

NBC's *Today*
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7:13:04 a.m.
28 seconds

RYAN CHANDLER: Now with two weeks left in Texas's special session, some of the Democrats in Chicago told me they packed for three. They are finding support in friendly territory. Governors in California, Illinois, and New York threatening if Texas messes with the map, they'll mess with Texas. This morning, the governor of Texas threatening to arrest Democratic lawmakers after more than 50 fled the state to stall a controversial redirecting plan — [CHEERS] with national implications.

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7:14:18 a.m.
1 minute and 15 seconds

CHANDLER: The proposed map would put Republican strongholds into red districts Downtown Austin, for example, would likely get a Republican representative in Congress, drawn into a massive rural area stretching nearly four hours east. The political stunt igniting a potential redistricting race —

GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL (D-NY): This is a war.

CHANDLER: — with several state Democratic leaders vowing to fight back, including California governor Gavin Newsom

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM (D-CA): California will not sit idly by and let this democracy waste away. We'll fight fire with fire.

CHANDLER: The defiant Texas Democrats heading to cities including Chicago, Albany, and Boston. State Representative James Talarico says he's in Chicago for a long haul. [TO TALARICO] What is it going to take for Democrats to successfully block this map?

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D-TX): I'm hopeful that that mutually assured destruction could walk our Republican colleagues back from the brink.

CHANDLER: And Laura, Craig, I want to make sure we mention. Yesterday marked one month since those devastating Hill Country floods. Thousands of families still rebuilding. Many of them grieving. This redistricting rift has come into conflict with legislation for flood relief. And, as long as this session is on pause and redistricting remains a priority, many people in Kerr County are still waiting for relief from the legislature.