Senate Bill 25, which requires people in Texas, including schoolchildren, to choose how it affects their lives to their fullest. The bill, which some Texas lawmakers have criticized for its potential to discriminate against girls, aims to protect the legal rights of transgender student-athletes. However, this bill is under scrutiny as it is backed by Republicans to establish voting advantage by reducing sections of constituencies into one particular party advantage in elections, permeate the current conversation, and the new redistricting maps have led to multiple civil right organizations filing lawsuits. Although Texas lawmakers have diluted citizens of the state, state lawmakers should continue to vote in elections and not lose hope; as civil rights groups are presenting their cases to court, Texans should do something to regain their power because some Texas lawmakers are doing everything to retain theirs.

In 2021, Texas has implemented new policies that affect people of all ages and demographics. Here are five key issues affecting Texas this year:

**Abortion**

The Shorthorn Editorial Board believes this bill is a step in the wrong direction because it restricts people’s reproductive rights and bodily autonomy. The government shouldn’t have a say in a citizen’s private medical decisions. If the Texas government grants individuals the right to choose how it affects their lives to their fullest, then they should give people the right to control their bodies.

**Gerrymandering**

The 2020 Census revealed that Texas’s color accounted for 35% of the population growth in the state, and areas like House District 25 covering parts of Arlington and Grand Prairie reflect that new reality. The Shorthorn Editorial Board believes the state’s new redistricting maps are a political act by Republicans to establish voting advantage based on demographics rather than reflecting the growth of a non-white population. Accusations of gerrymandering, the process of drawing or arranging portions of states into election districts to give one particular party an unfair advantage in elections, permeate the current conversation, and the new redistricting maps have led to multiple civil right organizations filing lawsuits. Although Texas lawmakers promised to not see us as women while drafting, state lawmakers have diluted citizens of color by reducing their impact during elections with the maps.

**Gun rights**

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**Books**

In a letter to the Texas Education Agency on Oct. 15, state Rep. Matt Krause directed districts to look into a list of about 850 books that “eliminate all rapists.” The Texas Shorthorn Editorial Board believes all of Krause’s listed books center around students from different racial, cultural backgrounds and life-styles. People should consider supporting literature with diverse characters or written by authors from different racial, cultural backgrounds instead of demonizing them. If books touch children about the world beyond their daily lives, blocking access to such topics can be detrimental to the growth and education of Texas youth.

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