

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Texas Redistricting Battle]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to turn now to the showdown in Texas. A Democratic state lawmaker is locked inside of the state capitol in the latest move in an ongoing battle over Republican plan to redraw the congressional map. Chief Washington correspondent Jon Karl has the story. Good morning, Jon.

JONATHAN KARL: Good morning, George. Texas House Democrats returned to the state capitol on Monday after a two-week walk-out as they tried to stop a redistricting effort that heavily favored Republicans. But one of those state lawmakers is now stuck there, locked inside the Capitol building, and officials say she can't go home unless she agrees to a mandatory law enforcement escort. This morning, Texas Democratic lawmaker Nicole Collier is waking locked inside the state Capitol. She has been there since Monday afternoon, because she refused to sign a permission slip for a law enforcement escort home.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE COLLIER (D-TX): As you can see, it's empty in here.

KARL: Just outside those locked doors are crowds, chanting led her out.

CROWD: Let her out! Let her out!

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: TX Lawmaker Locked Insider Capitol Amid Redistricting Battle]

KARL: Collier was one of more than 50 Texas Democrats who left the state for two weeks, attempting to stop a vote on new congressional maps designed to favor Republicans ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. The Texas governor played hardball to try to get back, threatening absent Democrats with steep fines and arrest. But after stalling the Texas house for two weeks, many of those Democrats returned on Monday — [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] — greeted by cheers as they walked the halls of the Capital. With the Democrats back, the Texas House of Representatives finally has a quorum, making it possible for Republicans to go forward with their plan to redraw the congressional maps.

STATE HOUSE SPEAKER DUSTIN BURROWS (R-TX): A quorum is present and it's time to resume the work of the people of Texas sent us here to do.

KARL: On Monday, the Republican House Speaker announced that all lawmakers who left the state still face civil arrest warrants and the doors of the House floor would lock them inside unless they agreed to leave with a police escort. Those officers would also ensure lawmakers returned Wednesday when the House is next in session. But Collier refused to sign the document agreeing to the police escort. Instead, remaining inside the statehouse.

COLLIER: I'm tired of being pushed around and told what to do when I disagree with the actions of our government.

KARL: In a show of unity, two of Collier's Democratic colleagues joined her overnight.

COLLIER: Now, they could leave, but they are standing with me as well because they're tired and fed up as well.

KARL: The Texas Democrats failed in their efforts to stop the Republicans from changing the congressional maps in Texas, but now Democrats in California are attempting to respond by redrawing their congressional maps in a way, George, that would favor Democrats.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And, Jon, President Trump also trying to affect the next election by making a push against mail-in voting, fueled by false claims about voter fraud.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Trump Aims to End Mail-In Voting]

KARL: Yeah, one of the amazing things about this, George, is President Trump is citing Vladimir Putin as an expert, saying Putin says you can't have a fair election with mail-in ballots. Vladimir Putin hasn't had a fair election in Russia since his very first one more than 20 years ago. He won with 88 percent of the vote last time, in large part because he jailed, or worse, his political opponents. Also, George, one very important point about this, the Constitution leaves it up to the states to choose the times, places and manner for holding elections. In other words, no role for the President on this one.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Jon Karl, thank you very much.