

For Immediate Release

UH Law Professor Froomkin Available to Comment on What’s Next for Blocked Texas Map

Houston, Nov. 20, 2025 – A federal district court recently issued an injunction preventing Texas from using its recently adopted congressional map in the 2026 election, ruling it the result of an unlawful racial gerrymander.

Texas officials will most likely appeal and try to get the U.S. Supreme Court to step in, according to David Froomkin, assistant professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center and affiliated faculty in UH’s Department of Political Science.

Froomkin, who specializes in administrative law, election law, and democratic and constitutional theory, adds:

“The court’s decision is absolutely correct on the law. The big question now is whether the Supreme Court will stay the district court’s decision, which is the only pathway for the 2025 plan to go into effect in the 2026 election.”

He can also address:

- **The Likelihood of a Supreme Court Stay**

A stay must come before the **Dec. 8 candidate-filing deadline**, and the three-judge panel—two of them Republican appointees—issued a careful, 160-page opinion authored by Judge Jeff Brown (a UHLC alumnus). Despite this, the Roberts Court has significantly expanded its use of the “shadow docket” to halt lower-court rulings.

- **Why the Purcell principle, which says federal courts should not intervene to change electoral rules close to an election, likely doesn’t apply**

The district court stressed that the election is nearly a year away, the legislature’s late-breaking map created the disruption, the court acted with unusual speed, and applying Purcell here would reward last-minute manipulation aimed at evading judicial review.

- **What this case means for election law nationally**

Including implications for racial gerrymandering doctrine, federal oversight of redistricting, and how the Supreme Court handles emergency election cases going forward.

You can read more about Froomkin here:

<https://www.law.uh.edu/faculty/main.asp?PID=8606>

If you are interested in interviewing Professor Froomkin, please contact Carrie Anna Criado, UH Law Center Assistant Dean of Communications and Marketing, 713-743-2184, cacriado@central.uh.edu or Rashda Khan, Communications Director, 325-656-2824, rkhan20@uh.edu.

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