

By: Zaffirini

S.J.R. No. 8

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment establishing the Texas  
2 Redistricting Commission to redistrict the United States House of  
3 Representatives and the Texas Legislature.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended by  
6 adding Section 28a to read as follows:

7 Sec. 28a. (a) The Texas Redistricting Commission exercises  
8 the legislative authority of this state to adopt redistricting  
9 plans for the election of members of the United States House of  
10 Representatives elected from this state, the Texas House of  
11 Representatives, and the Texas Senate. Districts for those  
12 legislative bodies may not be established or changed except as  
13 provided by this section.

14 (b) The legislature shall provide by general law for the  
15 composition and operation of the Texas Redistricting Commission.

16 (c) This section takes effect January 1, 2030. On that  
17 date, the Legislative Redistricting Board is abolished and Section  
18 28 of this article is repealed. The Texas Redistricting Commission  
19 shall convene for the first time on the first business day after  
20 January 31, 2031. This subsection expires January 1, 2032.

21 SECTION 2. Section 7a, Article V, Texas Constitution, is  
22 amended by amending Subsections (e) and (i) and adding Subsection  
23 (j) to read as follows:

24 (e) Unless the legislature enacts a statewide

1 reapportionment of the judicial districts following each federal  
2 decennial census, the board shall convene not later than the first  
3 Monday of June of the third year following the year in which the  
4 federal decennial census is taken to make a statewide  
5 reapportionment of the districts. The board shall complete its  
6 work on the reapportionment and file its order with the secretary of  
7 state not later than August 31 of the same year. If the Judicial  
8 Districts Board fails to make a statewide apportionment by that  
9 date, the Texas [~~Legislative~~] Redistricting Commission [~~Board~~]  
10 established by Article III, Section 28a [~~28~~], of this constitution  
11 shall convene on September 1 of the same year to make a statewide  
12 reapportionment of the judicial districts not later than the 90th  
13 [~~150th~~] day after the final day for the Judicial Districts Board to  
14 make the reapportionment.

15 (i) The legislature, the Judicial Districts Board, or the  
16 Texas [~~Legislative~~] Redistricting Commission [~~Board~~] may not  
17 redistrict the judicial districts to provide for any judicial  
18 district smaller in size than an entire county except as provided by  
19 this section. Judicial districts smaller in size than the entire  
20 county may be created subsequent to a general election where a  
21 majority of the persons voting on the proposition adopt the  
22 proposition "to allow the division of \_\_\_\_\_ County into  
23 judicial districts composed of parts of \_\_\_\_\_ County." No  
24 redistricting plan may be proposed or adopted by the legislature,  
25 the Judicial Districts Board, or the Texas [~~Legislative~~]  
26 Redistricting Commission [~~Board~~] in anticipation of a future action  
27 by the voters of any county.

1        (j) Until January 1, 2030, a reference in this section to  
2 the Texas Redistricting Commission means the Legislative  
3 Redistricting Board established under Article III, Section 28, of  
4 this constitution. This subsection expires January 1, 2031.

5        SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
6 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 7, 2023.  
7 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
8 following proposition: "The constitutional amendment establishing  
9 the Texas Redistricting Commission to redistrict the United States  
10 House of Representatives and the Texas Legislature."