
From: Sandra Dartus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 9:43 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs
Subject: Redistricting Request

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Chairman Stefanski, Chairwoman Hewitt, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Sandra Savoye Dartus. I have lived in Lakeview for nearly 8 years. I reside in the US Congressional District served by Representative Steve Scalise. Prior to moving to Lakeview, my husband and I owned homes in the Marigny and French Quarter.

I have been an active participant in the community since the early 1980's, creating and producing tourism-based events that have a positive economic impact and showcase the cultural heritage and diversity of our city. I have worked closely with numerous public officials in a leadership capacity, including Mayor Dutch Morial, Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, Mayor Marc Morial, Mayor Ray Nagin, Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Mayor LaToya Cantrell, as well as countless others at the state, local and federal levels.

Based upon the recent Census and the very small change in our state's population, I believe our Congressional district boundaries need minor adjustments, not major changes. Please keep the boundaries as they are. They were already approved by the Obama Justice Department as being compliant with voter representation guidelines. Boundaries are to be redrawn only if the Census shows a greater than 5% change. Only two out of six districts meet those criteria, and they are only slightly greater than 5% -- the population in District 6 increased by only 5.2% and District 4 decreased by just 6.2%.

Gerrymandering based upon race was declared illegal by the Supreme Court in their 1993 decision, Shaw vs Reno. Gerrymandering also hurts voter confidence at a time when voter confidence is at an all-time low. The Cook Partisan Voting Index (CPVI) shows that our districts already are extremely balanced according to party. There are only 14-25% more Republicans or Democrats in each of the six districts, not a huge difference. Please keep our boundaries intact. It is fair to all voting groups, and it follows the laws of redistricting.

I appreciate being given the chance to have a voice in the process and hope that my comments will be carefully considered.

Sandra Savoye Dartus



New Orleans, LA 70124