



Contents

[Case of the Month](#)
[From the Courts and Attorney General](#)
[Recent Regulations and Guidance](#)
[Policy Spotlight](#)
[In the News](#)

Highlights

Update 51 is now available.

Updated on eLaw:
[Budget and Tax Documents](#)

Resources

[Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#)
[Texas Legislature](#)
[Texas Statutes](#)
[Texas Attorney General](#)
[U.S. Department of Education](#)



Case of the Month

Louisiana's addition of a majority-Black congressional district violated the U.S. Constitution Fourteenth Amendment.

Following the 2020 census, the state of Louisiana redrew its congressional districts. It retained its majority-Black district but did not include an additional majority-Black district. After the map was successfully challenged in court, Louisiana redrew it to include the additional district. A group of non-Black voters, including Phillip Callais, sued the Louisiana Secretary of State, arguing the new map and the new district, was a racial gerrymander that violated the U.S. Constitution Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause, [U.S. Const. amend XIV](#). Louisiana, Black Louisiana voters, and civil rights organizations intervened.

The federal district court considered the shape and demographics of the added district and the statements of political figures and other direct and circumstantial evidence. It concluded that race was the predominant factor motivating the district's creation. The court issued a preliminary injunction halting the map's application. The State and the other interveners, in separate actions, appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which issued a stay and consolidated the actions for further consideration.

The Supreme Court considered whether the additional district violated the Fourteenth Amendment or the U.S. Constitution Fifteenth Amendment, [U.S. Const. amend XV](#), and whether compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) section 2, [52 U.S.C. § 10301](#), is a compelling interest that justifies the use of race as a basis for government action as necessary to survive strict scrutiny for an equal protection violation. The Court first analyzed the text of Section 2 independently and within the scope of the Fifteenth Amendment, under which the VRA was enacted. The Court determined that Section 2 is consistent with the Fifteenth Amendment's prohibition on intentional racial discrimination; therefore, Section 2 imposes liability only if evidence supports a strong inference the governmental entity drew the districts to provide minority voters less opportunity to elect their preferred candidates because of their race and not to address a partisan or other goal of the entity. The Court also reviewed recent history and found that the country has changed since the VRA's passage, citing changes in voter participation, politics, court precedent, and technology.

The Court updated the [Thornburg v. Gingles](#), 478 U.S. 30 (June 30, 1986), framework for evaluating a voter dilution claim with its analysis of Section 2 and recent history in mind. As the first precondition, the minority voters must be adequately numerous and compact to constitute a majority in a reasonably configured district. This is shown through an illustrative map that excludes race as a criterion and that meets the government's legitimate districting objectives, including traditional districting criteria and the entity's political goals. The second and third preconditions, politically cohesive voting by the minority and racial-bloc voting by the majority, must be shown through an analysis that indicates the bloc voting is not explained by partisan affiliation. Showing that racial groups predictably vote for a particular party will not meet this precondition but showing that racial groups have dramatically different voting patterns within a political party will. If these three preconditions are met, the court will conduct a totality of the circumstances inquiry to determine if voter dilution has occurred. The inquiry must focus on current data and political conditions that indicate intentional discrimination, not past discrimination or current disparities characterized as ongoing effects of societal discrimination. In the present case, the Court concluded the intervenors did not prove any of the steps in the *Gingles* framework and therefore failed to show a compelling interest justifying the use of race to draw the legislative districts contained in the new map. The Court affirmed the lower court's opinion. [Louisiana v. Callais](#), 146 S.Ct. 1131 (Apr. 29, 2026).

Why is This Case Significant?

The U.S. Supreme Court significantly raised the bar for minority voter-dilution claims that may be brought against community colleges and other governmental entities challenging voting maps under the VRA section 2.



From the Courts and the Attorney General

Personnel

Tenure track professor, whose university opted not to renew his contract despite his excellent performance reviews after university officials received notice that he spoke in his personal capacity on the Palestinian resistance at an event in another state, was granted a preliminary injunction requiring the university to maintain his contract for a set period because the decision not to renew his contract constituted retaliation in violation of the U.S. Constitution [First Amendment](#) and the professor showed he faced a substantial threat of irreparable injury absent the injunction. [Robinson v. Damphousse](#), No. 1:26-CV-00705-ADA, 2026 WL 1333453 (W.D. Tex. May 13, 2026).

Students and Instruction

Black former medical student, who was dismissed from a medical school due to a history of poor academic performance that persisted despite the school granting her requested academic accommodations for her generalized anxiety disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder, failed to provide sufficient evidence to overcome summary judgment on her claims the medical school discriminated against her based on her race in violation of [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) and discriminated against her based on her disabilities and failed to provide her reasonable accommodations in violation of the federal [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) and [Rehabilitation Act Section 504](#). [Jackson v. Univ. of Tex. Sw. Med. Ctr. Sch. of Med.](#), No. 25-10942, 2026 WL 1165560 (5th Cir. Apr. 29, 2026) (per curiam).

Student, who was suspended and prohibited from coming on campus following his actions in a community college financial aid office that allegedly violated college policy prohibiting bullying, threatening or violent behavior, and disruptive activity, failed to provide sufficient evidence to overcome dismissal of his claims the college and college officials' investigation was unfair and biased, that they discriminated against him based on his disability, race, color, sex, and criminal history, and that they retaliated against him for his communications regarding financial aid compliance issues in violation of the U.S. Constitution [Fourteenth Amendment](#) Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses, the [ADA](#), [Section 504](#), [Title VI](#), and the U.S. Constitution [First Amendment](#), among other claims. [Williams v. Houston Cmty. Coll.](#), No. 4:25-CV-3027, 2026 WL 1146780 (S.D. Tex. Apr. 28, 2026) (mem).

Community and Governmental Relations

State agency met the deadline to request an attorney general opinion regarding whether the agency could withhold certain documents responsive to a [Texas Public Information Act](#) (PIA) request because the clock started when the requestor submitted a response to the agency's request for clarification of the PIA request and the agency placed the request to the attorney general in the interagency mail within 10 business days. [Tex. Comm'n on Envtl. Quality v. Paxton](#), No. 23-0244, 2026 WL 1041613 (Tex. Apr. 17, 2026).

Open Records Letter Rulings

This month, the attorney general issued Open Records Letter Rulings¹ based on requests from Texas community colleges related to:

- Information regarding certain contracts. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-15058](#) (Apr. 15, 2026), [OR2026-17729](#) (May 1, 2026);
- Information regarding a contract. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-15069](#) (Apr. 15, 2026);
- Information regarding an incident. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-15298](#) (Apr. 16, 2026);
- Contracts with certain vendors. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-15364](#) (Apr. 16, 2026);
- Information regarding a vendor. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-15782](#) (Apr. 20, 2026);
- Information related to competition or bidding. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-16130](#) (Apr. 21, 2026);
- Confidential child abuse or neglect report and investigation information. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-16800](#) (Apr. 27, 2026);
- Information pertaining to a named employee. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-17075](#) (Apr. 28, 2026);
- Information regarding temporary and contract labor agreements. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-17433](#) (Apr. 29, 2026);
- Training records of a named employee. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-17877](#) (May 1, 2026);
- Information regarding a bid. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-17999](#) (May 4, 2026);
- Information regarding a bidding opportunity. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-15935A](#) (May 5, 2026);
- Information pertaining to a request for proposals. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-18476](#) (May 6, 2026);
- Information regarding a solicitation. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-18660](#) (May 6, 2026), [OR2026-19587](#) (May 12, 2026);
- Certain motor vehicle records, payment card and access device numbers, insurance carrier information, and birthdates. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-18841](#) (May 7, 2026);
- Information regarding specified agreements. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-18987](#) (May 8, 2026); and
- Communications regarding certain individuals. Tex. Att’y Gen. Op. [OR2026-19781](#) (May 13, 2026)



Recent Regulations and Guidance

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) repealed [regulations](#) addressing an individual’s right to have THECB correct certain personal information in THECB’s possession.

THECB amended a [regulation](#) addressing the process for updating an application for a new degree program after THECB deems the proposal administratively complete.

THECB amended a [regulation](#) addressing common admission application forms to include

¹ Open record letter rulings are limited to the particular records at issue and the facts as presented to the attorney general. These rulings must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records or any other circumstances.

website posting requirements in response to statutory changes made by the 89th Legislature.

THECB amended [regulations](#) addressing annual reporting and survey requirements regarding community college transfer students for certain public, four-year institutions of higher education and community colleges in response to statutory changes made by the 89th Legislature.

THECB amended [regulations](#) addressing dual credit agreements, including agreements between institutions of higher education and home schools in response to statutory changes made by the 89th Legislature.

THECB repealed and adopted [regulations](#) addressing transparency in degree and certificate program requirements for students who are enrolling in or transferring to an institution in response to statutory changes made by the 89th Legislature.

THECB repealed and adopted [regulations](#) addressing the establishment of a branch campus by a community college.

THECB repealed and adopted [regulations](#) addressing the process a school district or county must follow to obtain THECB authorization to call a branch campus maintenance tax election.

THECB adopted [regulations](#) addressing the Behavioral Health Innovation Grant Program, under which community colleges may be awarded incentive payments for efforts to increase the number of mental health professionals, including chemical dependency counselors, in response to statutory changes made by the 88th Legislature.

THECB amended a [regulation](#) addressing the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) Program funding formula.

THECB amended a [regulation](#) addressing Free College Application Week to expand the definition of *undergraduate admission application*.

THECB amended a [regulation](#) addressing financial aid programs to require each participating institution of higher education to designate a disbursing officer.

THECB amended [regulations](#) addressing the Tuition Equalization Grant Program, including a requirement that all participating institutions submit an audit engagement report to THECB by April 15 of each year.

THECB amended [regulations](#) addressing the Mental Health Professionals Repayment Assistance Program and the Nurse Loan Repayment Assistance Program.

THECB amended a [regulation](#) addressing student loan programs to update the definitions of *certificate program*, *degree program*, and *manageable debt*.

THECB adopted the review of [regulations](#) addressing required degree and course planning, the Texas Public Educational Grant and Emergency Tuition, Fees, and Textbook Loan Program, the Texas First Scholarship Program, and the Peace Officer Loan Repayment Program.

The Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation amended [regulations](#) addressing curriculum objectives for drivers' education courses and the [Driver Education and Safety \(DES\) Program Guides](#) in response to statutory changes made by the 89th Legislature.

The U.S. Department of Education amended [regulations](#) addressing federal student loan programs, including but not limited to phasing out the Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) plan and creating new repayment plan options for borrowers.

The U.S. Department of Justice revised [regulations](#) implementing Title II of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) to extend deadlines for compliance with web content and mobile app accessibility requirements originally adopted in April 2024. The deadlines vary based on the population size of the entity and whether the entity may be considered a special district government. The Department of Justice has not opined on the type of entity it considers

Texas community colleges to be and has instead stated that a college should document the reasoning behind its determination regarding which deadline applies. TASB Community College Services is available to

answer questions about the application of the provisions at your college.



In the News

The governor issued a [letter](#) to all community college presidents directing that the existing freeze on undergraduate tuition and fees remain in effect for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The governor and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board [announced](#) that applications will open in July for the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling Through Education (TRUE) Grant 2026-2028 Program.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced that the [2026-2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\) form](#) is now available.

ED's Office of Federal Student Aid published [information](#) regarding the impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's loan limit and loan repayment provisions on undergraduate, graduate, and professional student loan borrowers.

ED and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) [announced](#) a joint investment in the [Strengthening Institutions Program](#), which is accepting applications through June 23, 2026 for fiscal year 2026.