
From: Julie Harris [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 11:59 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs; Marinovich, Lauren
Subject: Julie Schwam Harris - Redistricting Testimony for Hearing 1-5-22
Attachments: Julie Schwam Harris - Redistricting Letter to Hse Sen Govt Affairs Committee 1-4-22.docx

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

Dear House & Senate Redistricting Committee Staff:

I have attached my testimony and included it below. Please make it available for all Committee Members. Thank you.

January 4, 2021

RE: Redistricting Louisiana based on 2020 Census

Dear Chairs Hewitt and Stefanski, Vice Chairs Milligan and Duplessis, and Members of the Senate and House Governmental Affairs Committees:

Thank you for all of your efforts and your staff's time spent to educate and engage the citizens of Louisiana in the redistricting process. I have been following the process across the state and alerting friends and contacts of the Road Show hearings. Many have participated and learned for themselves about current districts (at the various levels of government), new census numbers and best practices.

With the end of the Legislative Road Show in sight and a special redistricting session pending, I look forward to seeing that the statistics and principles you have been sharing with us will be used to produce fair maps with proportionate numbers.

The key points I want to make are:

- Based on population, **Louisiana should have two majority minority Congressional districts** - where it would be possible for a minority Congressperson to be elected. The state population is 33 percent Black and 40 percent people of color. For proportion and fairness, two of the six congressional districts should be competitive for voters of color to elect their candidates of choice.
- Based on its population growth since Hurricane Katrina, **New Orleans should have another State House district drawn within the city.** The increase in the latest census of 40,000 people is almost the size of a House District itself – in fairness one should be added back to the Orleans Delegation.
- Based on the racial and ethnic make-up, the interests of minority citizens – Black, Hispanic and other – in Jefferson Parish deserve more attention. **There should be at least one more competitive seat for minorities in the State House and in the State Senate from Jefferson Parish.**
- **The Supreme Court districts need to be updated to ensure justice is served to all populations of the state.** Having districts so out of balance in numbers and in minority representation does a disservice to all, but particularly to the minority citizens of Louisiana.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. I wish you well in your tasks ahead.

Sincerely,

Julie Schwam Harris

[REDACTED]

New Orleans, LA 70118

[REDACTED]

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