
From: Chris Kaiser <ckaiser@laaclu.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:21 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs; Marinovich, Lauren
Cc: Bizette, Angela
Subject: ACLU of Louisiana Redistricting Data - Central Louisiana
Attachments: ACLU of Louisiana - Alexandria Road Show Nov 9 2021.pdf; ACLU of Louisiana - Central La Demographic Summary.pdf



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Committee Members,

Attached, please find district-level demographic data for the Central Louisiana region's legislative districts and a map of Census tracts relevant to redistricting in this region.

Thank you,

Chris Kaiser
Pronouns: he, him, his

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ACLU
Louisiana

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November 9, 2021

Joint Committee on Governmental Affairs
submitted via electronic mail to:
h&ga@legis.la.gov
marinovichl@legis.la.gov

Members of the House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees,

Based on data from the 2020 Census, the legislature will soon redraw district maps for Louisiana's congressional districts, the Louisiana House and Senate, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Public Services Commission, and, potentially, the Louisiana Supreme Court.



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Alanah Odoms
Executive Director

Equal access to political representation is a cornerstone of our democracy. That is why the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment requires states to balance their populations across electoral districts. It is also why Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits states from drawing district lines with the intent or the effect of diluting the voting strength of people of color. Accordingly, the legislature has a duty to ensure that any maps it adopts comply with the principle of “one person, one vote,” as required by the Equal Protection Clause¹ and Section 2’s “nationwide ban on racial discrimination in voting.”²

The redistricting process will lay the foundation of our state’s democracy for the next decade. We urge you to carry out your duties with fair and equal representation for all people in Louisiana as your highest priority.

It is imperative that Black voters have an equal opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. To ensure this, the legislature must take care that Black voters’ communities of common interest are respected and maintained by the new district maps. Maps that unnecessarily divide minority voters or artificially concentrate them into a single district may dilute their voting strength, depriving them of a fair opportunity to elect candidates who align with their policy preferences. Therefore, before adopting new maps, the legislature must carefully consider how the population and racial demographics of each district have changed since 2010.

¹ *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 565–68 (1964); *id.* at 558 (quoting *Gray v. Sanders*, 372 U.S. 368, 381 (1963)) (“The conception of political equality from the Declaration of Independence, to Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, to the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, and Nineteenth Amendments can mean only one thing—one person, one vote.”); *see* U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1 (“No State shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”).

² *Shelby Cty., Ala. v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529, 557 (2013); 52 U.S.C. § 10301(a) (“No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied . . . in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color . . .”).

Based on 2020 Census data, we know that many of our current districts must change, especially those that have lost significant population. At the same time, the law requires that you ensure a fair opportunity for the state's growing Black population to elect their candidates of choice. Fair maps must adequately reflect and balance these realities.

To that end, the ACLU of Louisiana has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the 2020 Census data, including (1) Louisiana's overall population changes from 2010 to 2020, (2) summaries of population and demographic shifts in each congressional district, and (3) population and demographic changes broken down by parish and legislative district. This information is crucial to understand whether electoral districts provide fair and equal access to representation, with due consideration for maintaining communities of interest,³ or whether they improperly dilute the voting strength of minority voters. A summary of the Central Louisiana region is attached.



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Throughout this process, your obligations under the Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act must guide your decisions. To ensure non-dilution of minority voting strength in Louisiana, we urge you to consider the information contained in the appended regional summary. Please use this information to draw maps that fairly represent the people of Louisiana.

Respectfully,

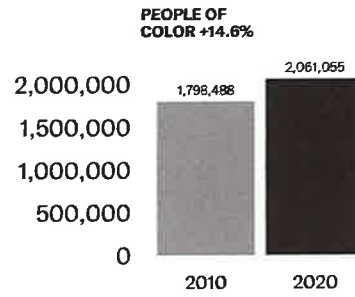
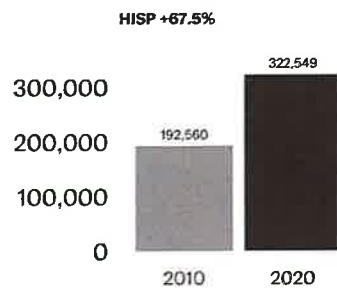
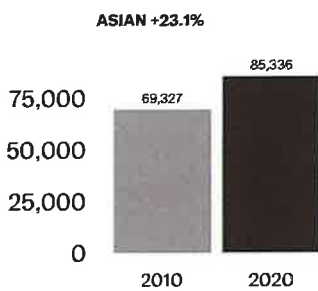
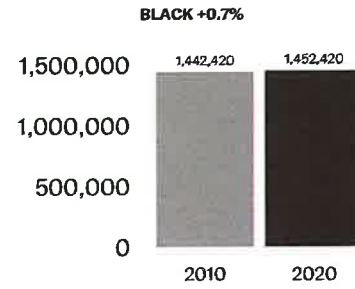
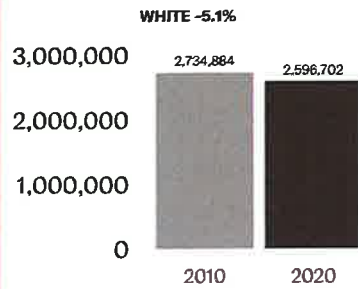
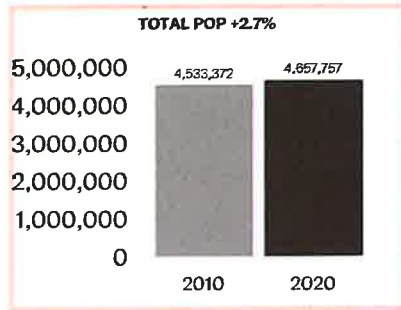
/s/ Alanah Odoms
Alanah Odoms, Executive Director
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³ Joint Rule 21(H), HCR 90, 2021 R.S. ("All redistricting plans shall respect the established boundaries of parishes, municipalities, and other political subdivisions and natural geography of this state to the extent practicable. *However, this criterion is subordinate to and shall not be used to undermine the maintenance of communities of interest within the same district to the extent practicable.*" (emphasis added).

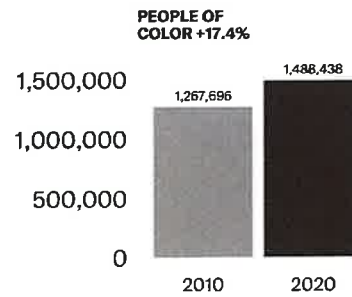
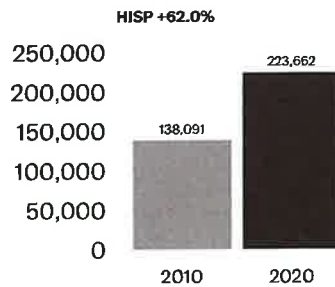
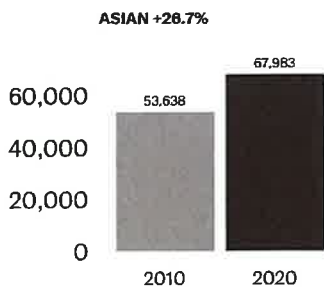
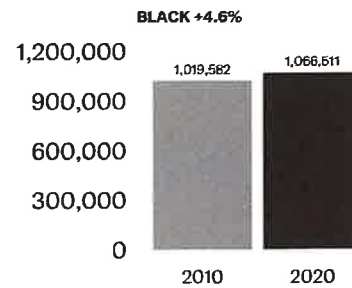
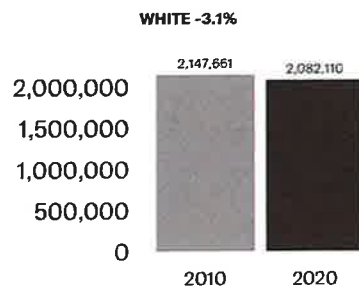
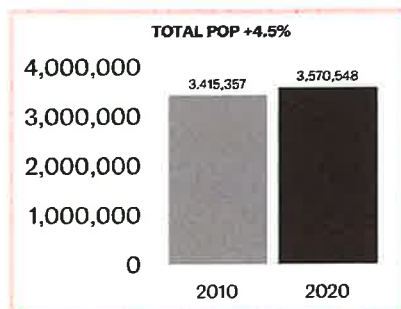
Louisiana: Statewide Demographics

OVERALL POPULATION

The overall population of the state of **Louisiana** grew by about **3%** between 2010 and 2020. The number of Black people in Louisiana increased by almost **1%**, the population of Asian people increased by **23%**, and the population of Hispanics increased by **68%**.



VOTING AGE POPULATION



Note: White, Black and Asian categories include people who identified as non-Hispanic and one race only. "People of color" include those who identified as anything except non-Hispanic white alone.
Sources: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

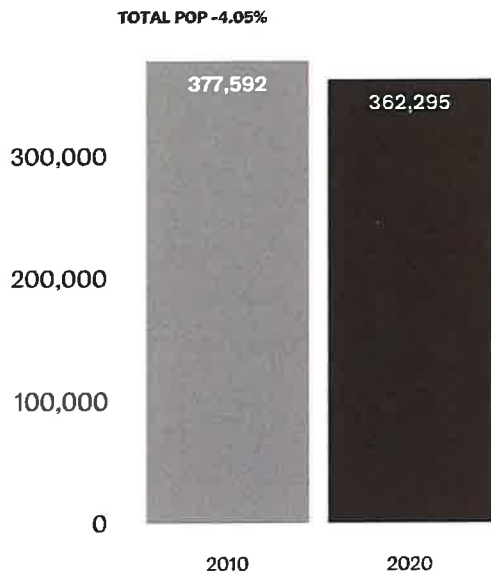


Louisiana: Greater Central Area

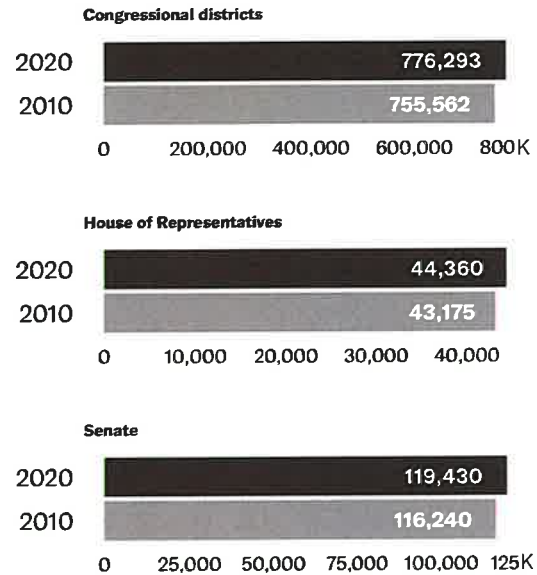
OVERALL POPULATION

The overall population of **the Central area** (made up by Sabine, Natchitoches, Grant, La Salle, Catahoula, Concordia, Rapides, Vernon, Beauregard, and Allen parishes) shrank by about **4%** between 2010 and 2020.

Central area pop.



Ideal size of districts



VOTING AGE POPULATION

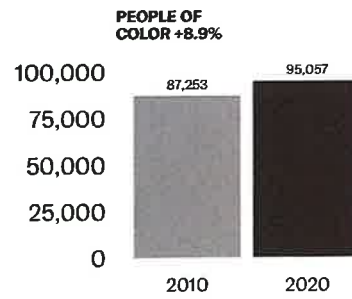
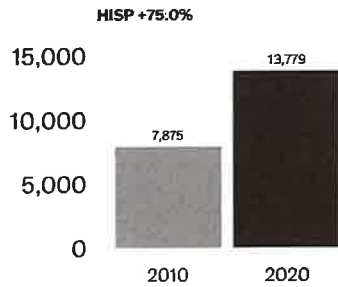
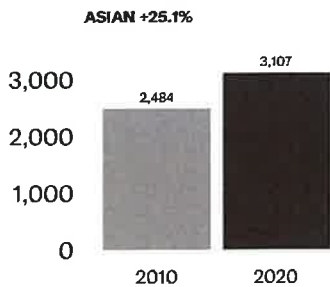
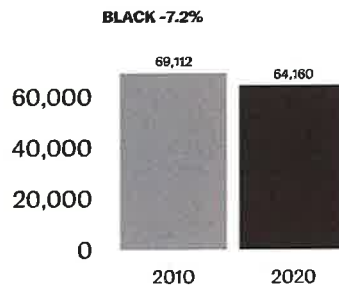
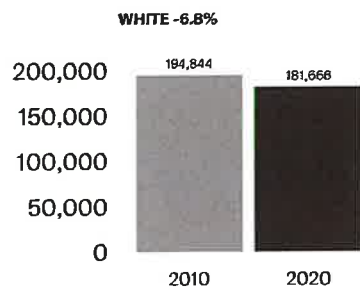
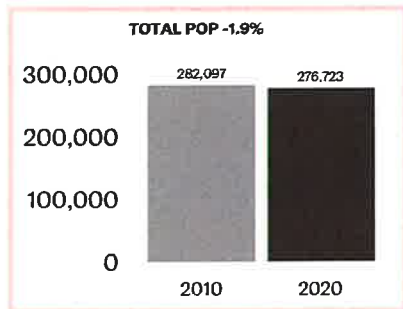
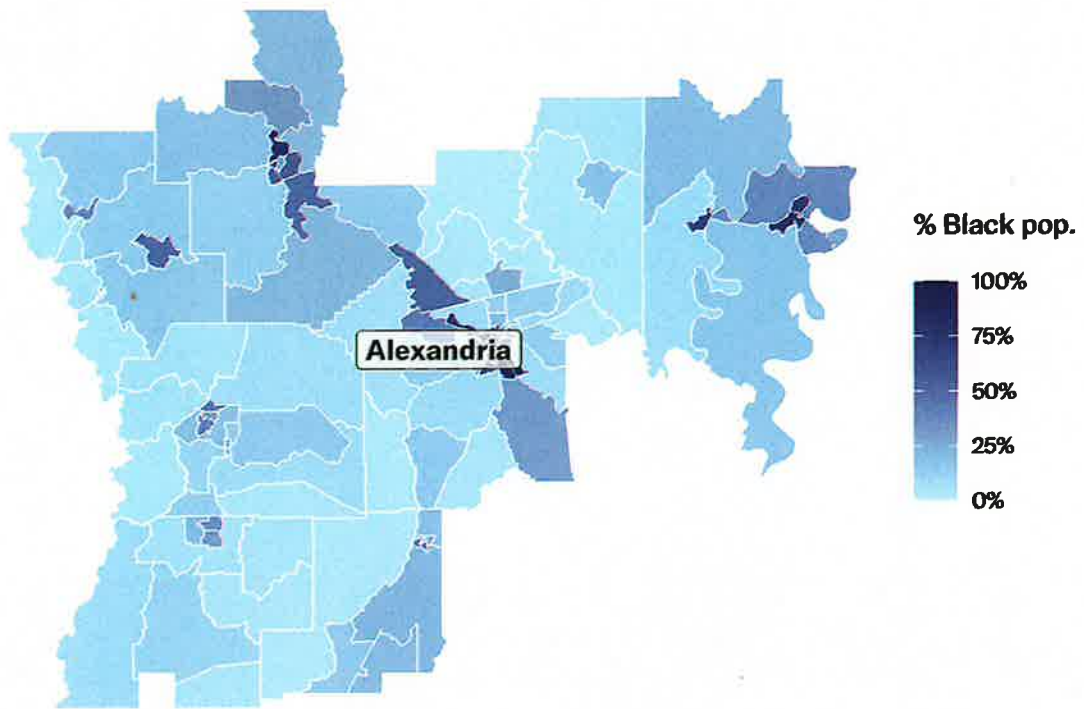


FIGURE 1: Black population by Census tract in Central area



Note: Darker blue tracts indicate areas with higher proportions people who identify as non-Hispanic and Black or any part Black.

TABLE 1: Change in voting-age population (2010 - 2020) by Senate District
 [Ordered by total number of person of color (non-white) voting-age population added]

Senate District	Senator	Change in person of color (non-white) voting-age pop.	Change in white voting-age pop.
SD30	Reese	+1,943 (+11.4%)	-5,598 (-7.9%)
SD35	Morris	+1,172 (+6.0%)	-11,414 (-13.7%)
SD28	Cloud	+153 (+0.5%)	-9,445 (-14.3%)
SD31	Bernard	-953 (-3.6%)	-10,072 (-14.9%)
SD32	Womack	-1,902 (-8.1%)	-6,747 (-9.7%)
SD29	Luneau	-4,450 (-7.9%)	-16,552 (-34.4%)

TABLE 2: Change in voting-age population (2010 - 2020) by House District
 [Ordered by total number of person of color (non-white) voting-age population added]

House District	Representative	Change in person of color (non-white) voting-age pop.	Change in white voting-age pop.
HD35	Geymann	+1,257 (+21.4%)	-92 (-0.3%)
HD22	Firment	+734 (+8.8%)	-5,827 (-19.0%)
HD30	Owen	+420 (+3.7%)	-4,495 (-18.8%)
HD32	Carrier	+325 (+4.4%)	-4,738 (-16.3%)
HD20	Riser	-51 (-0.5%)	-4,232 (-15.4%)
HD23	Cox	-813 (-4.2%)	-3,729 (-23.2%)
HD21	Johnson	-1,473 (-8.4%)	-2,731 (-19.2%)

Appendix Table A: Voting-age population in Senate Districts by race

Senate District	POC-VAP 2010	POC-VAP 2020	Black-VAP 2010	Black-VAP 2020	Hisp-VAP 2010	Hisp-VAP 2020	Asian-VAP 2010	Asian-VAP 2020	White-VAP 2010	White-VAP 2020	Overall-VAP 2010	Overall-VAP 2020
SD28	28,425	28,578	24,649	20,270	1,591	4,528	384	685	66,236	56,791	94,661	85,369
SD29	56,595	52,145	51,860	45,916	1,982	2,475	1,056	706	48,149	31,597	104,744	83,742
SD30	16,999	18,942	10,053	9,461	3,383	4,178	998	980	71,196	65,598	88,195	84,540
SD31	26,823	25,870	20,335	15,897	2,360	3,762	734	1,097	67,428	57,356	94,251	83,226
SD32	23,477	21,575	21,095	14,868	1,206	3,458	241	568	69,856	63,109	93,333	84,684
SD35	19,558	20,730	14,349	12,051	2,760	3,849	1,150	1,257	83,437	72,023	102,995	92,753

Appendix Table B: Voting-age population in House Districts by race

House District	POC-VAP 2010	POC-VAP 2020	Black-VAP 2010	Black-VAP 2020	Hisp-VAP 2010	Hisp-VAP 2020	Asian-VAP 2010	Asian-VAP 2020	White-VAP 2010	White-VAP 2020	Overall-VAP 2010	Overall-VAP 2020
HD20	9,381	9,330	8,490	7,436	537	980	68	105	27,411	23,179	36,792	32,509
HD21	17,477	16,004	16,785	14,893	378	488	62	115	14,205	11,474	31,682	27,478
HD22	8,375	9,109	6,405	4,759	1,229	2,610	98	322	30,676	24,849	39,051	33,958
HD23	19,561	18,748	17,910	16,061	644	1,171	135	156	16,044	12,315	35,605	31,063
HD30	11,454	11,874	7,047	6,465	2,332	2,663	784	726	23,903	19,408	35,357	31,282
HD32	7,355	7,680	5,680	3,914	468	2,039	177	195	28,985	24,247	36,340	31,927
HD35	5,873	7,130	4,366	4,019	714	1,423	195	285	30,928	30,836	36,801	37,966

Sources: 2010 and 2020 Census

