

## Chairman's Remarks

There are a lot of really great Republican activities coming up this week ranging from candidate functions to various club meetings. (See listing at bottom of this email.) But one in particular that I would like to mention is our monthly DCRP meeting where we will have a forum featuring the two ladies who are running to be our **representative on the State Board of Education**, Gail Lowe (who has served as our representative and also as chairman for several years) and her primary challenger, Sue Melton. This is a very important elected position as the **SBOE sets curriculum and selects textbooks for the Texas public school system**. Please plan to come Thursday evening to hear the forum which will be moderated by Sen. Jane Nelson.

As for the next chapter in the ongoing redistricting saga, it appears that the San Antonio court is leaning toward an April primary, which would have to **be mid- to late April due to logistical issues** in getting lines drawn and voter cards printed and mailed. **We should know more by mid-week.**

You can see more details in the RPT's update here:



### **Redistricting Update VIII: Court Wants April Primary**

*"It is the Court's desire to have redistricting plans in place for an April Primary"*

On Friday afternoon, the San Antonio three-judge panel [issued an order](#) which clearly indicates that the Court wishes for both sides in the redistricting lawsuit to assist in resolving all of the issues in time for an April primary election.

The Court also clarified some misconceptions that have appeared on blogs and among the media - specifically, reports which have stated that the Court had rejected Attorney General Greg Abbott's proposed maps earlier this week. The order clearly states that the panel has not rejected any maps. The Court also noted that final interim maps would be drawn in accordance with the Supreme Court's recent ruling - "...which include the rather flexible standards of review that may be applied on one hand and the restrictive language regarding the creation of new coalition districts on the other hand." The RPT interprets this to mean that the Court is signaling to both the State of Texas (represented by General Abbott) and the various plaintiffs' groups, that it may be in the best interests of both sides to reach an agreement since utilizing these criteria would mean that probably neither side would get completely what it wanted anyway.

The "*flexible standards*" referenced by the Court, indicates that they still have the ability to alter the legislative maps and still comply with the Supreme Court ruling (which is to the Democrats' advantage). On the other hand, the Court notes that the Supreme Court struck down the

Democratic proposition that new coalition minority districts should be created (which favors the legislature's version of the maps). The Court issued additional orders requiring all sides to continue negotiations and to be prepared to discuss them at the hearing in San Antonio on February 14th and 15th.

Please stay tuned – we will try to keep you updated in the continuing saga.

**Warm Republican Regards,**

*Liane Edmondson*