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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** House & Governmental Affairs  
**Cc:** Christy Lynch  
**Subject:** Keep Districts Largely Intact

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**We should Keep Our  
Congressional Districts Intact**

*Keeping our districts intact is fair to all voting groups  
and follows the law.*

Our current boundaries were approved by the U.S. Justice Department and are following voter representation guidelines. The 2020 Census data shows an increase of 2.74% in the past 10 years for Louisiana. This would seem to warrant only minimal changes are needed to the boundaries of Louisiana Congressional Districts.

The rules recommend the boundaries be redrawn **only when the Census reveals a particular District experienced a significant increase or decrease in population.** The rules define "significant" as a change of greater than 5%. The 2020 Census data reveals the change in population of Louisiana's Congressional Districts as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> District population increased by 7.6% (Currently Within Ideal Range)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District population increased by 2.6% (Currently Within Ideal Range)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District population increased by 4.0% (Currently Within Ideal Range)
- 4<sup>th</sup> District population decreased by 3.6% (-6.2% Smaller than Ideal)
- 5<sup>th</sup> District population decreased by 2.2% (Currently Within Ideal Range)
- 6<sup>th</sup> District population increased by 8.1% (+5.2% Larger than Ideal)

The current Congressional District Boundaries are based on a commonality of interests based on the economy and needs of the respective districts. The rural northern part of Louisiana has an agricultural economy and is focused on conservative values. The coastal area of the state has oil and seafood-based industries. The urban districts are distinctly different in needs and goals from adjacent districts. In short, each district has unique needs, and deserves representation in Congress that makes their unique needs a priority.

Most voters find gerrymandering to be a "major problem," and most do not want redrawing of districts to advantage one party.

At present, there is a plan to redraw Congressman Steve Scalise's First Congressional District.

The main argument of this plan is that black voting strength has been diluted. This argument may not be valid when you consider the data from the Cook Partisan Voting Index (CPVI) which shows the current Congressional Districts are extremely balanced when considering the voting populace of each.

- 1<sup>st</sup> District (+22 Rep)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> District (+25 Dem)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District (+21 Rep)
- 4<sup>th</sup> District (+14 Rep)
- 5<sup>th</sup> District (+17 Rep)
- 6<sup>th</sup> District (+18 Rep)

These districts are largely equal in population, the current districts are also politically balanced as the percentage of voters in the majority party.

Most importantly, the 1993 Supreme Court Case **Shaw vs Reno**, the Court declared that a racially-based reapportionment scheme in North Carolina was illegal. The Supreme Court ruled the North Carolina scheme constituted racial gerrymandering under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.