
From: Tina Payton [REDACTED]
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TINA PAYTON

January 3, 2022

House & Governmental Affairs Committee
Louisiana State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA

Dear Chairman Stefanski, Chairwoman Hewitt, and Members of the Committee:

I am a medical professional living at [REDACTED] in Metairie, LA for the past 12 years. I have always lived in East Jefferson, and been active in my community. My current Congressman, Steve Scalise has been an advocate for the conservative values of my community and my family for a number of years.

Since the 2020 Census data reveals Louisiana's population increased only 2.74% in the past 10 years, **only minimal changes are needed to the boundaries of Louisiana Congressional Districts.**

Current rules only require a Congressional District to be "as close to the ideal district size as practicable." The rules recommend the boundaries be redrawn **only when the Census reveals a particular District experienced a significant increase or decrease in population.** The 2020 Census data reveals the change in population of Louisiana's Congressional Districts as follows:

1st District population is Currently Within Ideal Range

2nd District population is Currently Within Ideal Range

3rd District population is Currently Within Ideal Range

4th District population is -6.2% Smaller than Ideal)

5th District population is Currently Within Ideal Range

6th District population increased is 5.2% Larger than Ideal

As you can see, the majority of Louisiana's Congressional Districts are well within the range where no change in boundaries is needed. There are only two Districts which are slightly outside of the ideal population range of a Louisiana Congressional District. Therefore, **a large change in Congressional District Boundaries is completely unwarranted.**

Tina Payton

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The current Congressional District Boundaries are based on a commonality of interests based on the economy and needs of the respective districts. The northern part of Louisiana is largely rural, agricultural and focused on Christian values. The coastal area of the state is concerned about coastal restoration and largely employed in the oil and seafood industries. My District 1 is largely conservative, and distinctly different in needs and goals from adjacent liberal District 2. Each district has unique needs, and deserves representation in Congress that makes their unique needs a priority.

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

1st District (+22 Rep)

2nd District (+25 Dem)

3rd District (+21 Rep)

4th District (+14 Rep)

5th District (+17 Rep)

6th District (+18 Rep)

As you can see, in addition to being largely equal in population, all of the current districts are also fairly politically balanced as the percentage of voters in the majority party in the 2nd District is within 4 percentage points of both the 1st and 3rd Districts.

I recommend the Louisiana Congressional Districts remain largely intact. It is most representative of the people's needs, it is fair to all voting groups, it is the will of the people, and it follows the law.

Sincerely,

Tina Payton

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