

18 August 2025

Dear Members of the Fair Districts Task Force:

It is with deep respect that I submit my resignation from the Fair Districts Task Force, effective immediately.

When I accepted the responsibility to serve on this task force, I did so with the belief that fair and transparent redistricting is essential to a healthy democracy. Our goal was clear: to give the people of New Mexico confidence that their voices, votes, and communities would not be manipulated for partisan gain.

But today, I cannot in good conscience continue serving under a framework that places rules and restrictions on New Mexico while states like Texas, Ohio, and Missouri are allowed to gerrymander maps with impunity. In Texas, Republican leaders are using their power to systematically disenfranchise communities of color and redraw maps that protect their own political survival. In Ohio and Missouri, partisan politicians are about to do the same—tilting the playing field before voters ever cast a ballot.

This double standard is fundamentally unfair. It is unjust to hold New Mexico to one set of standards while our neighbors and fellow Americans are trapped in districts carved up for partisan advantage. Without federal legislation to create uniform rules, the promise of equal representation is an illusion. What we are witnessing is not democracy—it is a rigged game that weakens the very foundations of our republic.

I am resigning not out of lack of commitment, but because I cannot in good conscience lend my name to a process that places New Mexico at a disadvantage while extremists in other states are given free rein to suppress voters and manipulate districts. The people of New Mexico deserve a level playing field. Every American deserves to know their vote counts just as much as their neighbor's, no matter what state they live in.

True democracy demands national reform. It demands that Congress act to end partisan gerrymandering once and for all, establishing fair, consistent, and transparent redistricting rules in every state. Until that happens, task forces like ours, however well-intentioned, are not enough to protect the principle of one person, one vote.

I remain committed to fighting for democracy, for voting rights, and for the people of New Mexico. But today, the most honest way I can serve that mission is to step down and call on Congress to finish the job we cannot do alone.

For these reasons, I also ask that my name from this task force and request my photo, likeness, and future representation of serving on this committee to be withdrawn as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Pope Jr.", with a stylized, flowing script.

Senator Harold Pope Jr.
State Senator for District 23

