislature passes the congressional redistricting bill.
- August 14, 1981** The governor signs the congressional redistricting bill.
- August 30, 1981** Legislative Redistricting Board (LRB) convenes to consider Senate redistricting.
- August 31, 1981** The Texas Supreme Court overturns the House plan. As a result, LRB also considers House redistricting.
- September 11, 1981** The congressional redistricting plan is submitted to the justice department for preclearance under the Voting Rights Act.
- September 14, 1981** A suit is filed in federal district court against the congressional plan passed by the legislature in the special session (*Seamon v. Upham*).
- October 27, 1981** LRB adopts Senate plan.
- October 28, 1981** LRB adopts House plan.

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- October 29, 1981** A suit is filed in federal district court against the LRB Senate plan.
- October 30, 1981** A suit is filed in state district court against the LRB House plan.
- November 6, 1981** A suit is filed in federal district court against the LRB House plan.
- November 23, 1981** The Texas attorney general submits the LRB House and Senate plans to the justice department for Voting Rights Act preclearance.
- November 30, 1981** The secretary of state submits the LRB House and Senate plans to the justice department for Voting Rights Act preclearance.
- December 3, 1981** The House and Senate cases are consolidated for trial (*Terrazas v. Clements*).

1982

- January 6, 1982** The state district court upholds the LRB Senate plan.
- January 25, 1982** The justice department issues letters of objection to the House and Senate redistricting plans.

The court hearing the congressional case extends the filing deadline for selected congressional districts to February 22.
- January 28, 1982** The court hearing the House and Senate cases enters an order reflecting its intention to adopt temporary plans and asks for submission of modified plans. The court extends the filing deadline to March 19.
- January 29, 1982** The justice department issues a letter of objection to the congressional redistricting plans.
- February 2, 1982** Original filing deadline for primary elections.
- February 15, 1982** The court hearing the congressional case extends the filing deadline for selected districts to March 19.
- February 27, 1982** The court hearing the congressional case adopts a new plan for the 1982 elections. The decision is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- March 4, 1982** The justice department withdraws its objections to certain House and Senate districts.
- March 5, 1982** The court hearing the House and Senate cases adopts temporary plans for the 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."

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- March 19, 1982** Date of the court-ordered filing deadline for House and Senate districts and for about half of the congressional districts.
- April 1, 1982** The 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 the special session violated any law. The case is remanded to district court.
- April 5, 1982** The district court hearing the congressional case decides that the elections should be held as scheduled using districts created in February by the district court.
- May 1, 1982** Primary elections.

1983

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

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1984

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