

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:00:16 a.m. [TEASE]

25 seconds

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: The latest on the Texas showdown plus floods and fires.

ROBIN ROBERTS: The Boeing strike overnight and our exclusive with Salt n' Peppa.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Texas-Sized Fight]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Texas-sized fight. Democratic lawmakers leave the Lone Star State to block a vote to redraw congressional maps. It could give Republicans up to five new seats in the House after President Trump demanded the change. And the new threat overnight from Texas Governor Abbott.

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7:02:52 a.m.

3 minutes and 11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Texas Democrats Leave State to Stop Redistricting Vote]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to start with a high-stakes battle over a new congressional map that's playing out in Texas. Republicans are trying to redraw the lines in a bid to gain more seats in the House for the GOP. Democrats taking action to try to keep that from happening. Chief Washington correspondent Jon Karl has the story. Good morning, Jon.

JONATHAN KARL: Good morning, George. The Texas legislature was set to vote today on new congressional maps that would heavily favor Republicans in next year's midterm elections. In a desperate bid to stop those new maps from going into effect, Democratic lawmakers in Texas have left the state. The new congressional maps would give Republicans up to five new seats in Congress, but they can't go into effect until they are approved by the state legislature, and unless there is a quorum of two-thirds of all members in attendance, the statehouse can't hold any votes. That's why the Texas Democrats packed their bags and left Texas.

TEXAS HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D): But Texas Democrats are fighting back. We're leaving the state, breaking quorum, and preventing Republicans from silencing our voices and rigging the next election.

KARL: Governor Greg Abbott condemned the move. He accused Democrats of potentially committing felonies and said leaving the state is "an abandonment or forfeiture of an elected state office." He demanded Democrats return by 3:00 p.m. Central time or threatened to have them removed from office. But the chair of the House Democratic caucus says that Democrats are

doing just what they have to do.

TEXAS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GENE WU (D): Governor Abbott is doing this in submission to Donald Trump, so that Donald Trump could steal these communities power and voice.

KARL: Congressional maps are usually only redrawn every ten years after a new census. Most states did it four years ago after the 2020 census. This aggressive push by the Texas House Republicans to change the maps without a new census comes after President Trump demanded it.

ED O'KEEFE [TO TRUMP, on 07/15/25]: On Texas — on Texas how many more seats do you want the Republicans to draw?

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [on 07/15/25]: Five.

[SCREEN WIPE]

O'KEEFE [TO TRUMP, on 07/15/25]: Are you calling then for a complete redrawing of the congressional map in the next —

TRUMP [on 07/15/25]: No. No. I — just a very simple redrawing. We pick up five seats.

KARL: Democrats are accusing Trump of trying to rig the election to preserve Republicans' narrow control of the House.

ERIC HOLDER [on ABC's *This Week*, 08/03/25]: This is an authoritarian move by the White House to try to make sure that they can rig the election — midterm elections in 2026.

KARL: But it's not just Texas, and it is not just Republican. Although it usually only happens when there is a new census, Democrats have played the game too in the states they control. In deep-blue California, for example, 38 percent voted Republican last year, and out of 52 congressional districts, only nine are held by Republicans. Democrats are promising to fight fire with fire. Already, California Governor Gavin Newsom has threatened to make California "darker blue" in response to Governor Abbott. One proposed map, George, in California, would leave Republicans with as few as three of the state's 52 representatives in the House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah, but not easy to achieve. Okay, Jon, thanks very much.