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**From:** Gisele Bryant [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:57 PM  
**To:** House & Governmental Affairs; Sen. & Gov Affairs Cmte  
**Subject:** Jan. 20, 2022-Public Hearing  
**Attachments:** RESOLUTIONDeltaSigmaThetaSororityLAREDiStrictingCohort01.18.2022.pdf

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To the Members of the H&S Governmental Affairs Committee,

Please find attached testimony for the January 20, 2022, public hearing (road show) @ the state Capitol.

Sincerely,  
Gisele Proby-Bryant, Chair  
Louisiana State Redistricting Cohort  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

# REDISTRICTING LOUISIANA

## RESOLUTION

### In Support of Fair and Equitable Redistricting and Two Majority-Minority United States Congressional Districts Louisiana State Legislature February 2022 Special Session

January 18, 2022

Sent via email

Email: [h&ga@legis.la.gov](mailto:h&ga@legis.la.gov)

Email: [s&g@legis.la.gov](mailto:s&g@legis.la.gov)

January 20, 2022-Resolution read for the record.

To: Chair Stefanski, Chair Hewitt and Members of the Committees on House and Senate Governmental Affairs.

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., with more than 5000 members in the State of Louisiana, is a non-partisan sisterhood organization founded in 1913 on the principles of Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service, with a five-point programmatic thrust that includes political awareness and involvement;

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Decennial Census, P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data, has identified that Louisiana's demographics have changed, and the state has become more diverse, with African Americans making up over one-third (33.13%) or 1,543,119 of the state's total population of 4,657,757 residents;

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. asserts that Louisiana should have a second majority-minority congressional district to fairly represent Black voters; and further, it is our hope that when the Louisiana congressional district maps are redrawn, this goal is achieved;

**WHEREAS**, the changing face of Louisiana's population requires an important question to be asked, specifically, are African Americans equitably and fairly represented at all levels of Louisiana's highest positions of elected government, i.e., the State Legislature, the U. S. Congress, the Supreme Court, BESE and the PSC;

**WHEREAS**, African-American voters in the state have been historically discriminated against and unlawfully excluded in the redistricting process that has led to litigation in federal court in the past;

**WHEREAS**, every initial state legislative redistricting plan for the Louisiana House of Representatives has been challenged in federal court since the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965;

**WHEREAS**, the state legislature has an affirmative obligation to comply with the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U. S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to protect the right to vote of African American citizens and prohibit racial gerrymandering during the redistricting process;

**WHEREAS**, we urge the Louisiana State Legislature to adopt maps that reflect the 2020 Census data verifying that one-third of Louisiana's citizens are African American and should have the opportunity to choose the representatives of their choice, rather than the representatives choosing their constituents;

**WHEREAS**, elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidates and districts are more competitive, thus increasing accountability and serving the best interests of the voters of Louisiana;

**WHEREAS**, it is critically important that neither partisan, nor racial gerrymandering remain the standard for the drawing of district lines to either dilute (crack), or concentrate/cluster (pack) districts with Black voters to limit the impact of our voting strength;

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution should be announced publicly as a testament to the commitment of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to a fair and equitable redistricting process in the State of Louisiana and to the elimination of all aspects of unlawful gerrymandering that have been a past practice in redistricting by the Louisiana legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is committed to expanding African-American voting strength throughout the state, and unequivocally supports the drawing of maps that create two competitive majority-minority United States Congressional Districts that provide a reasonable opportunity for African-Americans to elect their candidates of choice.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., urge the House and Senate Governmental Affairs Joint Committee to draw fair and equitable maps based on the principles of equal protection and one man one vote, which would allow more than one-third of the state's citizens to have a greater voice in our government and the opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this day 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Cheryl Gray Evans

Cheryl Gray Evans (Jan 18, 2022 16:11 EST)

The Honorable Cheryl Gray Evans  
National Social Action Commissioner  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Sheila Lewis

sheila lewis (Jan 17, 2022 18:00 CST)

Dr. Sheila Lewis, Co-Chair  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Baton Rouge Sigma Alumnae Chapter

Keisha Fleming

Keisha Fleming (Jan 17, 2022 17:18 CST)

Keisha Fleming, Secretary  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Louisiana Tri-Parish Alumnae Chapter

Felicia M. Hamilton

Felicia M. Hamilton (Jan 17, 2022 17:34 CST)

Felicia Hamilton, Esq.  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Shreveport Alumnae Chapter

Rose Roche

Rose Roche (Jan 18, 2022 10:04 CST)

Rose Roche  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Louisiana Tri-Parish Alumnae Chapter

Gisele Proby-Bryant

Gisele Proby-Bryant (Jan 17, 2022 17:28 CST)

Gisele Proby-Bryant, Chair  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Shreveport Alumnae Chapter

Hattie M. Broussard

Hattie Broussard (Jan 17, 2022 17:35 CST)

Hattie M. Broussard, Esq. Co-Chair  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
New Orleans Alumnae Chapter

Alice Grooms

Alice Grooms (Jan 17, 2022 17:22 CST)

Alice Grooms, Esq.  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
New Orleans Alumnae Chapter

Ingrid F. Johnson

Ingrid F. Johnson (Jan 18, 2022 10:26 CST)

Ingrid Johnson, Esq.  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Alexandria Alumnae Chapter

Kamili Shaw

Kamili Shaw (Jan 18, 2022 5:53 CST)

Kamili Shaw  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Slidell Alumnae Chapter

Shannon C. Sims

Shannon C. Sims (Jan 17, 2022 20:27 CST)

Shannon Sims  
Louisiana State Delta Redistricting Cohort  
Slidell Alumnae Chapter