

Baker, Sarah

From: Glenda Hardey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2024 11:24 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs
Subject: Redistricting
Attachments: Redistricting Memo.docx

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Glenda and Matt Hardey
Concerned Citizens
Covington, La

To: House Governmental Affairs Committee
From: Glenda and Matt Hardey
Re: Redistricting of Congressional and Louisiana Supreme Court Districts

The premise behind the redistricting that you are being asked to do in this special session is flawed, based on an expansionist view of the Federal Voting Rights Act. The motivation behind the court's action seems to be only to provide the opportunity to replace one White Congressman with a Black Congressman. The logic behind that motivation must be that voters are racist and will not vote for anyone not of the same race. This is nonsense.

The implication that somehow the White population and the Black population, each as a group, have different opinions about congressional decisions that will affect their lives is a judicial fantasy. We all breathe the same air, live in the same communities, work together, play sports together, and are equally burdened by the same state and federal laws and regulations. Where then, is the basis for any distinction between the races? Don't we all generally want the same things in life?

The Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law because "African Americans in the South faced tremendous obstacles to voting, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and other bureaucratic restrictions to deny them the right to vote.

(<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/voting-rights-act>)

Section 2 of the act states: "No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." (ibid). Is anyone aware that Louisiana has done anything to abridge or deny the right to vote on account of race or color?

The action taken by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals rests on the opinion that the majority of the population of Louisiana is racist. It is an insult to the Citizens of Louisiana and its elected officials that the court should have this opinion.

Unfortunately, you are engaged in a fool's errand pushed upon you by a judiciary that is itself operating under a fundamentally racist agenda.