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OPINION | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Letters to the Editor — Antisemitism, California districts, ICE raids, school tests

Readers believe lessons of history must never be taken for granted; explain California's redistricting process; share that neighbors are fearful of ICE; and promote other tests instead of the STAAR.

By [Letters to the Editor](#)

Aug. 24, 2025 | Updated 12:30 a.m. CDT | 4 min. read



Rockwall-Heath students cheer as they unfurl the American flag for the national anthem at a football game. The school came under fire after Nazi flags were found on the side of a building.

SMILEY N. POOL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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## Nazi flags a warning

Re: "Officials to probe 'hateful display' — Authorities investigate after Nazi flags found hung outside of school," Tuesday Metro & Business story.

The swastikas discovered at Rockwall-Heath High School are more than hateful symbols. They are a warning that the lessons of history must never be taken for granted.

Texas has been a national leader in raising awareness about antisemitism, from establishing policies that confront hate directly to ensuring that every student learns about the Holocaust. Our response to incidents like this must reflect that same leadership — by school officials who act swiftly, by law enforcement that investigates thoroughly and by communities that stand united against hate.

## Opinion

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Thankfully, Texas schools are already required to teach these lessons during Holocaust Remembrance Week in January. This episode shows those lessons cannot be confined to one week. They must begin right now in the first weeks of school and extend through every classroom and community in our state.

*Ken Goldberg, Dallas*

*Chair, Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission*

## California has fair districts

As there have been multiple letters saying California does the same gerrymandering as Texas, it's time to set the record straight. Congressional lines in California are drawn by a nonpartisan commission created by voter propositions in 2008 and 2010 under the guidance of then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican. To this day, Schwarzenegger remains proud of his reforms. In fact, his protectiveness is an obstacle Democrats face in attempting to counteract redistricting in Texas.

Stating California's congressional districts understate GOP support doesn't indicate districts aren't fairly drawn, as partisan voting patterns weren't among

the criteria considered. Rather, as much as possible, lines must avoid dividing neighborhoods, cities and counties to the maximum extent possible, while uniting racial, ethnic or language minority groups. Districts must also be compact and avoid the bizarre shapes needed to boost partisan representation or protect incumbents.

The proof of California's fairness in drawing congressional lines is competitiveness. Last Nov. 5, California had more close congressional races than any other state, taking nearly a month to resolve the final contest.

*Ken Duple, Dallas/The Cedars*

## **Goodbye to Texas**

After 21 years of living in Dallas, we made the difficult decision to leave the state and move back to Maryland. We chose to leave Texas for two reasons: the weather and the politics.

Now that the politicians in Texas are picking the voters instead of the voters picking the politicians, we can confirm that we made the right decision.

*Betsy Crawford, Bethesda, Md.*

## **Chilling ICE raids**

I just returned home from the grocery store where I met up with a couple whom I have known for over 20 years. We spent time in the produce department catching up.

They love working on their old home but have stopped because they are Hispanic. You see, they were both born and raised in Texas, but don't trust going to Home Depot because of ICE raids.

They believe, with good reason and news reports, that folks are being picked up just given their skin color. They both have the name of their lawyer in their phones just in case it is needed.

Really, Dallas, we are so much better than this.

*Sheila Coughlin, Dallas*

## **Better tests available**

In the current special session, lawmakers claim to "replace" STAAR with three new tests. But this keeps the same high-stakes model, centralizes more power in Austin and funnels hundreds of millions of dollars to out-of-state vendors.

Nearly half a billion tax dollars go to Pearson, a London-based company known for extremely progressive campaigns, and Cambium Assessment, owned by a New York private equity firm. These corporations don't share Texas values, yet they control how much classroom time our kids lose to testing.

There's a smarter, conservative alternative. In the regular session, Rep. Brad Buckley, R-Salado, proposed shorter, low-stress tests during the year plus one end-of-year exam. Teachers get usable feedback, parents see clear growth reports and schools stay accountable without bloated contracts or weeks of test prep.

That's accountability made in Texas: lean, transparent and fiscally responsible.

*Brandon Beadel, Justin*

## Red flags fly at Capitol

When we were high school students in Richardson in the 1970s, the Ohio National Guard shot and killed four college students demonstrating against the Vietnam War.

In response, a day was called for those in solidarity with the demonstrators nationwide to wear black armbands. Showing up at school on that day we were told to remove our armbands or face suspension.

The question was raised: Do students lose their First Amendment rights at the schoolhouse door?

Now 55 years later we are forced to ask: Do elected representatives lose their rights to liberty at the doors of the Texas House chamber? To quote columnist Heather Cox Richardson, "On the road to authoritarianism this is a whole factory of red flags."

*Phillip and Sharon Lathrop, Richardson*

### Submit a letter to the editor

We welcome your thoughts in a letter to the editor. See the guidelines and **submit your letter here**.

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