Texas May Face Federal Supervision After Judges' Ruling on Congressional Districts

A Dallas attorney says Texas may have to ask for permission to change election laws after a panel of federal judges ruled the maps drawn for three congressional districts violate federal statutes, according to a post on the website of **Androvett Legal Media & Marketing**.

The judges found the maps used for the congressional districts covering parts of South and West Texas intentionally discriminated against minority voters by either violating the U.S. Constitution or the Voting Rights Act.

Constitutional law attorney **David Coale** of **Lynn Pinker Cox & Hurst** says the decision means that Texas may face a rare remedy referred to as a "bail-in," which could lead to requiring prior federal approval of any changes to district lines.

> *"The issue here is not so much what the court said about these districts, since none of them were actually used in an election. It's whether Texas' process for drawing districts was so flawed that the federal government has to take over."*

Texas can appeal the ruling before early May, but that will mean more uncertainty and added delay to an already complicated case, adds Coale.

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