

By: Collier

H.J.R. No. 8

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 proposing a constitutional amendment to require the preservation of  
2 communities of interest in the apportionment of members of the  
3 Texas House of Representatives.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 26, Article III, Texas Constitution, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 26. (a) The members of the House of Representatives  
8 shall be apportioned among the several counties, according to the  
9 number of population in each, as nearly as may be, on a ratio  
10 obtained by dividing the population of the State, as ascertained by  
11 the most recent United States census, by the number of members of  
12 which the House is composed; provided, that whenever a single  
13 county has sufficient population to be entitled to a  
14 Representative, such county shall be formed into a separate  
15 Representative District, and when two or more counties are required  
16 to make up the ratio of representation, such counties shall be  
17 contiguous to each other; and when any one county has more than  
18 sufficient population to be entitled to one or more  
19 Representatives, such Representative or Representatives shall be  
20 apportioned to such county, and for any surplus of population it may  
21 be joined in a Representative District with any other contiguous  
22 county or counties.

23 (b) The apportionment of members of the House of  
24 Representatives shall to the extent practicable keep intact

1 communities of interest defined by social, economic, racial,  
2 ethnic, cultural, industrial, commercial, and geographic  
3 commonalities.

4 SECTION 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be  
5 submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 2, 2021.  
6 The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the  
7 proposition: "The constitutional amendment to require the  
8 preservation of communities of interest in the apportionment of  
9 members of the Texas House of Representatives."