

---

**From:** Maxwell Ciardullo <mciardullo@lafairhousing.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 1:23 PM  
**To:** House & Governmental Affairs; Marinovich, Lauren  
**Cc:** Monique Blossom  
**Subject:** Redistricting Public Comment

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

Dear Members of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs,

I write today on behalf of the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (LaFHAC), a statewide civil rights nonprofit that has fought housing discrimination and segregation for over 25 years. We offer a wide variety of services, including foreclosure prevention and homeowner education, investigations and pro-bono legal services for victims of discrimination, eviction defense, as well as policy advocacy and fair housing education.

LaFHAC cares greatly about a transparent and fair redistricting process, because the forces of housing segregation and discrimination have often been accomplices to gerrymandering that prevents fair opportunities to elect leaders of color. As an example, as affordable housing becomes more and more scarce in New Orleans, families of color are being pushed out to surrounding parishes, including Jefferson Parish, where the delegation does not reflect the growing populations of Black and Latino residents. As of the 2020 census, 53% of Jefferson Parish is Black, Latino, or other people of color, yet only two members of the 11 state representatives from the parish (18%) are people of color.

Despite this trend, the City of New Orleans is still growing and saw an increase of 40,000 people since 2010. This growth should earn the city a new seat in the State House of Representatives.

At the federal level, 44% of Louisiana's population is now people of color and one-third is Black, yet we only have one congressperson of color. In fact, Louisiana has only had four Black congresspeople since Reconstruction, a result of diluting Black voting strength in a single majority-Black district.

It should be possible for a congressperson of color to be elected in at least two of the six congressional districts in Louisiana. Districts should be fair and give proportional voice to racial and geographic communities of interest, not gerrymandered to give advantage to those already in charge. Thank you for your close attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Maxwell Ciardullo

--



Maxwell Ciardullo (he/him)

**Connect with us**

[www.lafairhousing.org](http://www.lafairhousing.org)

[Join our Email List](#)



**Donate**

Director of Policy And Communications

Main: [\(504\) 596-2100](tel:5045962100) | Direct: [\(504\) 266-2494](tel:5042662494)

Email: [mciardullo@lafairhousing.org](mailto:mciardullo@lafairhousing.org)

**1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710**

**New Orleans, LA 70112**