

## Baker, Sarah

---

**From:** JACK BENGTTSSON [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2024 9:10 AM  
**To:** House & Governmental Affairs; s&ga@legis.la.gov  
**Subject:** Congressional Redistricting

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

As I understand it, the legislature has been called back into session for the purpose of redrawing Louisiana's congressional districts, among other things.

To that end, I would like to offer an observation and a suggestion.

After looking at a demographic map of Louisiana, it would appear that the minority population is fairly dispersed, as opposed to some other states where the minority population tends to be more concentrated into specific areas, which I imagine makes it difficult to build two majority black districts. However, one can build two majority minority districts without too much trouble that have a black plurality or close to it.

I suppose the legislature will have a number of different options, and proposals, when it comes to drawing new maps. And, I imagine they have a couple options with regard to the direction they take in doing so. Obviously, you're not the first legislature to grapple with this problem. Some choose to continue to try to game the system, like Alabama, which didn't work out too well. Others choose a more productive path.

The attached link embraces the latter. While there is no such thing as a perfect plan, the attached may serve as a compromise of sorts. It does provide for two majority minority districts without displacing any of the current incumbents. Granted, the new majority minority district in this plan leans Democratic. But everyone knew that was almost inevitable. The good news, from a Republican point of view, is that the new majority minority district in this plan is still competitive even though it leans Democratic, which means the current incumbent still has chance of retaining the seat.

Other benefits of this plan are the way the districts have been arranged. I think you'll find that the districts in this plan tend to conform more toward Louisiana's natural geographic regions, thus giving it some regional commonality that the current plan does not.

District 1 - contains much of the Florida Parishes regions

District 2 - Greater New Orleans (majority-minority)

District 3 - contains much of Acadiana

District 4 - Central Louisiana

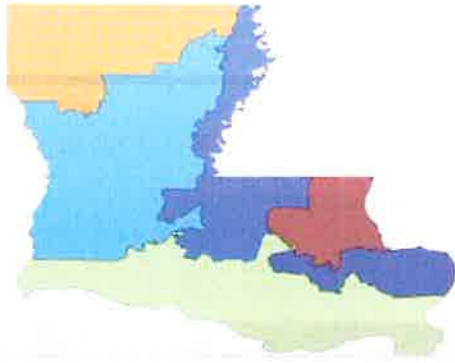
District 5 - Northern Louisiana

District 6 - call it the Mississippi/Baton Rouge district. (majority-minority)

Four of these districts will remain solidly Republican, with one solid Democratic district and one that leans Democratic.

While I don't know the exact wording of the court order regarding this matter, if the focus is on majority minority rather than majority black, perhaps this plan offers some kind of compromise as opposed to a perfect outcome. While this plan doesn't provide for two majority black districts, it does attempt to optimize their voting power by making them a dominant voting group within two districts and a significant force in a third district wherein they would comprise around 37% of the VAP. If nothing else, perhaps, this plan offers a road map to what is possible if you work at it. I hope it helps.

[Copy of la cong](#)



**Copy of la cong**

Redistricting Map