

New map packs Dems into few districts

Redrawn precincts favoring GOP padded with noncitizens

By Matt Zdun
STAFF WRITER

In their bid for five more congressional seats, Texas Republicans are turning to an unlikely source to help spread out their gains: noncitizens. Four of the five districts that are drawn to be newly winnable for the GOP include pockets of current Democratic-held congressional districts with low rates of citizenship. In other words, Republicans appear to be padding the new districts with people who are counted in the census, but who can't actu-

ally vote. "If you are Republicans, and you are seeking to maximize your seats, you have to collapse Democratic districts, and that means giving their constituents to Republican seats somewhere else," Dave Wasserman, a political analyst with the Cook Political Report, told the Houston Chronicle. "What are the precincts that can accomplish that goal? They're precincts with high numbers of residents but low numbers of voters." Congressional districts, though all different shapes and sizes, must have roughly the

same number of people. Citizens and noncitizens alike count toward the total resident population of a district, even though noncitizens can't vote. Republican map drawers had their eyes on low citizenship, low turnout areas of Democratic districts. "If I'm Republicans, my goal is to pack as many Democrats into as few districts as possible and maximize the number of Republican seats," Wasserman told the Chronicle. Republican map drawers shifted low citizenship, low

Maps continues on A5



Julio Cortez/Houston Chronicle

Republicans aim to collapse Democratic districts. That means moving nonvoting Democratic constituents to GOP precincts.



Photos by Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman

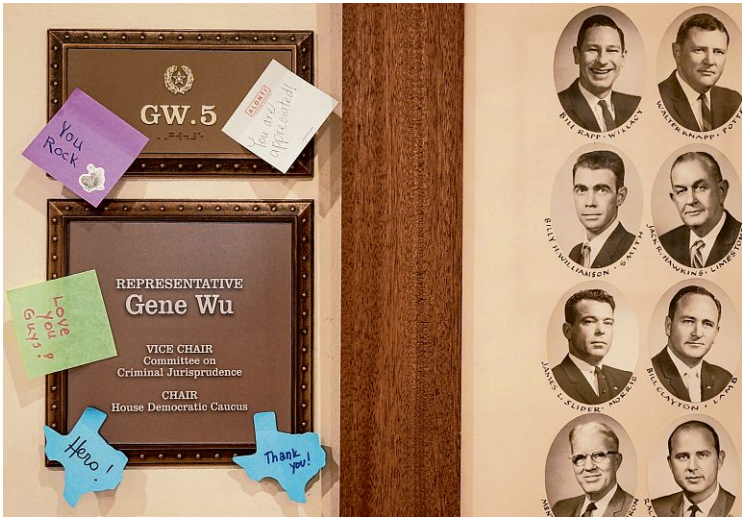
State Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston, speaks against a congressional redistricting plan last week at the Texas Capitol in Austin.

Legislator battles racism as he leads Texas House Democrats

Houston's Wu a key figure in party's fight against Republican redistricting

By Jeremy Wallace,
John C. Moritz
and Sam González Kelly
STAFF WRITERS

When Houston's Gene Wu became the face of Texas Democrats' battle to defeat President Donald Trump's congressional redistricting plan, he knew it would trigger racist reactions and make older generations in Asian American communities uneasy. "In our culture — in Asian culture and Chinese culture — the saying is very much the head that sticks up gets cut off," Wu said. "People who make waves, people who rock the boat, don't live very long. And



Thank-you notes are posted on Wu's office door at the Capitol. Wu was first elected to the Texas House in 2012.

that is a mentality that a lot of Asian Americans bring to the table." Yet there was the 47-year-old state representative on national TV, speaking up on behalf of the House Democrats as they fled the state to prevent Republicans from passing any new laws. Far from comfortable, Wu, who calls himself an introvert, said he was prepared for the appearances on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" and CNN to draw out something harsher than the casual racism he's heard since being first elected to the Texas House in 2012. And it has. On social media, he's been attacked for his na-

Wu continues on A12

Roy aims for a ban on stock trades in Congress

By James Osborne
WASHINGTON BUREAU

In January of last year, U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul's family sold between \$16,000 and \$65,000 worth of stock in Intel. A week later, the U.S. chip manufacturer released an unexpectedly poor financial forecast, prompting a sell-off that depressed its stock more than 50% over the next six months. There is no evidence that the trade was anything other than a well-timed bet, and by the McCauls' standards it was fairly small — his wife, whose father founded iHeart Media, bought more than \$500,000 worth of stock in a biotech startup just last month. But at the time, the 10-term congressman was chairman of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee and sat on a number of bodies with close ties to the chip industry, including serving as co-chair of the Congressional Semiconductor Caucus, drawing tongue-in-cheek recognition for his "exceptional trading acumen," by Capitol Trades, which tracks members' investment activity. An attorney for McCaul, R-Austin, said the trades were made by a third party, without any advance knowledge of the congressman or his wife. Well-timed trades have become common in Washington, where politicians and high-ranking federal officials of both parties are routinely flagged by ethics groups for buying and selling stock in industries they oversee. After years of debate, a bipartisan coalition that includes U.S. Reps. Chip Roy, R-Austin, and Michael Cloud, R-Victoria, are moving to put a ban on members of Congress and senior federal officials, as well as their spouses and

Trades continues on A12



Jehad Alshrafi/Associated Press file photo

A staff member prays at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. A global hunger authority said Friday that parts of Gaza are in famine.

Gaza doctors see possible famine signs

By Wafaa Shurafa
and Adam Geller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Not long after Texas surgeon Mohammed Adeel Khaleel arrived at a Gaza City hospital in early August, a 17-year-old was brought in with gunshot wounds to both legs and one hand, sustained when he went to collect food at an aid site. In the emergency room, Khaleel said he noted the ribs protruding from the teen's emaciated torso, an indication of se-

vere malnutrition. When doctors at Al-Ahli Hospital stabilized the patient, he raised his heavily bandaged hand and pointed to his empty mouth, Khaleel said. "The level of hunger is really what's heartbreaking. You know, we saw malnutrition before, back in November, already starting to happen. But now the level is just, it's beyond imagination," Khaleel, a spinal surgeon on his third volunteer stint in Gaza, said in an interview. On Friday, the Integrated

Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, the leading authority on global hunger crises, said for the first time that parts of Gaza are in famine and warned that it is spreading. For months, U.N. agencies, aid groups and experts had warned that Israel's blockade and ongoing offensive were pushing the territory to the brink. Famine continues on A7

