

By: Zaffirini

S.J.R. No. 10

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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19 28 of this article is repealed.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

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

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

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

1 a future action by the voters of any county.

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

6 SECTION 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be
7 submitted to the voters at an election to be held May 7, 2022. The
8 ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
9 following proposition: "The constitutional amendment
10 establishing the Texas Redistricting Commission to redistrict the
11 United States House of Representatives and the Texas Legislature."