

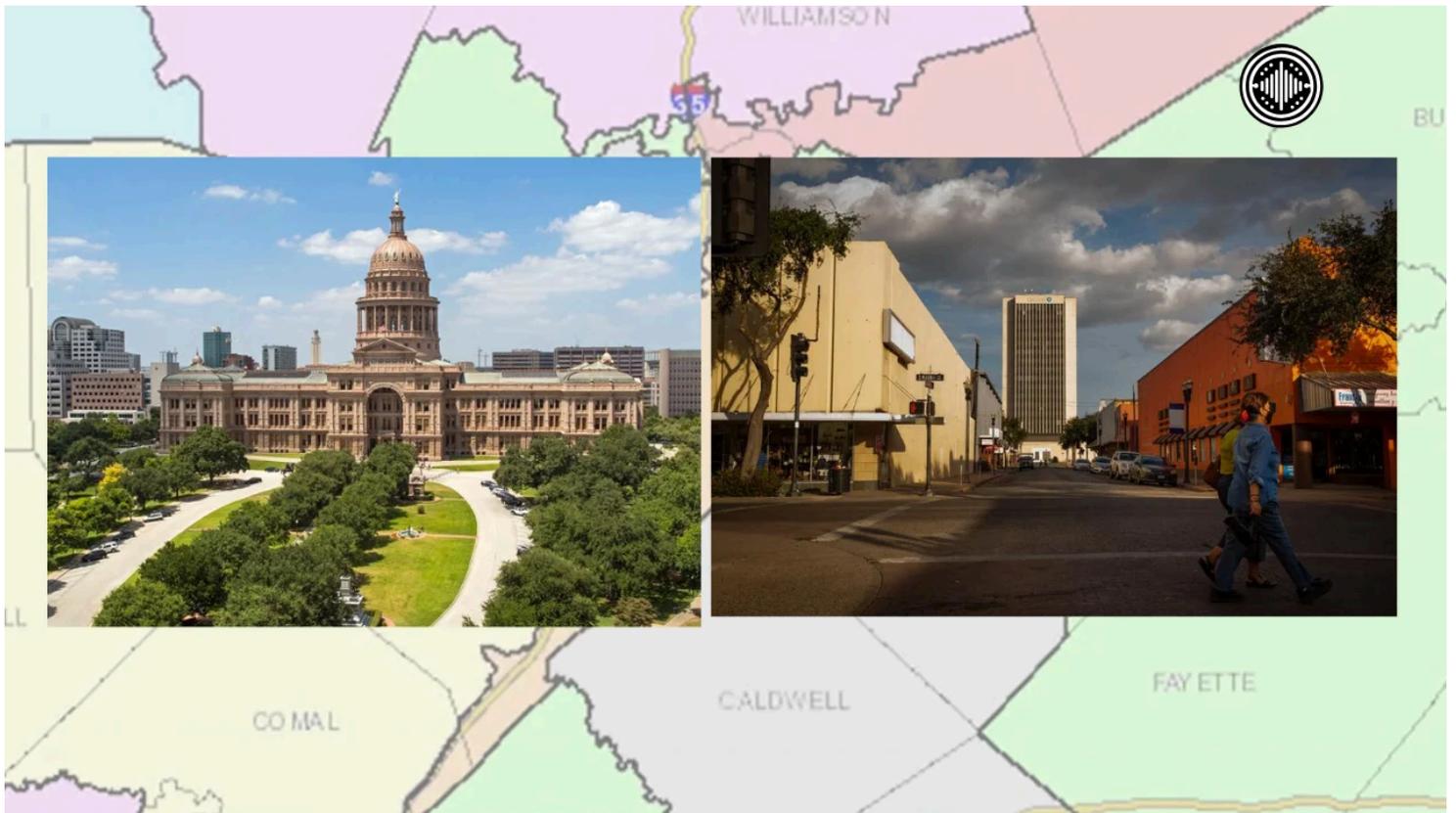
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## Texas Redistricting Sparks Civil Rights Vigilance

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Civil rights organizations in South Texas are keeping a close watch as lawmakers prepare to redraw political boundaries during an unusual mid-decade redistricting session, raising concerns about how the new maps could shift the balance of power across the state.

Texas legislators are set to reconvene for a special session on July 21, 2025, with congressional redistricting among several high-priority agenda items. Unlike the routine redistricting process that follows the United States Census every ten years, this mid-cycle effort has drawn scrutiny for its timing and intent. Del Mar College political science

professor Dr. Paul Gottemoller described the move as likely strategic, suggesting it could bolster Republican representation in Congress, echoing broader GOP efforts reportedly encouraged by Trump-aligned advisors. He also warned that the practice could lower the quality of candidates who advance in heavily manipulated districts.

The U.S. Department of Justice has flagged potential constitutional issues with four Democratic-leaning districts: TX-09, TX-18, TX-29 (Houston area), and TX-33 (Fort Worth), citing violations of the 14th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act. Though Texas's 27th Congressional District, covering the Coastal Bend, was not included, experts say no district is immune from revision. "Almost everything is back on the table," Gottemoller said, underscoring that lawmakers could choose to redraw all district lines if they wish.

Nick Adame, president of the Corpus Christi chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), urged residents not to dismiss the process. He emphasized that local voter engagement remains essential, particularly as redistricting decisions can ripple across communities. "If we're not happy with what's going on at the border, your vote will make a difference," Adame said. "Everything we do here and in any election will help and reverberate all over Texas."

The special session will also address additional priorities, including enhancing flood warning systems, eliminating the STAAR standardized test, regulating consumable hemp products containing THC, and pursuing property tax reform. While opponents, including civil rights groups and Democrats, argue the redistricting could dilute minority representation, proponents in the GOP-led legislature contend that updating district boundaries is required to reflect population changes and meet constitutional standards.

As Texas moves closer to redrawing its political landscape, civil rights advocates and political leaders alike will be watching closely to see how the changes could reshape future elections.

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