

Last year on July 4th, a terrible tragedy happened in the Texas Hill country. One hundred and thirty nine people were killed in a monumental flood on the Guadalupe River. Now one year and ten days later on July sixteenth another flood has hit the Kerr Country area. The current Texas Governor Greg Abbott's flood preparedness initiatives started in 2017, and then significantly expanded after the 2025 disaster, were put to the absolute test this July. This year's flooding levels were worse, as within the town of Comfort there were water levels exceeding 37 feet. Some locals were even comparing it to the 1978 flood which was extremely devastating to the area. Thanks to the new flood guidelines, youth camps were able to be fully prepared for the flooding that happened this year and have had zero children die compared to Camp Mystic which suffered large loss of life. Now sadly one man has been confirmed dead and another is still missing, but comparatively one hundred and thirty nine are a lot more than two. Public criticism and calls for reform by the locals and their families contributed to changes in the flood policies that had been in effect till 2025.

Beyond the political implications, this article deeply resonated with me because of the fact that I have family that lives in Comfort, Texas that were very close to being hit hard. I am personally so thankful that this nation has the Representative Democratic system we do today because if we weren't allowed to protest last year about the inadequate flood safety protocols, so many more would have died. What we see in American Politics Today is that Democracy is based on popular sovereignty where the people are able to vote and ultimately control the Governmental authority. Gratefully because of that principle the people were able to influence the elected officials through public speaking and their votes. That is what Democracy fundamentally is supposed to do, solve conflict through public discourse, not violence. I personally was very scared and anxious for my family members especially because of their age and refusal to evacuate. Texas officials worked hard to implement new emergency preparedness measures for such an outcome and it paid off because now my family is safe and dozens of other lives were saved.

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