

Aiken  
Public Hearing  
August 12, 2021

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Sara Damewood <saraofsc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 7, 2021 2:26 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Cc:** A. Shane Massey  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Dear Senators,

As a long-time resident of Lexington County and a concerned citizen, I urge you to plan legislative districts that are not distorted to protect incumbents or political parties. District lines should respect communities of interest, especially precincts and counties. Also, district lines should ensure that minorities have an opportunity to elect a representative of their choosing, but should not be packed beyond that point to diminish minority influence in adjacent districts.

Gerrymandering leads to hyperpartisanship, which is an increasing problem in our state and nation. We cannot develop bipartisan solutions to our common problems in this polarized environment.

Please do the right thing, and plan fair maps.

Sincerely,

Sara Damewood  
1024 Reedy O. Smith Road  
Leesville, SC 29070

## Maura Baker

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**From:** ngamba <ngamba@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:21 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Upcoming redistricting

Sirs and Madams;

I believe there is no more serious threat to our country than the rampant gerrymandering that has slowly but steadily gotten worse and worse. This committee has an opportunity to turn this around, at least here in SC.

Firstly, lines need to be drawn by nonpartisan citizens - those NOT in public office, not beholden to any politicians and with no political ambitions. Asking office holders to redraw lines that will affect their own positions is unfair and untenable.

People are losing faith in the fairness of our elections and even in the possibility of fairness- advantage given to ANY party in their districts is antithetical to everything the US stands for.

I understand the considerations in drawing lines - "constituent consistency" (hmm - that's questionable), "geographic boundaries", "community of interest" (that certainly allows for wide interpretation) - but it does no good to pretend we don't have gerrymandering in SC. Look at District 1, for goodness sake. And what's that hook in District 2? The boot in 7? And District 6 does all kinds of meandering.

Please help us find a better way. Please help us do better. The time is now.

Thank you, and I hope there is an opportunity to share these thoughts at the meeting Thursday night at ATC and with fellow committee members.

Nancy Hansen

## Maura Baker

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**From:** JohnPaul K <js429266@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** The zoning doesn't make sense

I live in Burnetown but its zoned as Warrentville even though the Warrentville post office is miles away and we have our own police force along with our own water systems, why is everything grouped under Warrentville, it confuses people who are trying to find my home and makes getting packages annoying because sometimes it still pops up as burnetown which in the mail system is gone because of the zoning, can we please get this fixed somehow? Or start a conversation to bring this to attention?

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Ben Kinlaw <bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 7:42 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Re: Aiken Meeting  
**Attachments:** Regional\_Overview (4).xlsx; FRED\_Population Graph.pdf

Dear SC Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee Members,

Barnwell County continues to struggle with population losses, peaking in 2000. For the 2020 Census, our county had a -9% loss. In our region, as a member of the Lower Savannah Council of Government or Southern Carolina Alliance, Barnwell County was ranked seventh. Please review the attached files listing the counties in our region and a historical review of the county's population.

In our opinion after conducting meetings with voters, below is a breakdown of how Barnwell County could be better served.

- Remain in Congressional District #2
- Have more than one State senator representing our Barnwell County

Sincerely,

Ben Kinlaw  
93 Phillips St.  
Barnwell, SC 29812  
803.450.4156

On Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 12:40 PM Ben Kinlaw <[bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com](mailto:bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Thanks.

BK

On Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 12:35 PM Senate Redistricting <[Redistricting@scsenate.gov](mailto:Redistricting@scsenate.gov)> wrote:

Good afternoon, Mr. Kinlaw,

You may send them to this email address or you send them by mail to SC Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee P.O. Box 142, Columbia, SC 29202. Emailed and mailed written comments will be included in the public record.

Thank you for participating.

Maura Baker

**From:** Ben Kinlaw <[bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com](mailto:bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 12:02 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting <[Redistricting@scsenate.gov](mailto:Redistricting@scsenate.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Aiken Meeting

Where do I need to send my comments?

Thanks,

Ben Kinlaw

On Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 11:30 AM Senate Redistricting <[Redistricting@scsenate.gov](mailto:Redistricting@scsenate.gov)> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. Kinlaw,

There is not a proposed map for this redistricting at this time. Last night, the speakers were referring to the current maps from the last round of redistricting. Here is a link to the current maps: <https://redistricting.scsenate.gov/currentdistricts.html>

A public hearing to address proposed plans will be scheduled at a later date.

Thank you for participating.

Maura Baker

**From:** Ben Kinlaw <[bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com](mailto:bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:11 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting <[Redistricting@scsenate.gov](mailto:Redistricting@scsenate.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Aiken Meeting

Some of the speakers referred to a redistricting map in the meeting in Aiken last evening. Can you provide a link to allow me to review this map? I'm assuming this is a proposed map.

Thanks,

Ben Kinlaw

803.450.4156

On Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 6:16 PM Senate Redistricting <[Redistricting@scsenate.gov](mailto:Redistricting@scsenate.gov)> wrote:

Yes, Mr. Kinlaw.

I will send you directions in a separate email. They often go to spam folders. If you do not receive them in the next 10 minutes, please let me know.

Maura Baker

**From:** Ben Kinlaw <[bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com](mailto:bccd5kinlaw@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting <[Redistricting@scsenate.gov](mailto:Redistricting@scsenate.gov)>  
**Subject:** Aiken Meeting

I was scheduled to speak tonight in Aiken during the redistricting meeting. I now have a conflict, who can I participate virtually?

Ben Kinlaw

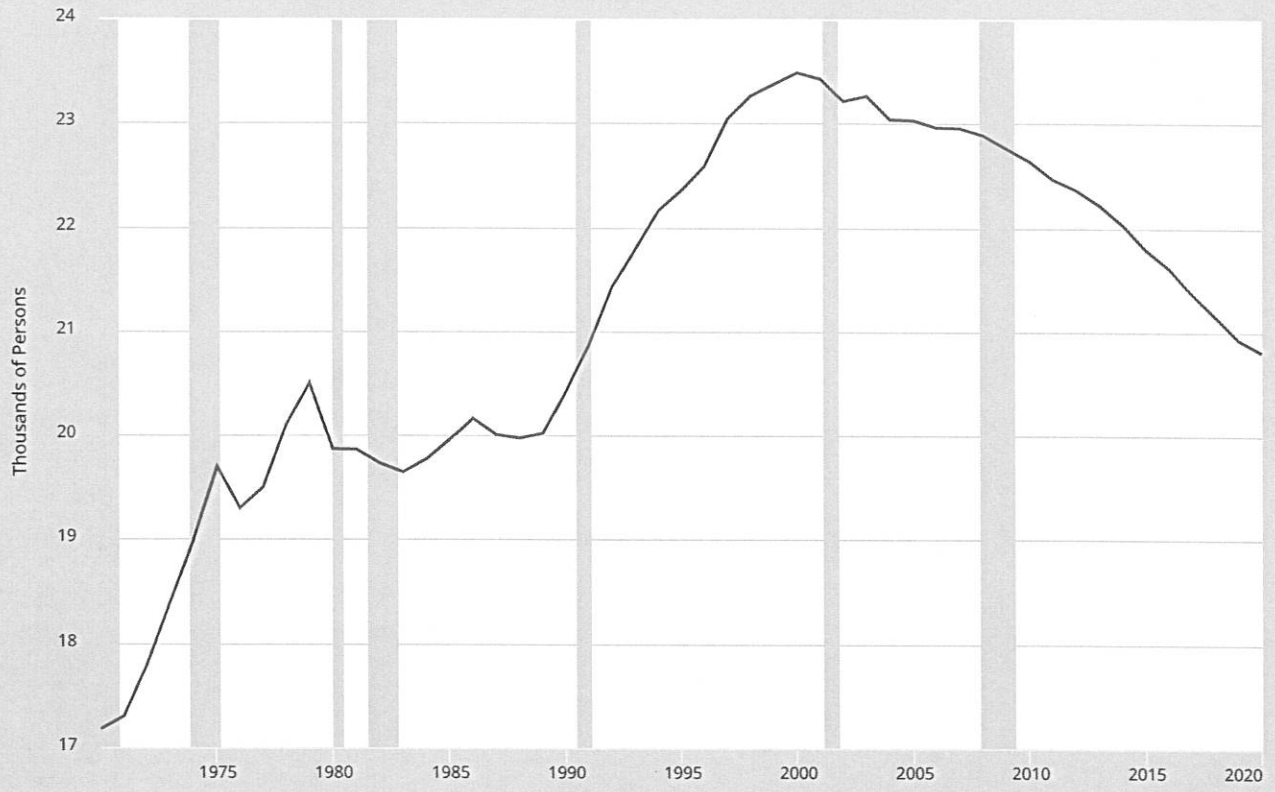
Barnwell, S.C.

### Race Ethnicity

Rank	County	Overall	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic
1	Jasper	16%	41%	-15%
2	Beaufort	15%	18%	-10%
3	Aiken	5%	-1%	35%
4	Colleton	-1%	0%	-11%
5	Edgefield	-5%	-2%	-17%
6	Calhoun	-7%	-3%	-17%
7	Barnwell	-9%	-12%	-12%
8	Orangeburg	-9%	-11%	-11%
9	Hampton	-12%	-10%	-15%
10	Bamberg	-17%	-12%	-21%
11	Allendale	-23%	-18%	-26%



Asian	Hispanic
-6%	35%
37%	20%
35%	47%
49%	-3%
26%	-11%
-13%	6%
28%	27%
19%	11%
-6%	35%
-3%	-45%
-59%	-19%



Shaded areas indicate U.S. recessions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

fred.stlouisfed.org



Lawrence Moore  
Carolina for All  
August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Senator Luke Rankin  
Chairman  
SC Senate Judiciary Committee  
PO Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Chairman Rankin,

Carolina for All is a 501(c)(3) organization which has voting access and voting rights as its primary missions.

We call for transparency and fairness in the redistricting process. Redistricting is all too often just an exercise in gerrymandering, involving “pinching and scooping.” We encourage you to keep districts compact and to avoid oddly shaped boundaries. But our primary focus is that redistricting should be consistent with city and county lines so that rural areas and urban communities with common interests aren’t unfairly divided for political purposes. This would also protect areas like rural Williamsburg County, with a population of only 30K+, 65% of which is African American.

During the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee’s Columbia hearing, Sharon Holloway pointed out one example where county borders were not respected. Her home-county, Saluda, is split into three Senate districts so no single person is focused on the interests of that county, and none of those three actually lives in that county.

It also seems highly questionable that incumbents be allowed to actively participate in the redistricting process, redrawing lines for districts in their own bodies, the SC House and Senate. How can South Carolina residents expect the process to be fair if lawmakers are put in a position to protect their own interests, and how could anyone given such an opportunity be expected to do otherwise? A change to the state’s constitution enabling an independent commission to take over the job would be the best solution.

It’s unfair to South Carolina families, of all skin color, when people with much more money than them purchase land near theirs, resulting in political decisions that cause much higher taxation, and before they know it, they can’t afford to live in their own home. In some cases we’re talking about families that have lived in the same place for generations. In some cases, their ancestors were farming that land until recent decades. There must be a balance between development and respect for segments of rural communities.

Following are a few of the many statements of interest from residents who have already addressed the Subcommittee:

Former professor Angela Douglas says that politicians tend to focus on metro areas and their development, but rural populations are politically diverse, full of voters supporting Republican as well as Democratic candidates, and they need their communities respected.

Amy Wood-Haze addressed the Subcommittee during the York Co. hearing, emphasizing that her community around Bullock Creek, is facing redistricting pressure from all the “percolating” development occurring south of Charlotte, and needs what other communities need—district lines that encourage “political candidates to hustle for the votes they receive.” She emphasized that her area has nothing in common with the wealthy residents of Tega Kay, since her farm doesn’t even have good cell service. She said that the wealthy women in that development don’t have a clue about the poverty there is in their district, including lots of very poor white families and their children.

Lancaster resident Keith Grey stated that voters associated with all political parties become disenfranchised when community boundaries aren’t respected. He said that it’s not right for his community to be grouped with the northern half of Lancaster County including Indian Town near Charlotte. Grey said that the current system allows politicians to pick their voters and they become complacent.

Norma Gray said that her minority community around Rock Hill wasn’t really awake during the last redistricting but that they are really awake this time, that they are aware and they are carefully watching.

The Senate is known for its thoughtfulness, as the “deliberative body.” Please do the right thing, not the easy thing.

Carolina for All Board of Directors  
Lawrence Moore, Director

*William Christopher, Communications*

*Carolina for All is a 501(c)(3), committed to protecting our democracy and feeding the hungry and homeless  
PO Box 2558 \* Columbia, SC 29202 \* (803) 238-0331 \* carolinaforall@gmail.com  
[www.carolinaforall.org](http://www.carolinaforall.org)*

**Maura Baker**

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**From:** Wanda <chicken444us@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Testimony - Aiken County

I am submitting my written testimony should I not make the meeting scheduled for tonight (August 12, 2021).

It is my sincere hope that you will draw these congressional district lines fairly and with consideration for the county lines.

Redistricting should not be done in an effort to keep certain political parties in office but in a way for more voting voices to be heard and communities to remain together and not split.

The current congressional line does not lend itself to a fair representation of the state and its people.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Maura Baker

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**From:** W W <wwill08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

This re-districting process and these hearings are a sham. There are no House or Senate rules that require a fair process for drawing district lines. In South Carolina, incumbents pick their voters rather than allowing voters to have a say in who they want to run for House or Senate.

We need fairness in our re-districting. No party should have favorable treatment. We need independent committee members to draw these lines.

We want passage of S.750 and H.4229 "South Carolina Fairness, Accountability, and Integrity in Redistricting Act". This Act calls for "establishing a bipartisan independent citizens commission to construct reapportionment plans in a timely fashion to prescribe a schedule to best ensure that the periodic redistricting...is carried out in conformity with statutorily and constitutionally prescribed dates in the nomination and election process and with all other state and federal election laws."

In South Carolina incumbent state politicians draw the maps of the voting districts to ensure the incumbent wins an "election". This is an illegitimate process. Incumbents always stack the deck to make sure the lines are drawn in favor of their own political party. This gerrymandering makes all races less competitive, hurts communities of color and ignores the will of the voters. The result: many believe there is no point in voting because their voice and their vote don't matter.

As proof that South Carolina state politicians are ignoring the will of the people:

- In 2016, 70% of SC State House races had only 1 candidate on the ballot
- In 2020, 52% of SC State House races had only 1 candidate on the ballot
- In 2020, 164 out of 170 state house races were won by incumbents
- In 2020, only 6 of 170 state house races flipped political parties. 5 democratic seats were flipped to republican and 1 republican seat was flipped to democratic
- Gerrymandering • decreases voter turnout. Voters ask "why even vote when there is only one candidate on the ballot?"
- decreases the number of candidates that run for office. Potential candidates ask "why even try to run when the incumbents always win?"
- allows for those candidates that hold extreme views to run and win because candidates with no opposition are not accountable to the voters.
- hampers compromise and creates gridlock and bad government.

After the most successful and highest voter turnout in the 2020 election, we do not agree to more sham redistricting hearings where our voices and our votes are consistently ignored. We want, need and demand appointment of a bipartisan, independent citizens commission and passage of S. 750 and H.4229.

Wendy Williams  
1401 Old Shoals Rd  
Monetta, SC 29105

OTHER COMMENTS  
RECEIVED

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Joyce Abel <jabelone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting Concerns

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

The purpose of this email is to share my concern about redistricting in general and one comment about redistricting in particular.

My first concern relates to the 2020 election. There has been quite a "controversy" regarding the outcome of one election in particular. Conspiracy theories are still being repeated and upheld by some congressional leaders. It's disappointing that some people cannot accept defeat.

My second concern relates to a comment made by a member of the redistricting committee. He referred to Jim Clyburn's district. He talked about the size of the district. He stated: "The only thing Jim Clyburn has in common with the people in that district is the color of their skin". I have a problem with that comment. The fact that it was said out loud to a reporter, suggests that Jim Clyburn is winning because the people that have the same color of skin that he has voted for him. The comment suggests that he cannot win otherwise. The comment suggests that Jim Clyburn is not a viable representative who has earned the respect of the people in his district, because of his hard work, integrity and dedication to the citizens of SC and the members of his district but because of the color of his skin. I deeply resent the comment and the audacity of the person who dared to say it.

To suggest that Congressman Clyburn's district's lines need to be redrawn for that reason is reprehensible and the individual who made the comment should resign from the committee. His opinion is biased.

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**JAbel**

**For everything, there is a season...  
Ecclesiastes 3:1**



## Maura Baker

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**From:** Lisa Ellis <leellis75@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 25, 2021 9:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Re-drawing SC district lines

I hope this finds you well. As the General Assembly moves forward with redistricting, I hope you will do your best to make sure each district is drawn fairly and not to favor one party or another. SC voters deserve to have their vote count, regardless of where they cast it. This practice is steeped in systemic racism, and it is time for it to end.

Thanks,  
Lisa Ellis  
(803) 231-8528

**Maura Baker**

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**From:** Coach Jim Fox <coachjimfox@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting and Gerrymandering

Thank you for the critical work you and your colleagues are doing on redistricting.

Please make sure your maps stop gerrymandering. Gerrymanderers are deflecting from the importance of this fundamental goal. Redistricting criteria are very important. Gerrymanderers focus on some of these criteria and build maps that stress particular criteria AND the map is STILL GERRYMANDERED. Beware of this ploy. Do not allow gerrymanderers to implement other redistricting criteria in a way that hinders the eradication of gerrymandering. Please, keep your eye on the fundamental goal of stopping gerrymandering.

Advocates of particular redistricting criteria should be aware that maps can be drawn that stop gerrymandering and achieve other redistricting criteria. But, in addition to advocating for particular criteria, make sure that gerrymandering is defeated and representative democracy prevails.

The Guide to Fair Redistricting provides, for a wide range of states, examples of maps that advance specific redistricting criteria and prevent gerrymandering. <https://preprints.apsanet.org/engage/api-gateway/apsa/assets/orp/resource/item/60e46f7ea4e06bf9217014db/original/fair-and-square-redistricting.pdf> (more than 1550 views and 800 downloads) Representational Fairness eliminates gerrymandering.

Best Wishes in the Pursuit of Fair Maps,

Jim Fox

**Maura Baker**

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**From:** Dianne Granger <diannegm@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Input

Good Afternoon!

Here is my input toward the redistricting plans:

1. Keep counties, cities and towns whole. People who live close to each other have more in common and need to be represented fairly.
2. Observe the natural geography.
3. NO racial gerrymandering.
4. Don't split up communities.

Thank you kindly,

Dianne Granger Jackson

Sent from Outlook

**Maura Baker**

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**From:** Joel Gray <dlg6675@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 5:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Do not Gerrymander the districts. I lived in the low country my entire life and I know the area very well. If you try to change districts in the area's that I believe you will it will not be fair and you will hear voices that you have never heard before. I have already contacted the media to watch this very carefully.

Do not gerrymander.

Concerned Republican lifelong SC citizen.

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Jennifer Hatfield <rjhatfair@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:41 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

We want passage of S.750 and H.4229 “South Carolina Fairness, Accountability, and Integrity in Redistricting Act”. This Act calls for “establishing a bipartisan independent citizens commission to construct reapportionment plans in a timely fashion to prescribe a schedule to best ensure that the periodic redistricting...is carried out in conformity with statutorily and constitutionally prescribed dates in the nomination and election process and with all other state and federal election laws.”

In South Carolina incumbent state politicians draw the maps of the voting districts to ensure the incumbent wins an “election”. This is an illegitimate process. Incumbents always stack the deck to make sure the lines are drawn in favor of their own political party. This gerrymandering makes all races less competitive, hurts communities of color and ignores the will of the voters.

Jennifer Hatfield

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Laura Hawley <hawleylaura27@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 25, 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Gerrymandering pollution

To Whom This May Concern (which is everyone).

The practice of gerrymandering must be abolished to achieve voting equity for all parties.

It is not now nor has ever been a practice which allows for true representation of the people.

This is known.

While one party benefits at this time, the future will swing the pendulum the other way and those who have drawn districts now will be opposed to the same lines in the future.

Please fulfill your oath of office and represent all people in your district.

Sincerely,  
Laura Hawley

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Sandra Kelly <skel337@my.wgu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Reports on website

Good morning,

The final approved plans on your website are informative but you may want to provide notes for the average user. For example, your precinct report references VTD - the average citizen will not know what that means; the same with DOJ. When sharing with the public, viewing things from the their point of view is extremely important and should not be overlooked.

Thank you,  
Sandra

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Audrey Kenion <arkenion@sc.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 6:19 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am a concerned citizen.

- I am requesting that all districts be drawn fairly
- No weirdly shaped districts
- No breaking up cities and counties

The citizens should have the right to choose their representatives. Elected representatives should care and work for the good of all voters in their district, not just those that elect them.

Thank You.

Audrey Kenion





**ACLU**

**LDF**  
DEFEND EDUCATE EMPOWER

South Carolina  
**Progressive  
Network**

SOUTH CAROLINA  
**appleseed**  
LEGAL JUSTICE CENTER

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*Sent via email*

Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee  
South Carolina Legislature  
101 Gressette Senate Office Building  
Columbia, SC 29202  
redistricting@scsenate.gov

**Re: Duty to Comply with the U.S. Constitution and Voting Rights Act and Recommendations for Transparency, Public Involvement, and Fair Representation in South Carolina's Redistricting Process**

Dear Chair Rankin and Subcommittee Members:

In preparing for the imminent redistricting cycle, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.,<sup>1</sup> American Civil Liberties Union, South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP, League of Women Voters of South Carolina, South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center, and South Carolina Progressive Network Education Fund write to remind the Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee of its baseline affirmative obligations to comply with the U.S. Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act ("VRA"). In particular, officials must ensure equality of access to representation to *all* South Carolinians, and the non-dilution of the voting strength of South Carolina's racial minority voters where relevant conditions exist. We also encourage the Subcommittee to create meaningful opportunities for all residents to engage in each phase of the redistricting process—before, during, and after receiving census data.

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<sup>1</sup> Since its founding in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. ("LDF") has used litigation, policy advocacy, public education, and community organizing strategies to achieve racial justice and equity in political participation, education, economic justice, and criminal justice. Throughout its history, LDF has worked to enforce and promote laws and policies that increase access to the electoral process and prohibit voter discrimination, intimidation, and suppression. LDF has been fully separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") since 1957, though LDF was originally founded by the NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights.

## I. The Subcommittee Must Ensure Compliance with the U.S. Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act’s Mandates.

To ensure equality of access to representation—a cornerstone of our democracy—the U.S. Constitution’s Fourteenth Amendment requires states to balance the populations of people among districts at all levels of government. To ensure that racial minority voters have the opportunity to elect their preferred candidates, Section 2 of the VRA prohibits states and other bodies responsible for redistricting from drawing electoral lines with the intent or effect of diluting the voting strength of voters of color. Accordingly, this Subcommittee must ensure that any maps it adopts comply with the “One Person, One Vote” mandate of the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause<sup>2</sup> and Section 2’s “nationwide ban on racial discrimination in voting.”<sup>3</sup>

### A. Fulfilling the “One Person, One Vote” Requirement

The “One Person, One Vote” principle provides that redistricting schemes that weaken the voting power and representation of residents of one area of a state as compared to others elsewhere in the same state cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny.<sup>4</sup> In *Reynolds v. Sims*, the Supreme Court explained that: “[d]iluting the weight of votes because of place of residence impairs basic constitutional rights under the Fourteenth Amendment just as much as invidious discriminations based upon factors such as race . . . or economic status . . . .”<sup>5</sup> Since *Reynolds*, “the seats in both houses of a bicameral state legislature must be apportioned on a population basis.”<sup>6</sup>

Maps may violate this principle if a legislative body’s districts impermissibly deviate from population equality. Absent certain circumstances,

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<sup>2</sup> *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 565–68 (1964); *id.* at 558 (quoting *Gray v. Sanders*, 372 U.S. 368, 381 (1963) (“The conception of political equality from the Declaration of Independence, to Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, to the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, and Nineteenth Amendments can mean only one thing—one person, one vote.”); see U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1 (“No State shall . . . deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws”).

<sup>3</sup> *Shelby Cty., Ala. v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529, 557 (2013); 52 U.S.C. § 10301(a) (“No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied . . . in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color . . . .”).

<sup>4</sup> See *Reynolds*, 377 U.S. at 567–68.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 565–66.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

congressional districts must have equal population “as nearly as practicable.”<sup>7</sup> State and local legislative bodies, by comparison, may have population deviations within plus or minus five percent of the mathematical mean.<sup>8</sup> Impermissible deviations from population equality among districts may elicit malapportionment lawsuits, requiring the Legislature to show that an adopted plan legitimately advances a rational state policy formulated “free from any taint of arbitrariness or discrimination.”<sup>9</sup>

In the 2016 case of *Evenwel v. Abbott*, the U.S. Supreme Court reminded states that, because “representatives serve all residents, not just those eligible or registered to vote,” the appropriate metric for assessing population equality across districts is total population—counting all residents, regardless of their citizenship or registered-voter status.<sup>10</sup> In cases dating back to at least 1964, “the Court has consistently looked to total-population figures when evaluating whether districting maps violate the Equal Protection Clause by deviating impermissibly from perfect population equality.”<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, “[t]oday, all States use total-population numbers from the census when designing congressional and state-legislative districts . . . .”<sup>12</sup>

## **B. Complying with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act**

Section 2 demands that South Carolina’s racial minority voters have an equal opportunity “to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice,” in light of the state or locality’s demographics, voting patterns,

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<sup>7</sup> *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 8 (1964); *Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725, 730–31 (1983) (holding that congressional districts must be mathematically equal in population, unless a deviation from that standard is necessary to achieve a legitimate state objective).

<sup>8</sup> *See Reynolds*, 377 U.S. at 568 (“The Equal Protection Clause demands no less than substantially equal state legislative representation for all citizens, of all places as well as of all races.”); *see also Gaffney v. Cummings*, 412 U.S. 735, 744–45 (1973) (“minor deviations from mathematical equality among state legislative districts” are not constitutionally suspect, but “larger variations from substantial equality are too great to be justified by any state interest”); *Brown v. Thomson*, 462 U.S. 835, 842 (1983) (holding that apportionment plans with a maximum population deviation among districts of less than 10% are generally permissible, whereas disparities in excess of 10% most likely violate the “one person, one vote” principle).

<sup>9</sup> *Roman v. Sincock*, 377 U.S. 695, 710 (1964); *see Brown*, 462 U.S. at 847–48 (stating that “substantial deference” should be given to a state’s political decisions, provided that “there is no ‘taint of arbitrariness or discrimination’”); *see also Brown*, 462 U.S. at 852 (Brennan, J., dissenting) (“Acceptable reasons . . . must be ‘free from any taint of arbitrariness or discrimination . . . .’”).

<sup>10</sup> 136 S. Ct. 1120, 1132 (2016).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 1131.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 1124.

history, and other factors under the “totality of the circumstances.”<sup>13</sup> Redistricting maps may dilute people of color’s voting power, violating Section 2, if: (1) a district can be drawn in which the minority community is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority; (2) the minority group is politically cohesive; and (3) in the absence of a majority-minority district, candidates preferred by the minority group would usually be defeated due to the political cohesion of non-minority voters for their preferred candidates.<sup>14</sup>

After establishing these preconditions, a “totality of circumstances” analysis determines whether minority voters “have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.”<sup>15</sup> Because of South Carolina’s stark patterns of voting along racial lines,<sup>16</sup> which strikes at the heart of a potential minority vote dilution,<sup>17</sup> South Carolina’s legislature must be attuned to its obligations under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Indeed, federal courts have found that prior South Carolina Senate redistricting plans pursued legislators’ self-interest and failed to create majority-minority districts as Section 2 requires. For example, in 2002 the U.S.

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<sup>13</sup> See *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 34 (1986).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 10301(b); *Colleton Cty. Council v. McConnell*, 201 F. Supp. 2d 618, 632 (D.S.C. 2002) (quoting *Gingles*, 478 U.S. at 47) (“[Section] 2 prohibits the implementation of an electoral law that ‘interacts with social and historical conditions to cause an inequality in the opportunities enjoyed by black and white voters to elect their preferred representatives.’”); see also *LULAC v. Perry*, 548 U.S. 399, 425 (2006) (describing the operation of the “totality of the circumstances” standard in the vote-dilution claims).

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., *McConnell*, 201 F. Supp. 2d at 643 (“Voting in South Carolina continues to be racially polarized to a very high degree . . . in all regions of the state and in both primary elections and general elections.”); see also, e.g., *United States v. Charleston Cty., S.C.*, 365 F.3d 341, 350 (4th Cir. 2004) (county voting “is severely and characteristically polarized along racial lines”); *Jackson v. Edgefield Cty., S.C. Sch. Dist.*, 650 F. Supp. 1176, 1196 (D.S.C. 1986) (observing that “the outcome of each [election] could be statistically predicted and reasonably explained by the race of the voters”); *id.* at 1198 (“The tenacious strength of white bloc voting usually is sufficient to overcome an electoral coalition of black votes and white ‘crossover’ votes.”).

<sup>17</sup> *Gingles*, 478 U.S. at 48 n.15; see also *Johnson v. De Grandy*, 512 U.S. 997, 1007 (1994) (explaining that racially polarized voting increases the potential for discrimination in redistricting, because “manipulation of district lines can dilute the voting strength of politically cohesive minority group members”); *N. Carolina State Conf. of NAACP v. McCrory*, 831 F.3d 204, 221 (4th Cir. 2016) (noting that racially polarized voting is “[o]ne of the critical background facts of which a court must take notice” in Section 2 cases); *Collins v. City of Norfolk, Va.*, 816 F.2d 932, 936-38 (4th Cir. 1987) (emphasizing that racially polarized voting is a “cardinal factor[]” that “weigh[s] very heavily” in determining whether redistricting plans violate Section 2 by denying Black voters equal access to the political process).

District Court for South Carolina noted that evidence presented against a proposed plan “overwhelmingly demonstrate[d] that the first two *Gingles* factors” needed to create majority-Black legislative and congressional districts—that is, a “history of official discrimination” affecting the right to vote and racial polarization—“are present statewide.”<sup>18</sup>

The Subcommittee must be especially vigilant when redrawing maps because of historical and current realities that enhance the risk of racial discrimination in voting. South Carolina has a long record of denying and abridging the voting rights of Black and other voters of color through various discriminatory voting rules.<sup>19</sup> Of many examples, an 1892 South Carolina voter registration law “is estimated to have disfranchised 75 percent of South Carolina’s [B]lack voters.”<sup>20</sup> Three years later, the State’s 1895 Constitution “was a leader in the widespread movement to disenfranchise [eligible Black citizens].”<sup>21</sup> Indeed, until 1965, South Carolina enforced both a literacy test and a property test that were “specifically designed to prevent [Black people] from voting.”<sup>22</sup> And after the Voting Rights Act’s enactment in 1965, South Carolina promptly challenged the Act’s constitutionality, continuing its historical practice of trying to deny equal voting rights to Black voters.<sup>23</sup> Indeed, before Senator Tim Scott’s historic election in 2014, *no* Black candidate had been elected to state-wide office in South Carolina since Reconstruction.<sup>24</sup>

This is also South Carolina’s first redistricting cycle without the protections of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which played a critical role in safeguarding against retrogressive voting plans in prior redistricting cycles.<sup>25</sup> With preclearance in place, “discriminatory changes in voting practices or procedures in South Carolina” elicited over 120 objections from the U.S.

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<sup>18</sup> See *Colleton Cty. Council*, 201 F. Supp. 2d at 642.

<sup>19</sup> John C. Ruoff and Harbert E. Buhl, *Voting Rights in South Carolina 1982-2006*, Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice, Vol. 17(2) 643 (2008).

<sup>20</sup> *Condon v. Reno*, 913 F. Supp. 946, 949 (D.S.C. 1995).

<sup>21</sup> *South Carolina v. Katzenbach*, 383 U.S. 301, 319 n.9 (1966).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 310.

<sup>23</sup> See *id.* at 307.

<sup>24</sup> Jamie Self, *Scott makes history: SC elects first African American to Senate*, The State (Nov. 4, 2014), <https://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article13908368.html>; see Ruoff, *supra* note 19, at 649.

<sup>25</sup> See *Shelby*, 570 U.S. at 557.

Department of Justice,<sup>26</sup> including at least 27 objections between 1972 and 2002 in cases where a proposed state or local redistricting plan “ha[d] the purpose of or w[ould] have the effect of diminishing the ability of . . . citizens of the United States on account of race or color . . . to elect their preferred candidates of choice.”<sup>27</sup> Without preclearance, this Subcommittee must facilitate a redistricting process that complies with federal mandates in force, including Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments’ prohibitions on racial discrimination.

Failure to comply with Section 2’s requirements during this redistricting cycle would again expose the State of South Carolina or its constituent jurisdictions to costly litigation. For example, lawmakers in Charleston County spent \$2 million unsuccessfully defending against a Section 2 claim.<sup>28</sup> After losing the lawsuit, the County paid an additional \$712,027 in plaintiffs’ attorneys’ fees and costs.<sup>29</sup>

Even when Section 2 conditions are not met, the U.S. Constitution protects against maps that intentionally “pack” Black voters into districts with unnecessarily high Black populations or “crack” them into districts with unnecessarily low ones—both of which stratagems can illegitimately elevate race over other considerations and diminish the political power of Black voters.<sup>30</sup>

Although South Carolina has made progress since 1965, this Subcommittee must not fail to fulfill its affirmative obligations under Section 2 and the U.S. Constitution. It must proactively assess whether redistricting lines dilute minority voters’ ability to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise

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<sup>26</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, *Voting Determination Letters for South Carolina*, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/voting-determination-letters-south-carolina> (last updated: Aug. 7, 2015).

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*; Ruoff, *supra* note 19, at 645, 655-57; see 52 U.S.C. § 10304(b).

<sup>28</sup> Order Granting Attorneys’ Fees, *Moultrie v. Charleston Cty.*, No. 2:01-cv-00562-PMD (D.S.C. Aug. 8, 2005).

<sup>29</sup> Congressional Authority to Protect Voting Rights After Shelby County v. Holder: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the H. Comm. on Judiciary, 116th Cong. 14 (Sept. 24, 2019) (Written Testimony of Professor Justin Levitt) (citing Amended Judgment, *Moultrie v. Charleston Cty.*, No. 2:01-0562 (D.S.C. Aug. 9, 2005))

<sup>30</sup> Ala. Leg. Black Caucus v. Alabama, 575 U.S. 254, 278 (2015); Bethune-Hill v. Va. State Bd. of Elections, 137 S. Ct. 788, 802 (2017) (finding 12 districts were unconstitutional racial gerrymanders because the legislature decided to make them all meet a 55% BVAP target for which there was no strong basis in evidence).

intentionally relegate Black voters into districts that minimize their political power.

\* \* \*

Ultimately, the Subcommittee must bear in mind that both the Voting Rights Act and the “one person, one vote” ideal embody fundamental principles of democracy, political representation, and constituent equity. “There can be no truer principle than . . . that every individual of the community at large has an equal right to the protection of government.”<sup>31</sup> Additionally, dilutive redistricting plans that deprive Black voters of the opportunity to elect their preferred candidates have a direct impact on Black voters’ access to representatives who will be responsive to the needs of their communities.<sup>32</sup>

## **II. This Subcommittee Must Ensure Public Involvement and Transparency During all Phases of Redistricting, and Should Model Best Practices for Local Government.**

The maps that the Legislature will consider over the coming months will likely be in place for at least the next decade. They will be foundational to residents’ access to political representation and to qualified citizens’ access to the right to vote for candidates of choice for congressional, legislative, and local governing bodies. No one is more qualified than the public to discern which maps allow (or do not allow) communities to have a voice and a choice in the process of electing their representatives. Accordingly, any maps that the Legislature proposes or otherwise considers must reflect South Carolina in all its diversity. We share the below recommendations to assist the Subcommittee in meeting this significant responsibility.

**Prioritize Public Involvement:** Public Hearings scheduled from July 27 through August 12, 2021, are a positive first step in fulfilling this Subcommittee’s obligations to create meaningful opportunities for public engagement in the redistricting process. We commend the Subcommittee for streaming these hearings and creating opportunities for both in-person and remote testimony, and encourage this body to host regular public hearings

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<sup>31</sup> Alexander Hamilton, 1 Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, p. 473 (M. Farrand ed. 1911).

<sup>32</sup> Testimony of Laughlin McDonald, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Before the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution: The Voting Rights Act: The Continuing Need for Section 5, <https://www.aclu.org/other/testimony-laughlin-mcdonald-director-aclus-voting-rights-project-house-judiciary-subcommittee> (last visited July 29, 2021).

throughout the redistricting process. However, the signatories to this letter are concerned about the lack of sufficient notice prior to the first week of hearings, as the public was granted fewer than five business days to prepare testimony, including documentation of communities of interest, and other important materials that would enhance the value of these hearings.

Going forward, we urge the Subcommittee to adopt the following processes and safeguards for the benefit of all South Carolinians:

- ***Continue to host regular public hearings and publish adequate notice and documentation of all such meetings.*** The public should be granted notice of at least 7-10 business days to allow communities to prepare meaningful testimony and supporting materials such as maps. To ensure that the voices of voters of color are heard, this Subcommittee should proactively post notice of public hearings in media outlets and local forums that serve communities of color.
- ***Incorporate public testimony into any redistricting principles the Subcommittee may adopt to supplement federal and constitutional redistricting requirements.*** While secondary to affirmative federal obligations, traditional redistricting principles like compactness, contiguity, and maintaining communities of interest may also be considered to ensure that district lines serve South Carolinians equitably and do not unconstitutionally or illegally dilute minority voting strength. In 2011, the Senate and House redistricting subcommittees adopted guidelines reflecting these principles, and we encourage the Subcommittee to incorporate concerns and priorities raised in public testimony to craft similar principles for 2021.<sup>33</sup> In particular, we encourage the Subcommittee to formally adopt a holistic definition of “communities of interest” that reflects the diverse social, cultural, and economic dimensions of South Carolina’s communities to prevent the dilution or erasure of communities of color.
- ***Provide meaningful opportunities for the public to review, provide comments on, and propose community maps.*** Develop a mechanism for South Carolinians to submit written comments and

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<sup>33</sup> South Carolina Legislature, South Carolina House Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee, *Redistricting Guidelines 2011* (Apr. 13, 2011), <https://redistricting.scsenate.gov/Documents/RedistrictingGuidelinesAdopted041311.pdf>.



questions regarding the State's proposed maps, to submit alternative maps that are available to other members of the public, and to incorporate these maps into the legislative record.

**Ensure Transparency:** Informed involvement by all South Carolinians requires transparency and meaningful opportunities for public participation at all stages of the redistricting process. The Legislature's recently launched redistricting website<sup>34</sup> and the Subcommittee's social media accounts are first steps towards a transparent and inclusive process. We further encourage the Subcommittee to:

- ***Update the State's redistricting website daily.*** These updates should include public meeting notices, proposed meeting agendas, and proposed maps, which should be posted at least a week before the legislature considers the map, along with all relevant district-level data associated with any proposed maps, including but not limited to demographic data. The identity of any expert or consultant the State engages to assist with the redistricting process should also be posted.
- ***Publicize all data used by the Legislature to inform its redistricting plans.*** Make data available in real time, including any data released by the U.S. Census Bureau relevant to South Carolina and redistricting. This data should be publicized in a format that can be used by the public.
- ***Prohibit backroom negotiations.*** To ensure transparency in the redistricting process, legislative decisionmakers must conduct all redistricting meetings, hearings, or other sessions in public, and permit members of the public to view and participate in the proceedings remotely.

**Model Best Practices for Local Government Redistricting:** Redistricting by the Legislature also sets the standard and tone for local redistricting in the State. Over the next three months, this Subcommittee can serve as an exemplar for other governing bodies charged with redistricting, particularly at the local level. As with state-level representative bodies, the Voting Rights Act also requires that voters of color be provided equal opportunities to elect

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<sup>34</sup> South Carolina Legislature, *South Carolina Redistricting 2021 - Senate Judiciary Committee*, <https://redistricting.scsenate.gov/> (last visiting July 29, 2021).

representatives of their choice to city and county councils, school boards, and other elected local bodies.

This is particularly critical in light of prior violations at the local level. The U.S. Department of Justice filed 26 objections to South Carolina school district elections, nominations, and redistricting plans between 1972-2010, meaning that, on more than two dozen occasions, the Department was unable to conclude that a local South Carolina redistricting plan “neither ha[d] the purpose nor w[ould] have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color.”<sup>35</sup> At least two districts were found to have at-large election methods that interacted with social and historical conditions to dilute the voting strength of Black voters, in violation of Section 2.<sup>36</sup> To prevent racially discriminatory vote dilution at the local level in the 2021 redistricting cycle, consistent with its authority, the Legislature should model best practices and require all local entities charged with redistricting responsibilities to commit to following similar best practices.<sup>37</sup>

\* \* \*

Please feel free to contact Steven Lance at [slance@naacpldf.org](mailto:slance@naacpldf.org) with any questions or to discuss these issues in more detail. We also urge you to review ***Power on the Line(s): Making Redistricting Work for Us***,<sup>38</sup> a guide for community partners and policy makers who intend to engage in the redistricting process at all levels of government. The guide provides essential information about the redistricting process, such as examples of recent efforts to dilute the voting power of communities of color and considerations for avoiding such dilution. The guide includes clear, specific, and actionable steps that community members and policy makers can take to ensure that voters of color can

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<sup>35</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, *Voting Determination Letters for South Carolina*, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/voting-determination-letters-south-carolina> (last updated: Aug. 7, 2015); see 52 U.S.C. § 10304(a).

<sup>36</sup> See *United States v. Charleston Cty.*, 316 F. Supp. 2d 268 (D.S.C. 2003), *aff'd sub nom. United States v. Charleston Cty.*, S.C., 365 F.3d 341 (4th Cir. 2004); see *United States v. Georgetown County School District*, No. 2:08- cv-00889 (D.S.C. 2008).

<sup>37</sup> See *Moye v. Caughman*, 217 S.E.2d 36 (1975) (finding that the South Carolina legislature has authority over school district redistricting plans).

<sup>38</sup> See NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, *Power on the Line(s): Making Redistricting Work for Us*, (2021), <https://www.naacpldf.org/press-release/civil-rights-organizations-release-redistricting-guide-to-support-black-latino-and-aapi-communities-participation-in-crucial-process/>.

meaningfully participate in the redistricting process and hold legislators accountable.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Lance

Leah Aden, Deputy Director of Litigation  
Stuart Naifeh, Manager of the Redistricting Project  
Raymond Audain  
John Cusick  
Steven Lance  
Evans Moore  
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Vince Matthews, Policy Analyst  
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scpronet.com  
vince@scpronet.com

cc: Rep. Patricia Moore Henegan  
Chair, South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

Rep. Ivory Thigpen  
Chair-Elect, South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Jean Lomasto <jeanlomasto@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Voters Choose Representatives

Representatives don't get to choose the voters. Districts should not be distorted to protect incumbents or political parties.

Is this a democracy? District lines should ensure that minorities have opportunities to elect representatives of their choosing.

Sincerely,  
Jean Lomasto

## Senate Redistricting

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**From:** Jimmy L Page <jpage17@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 24, 2021 7:51 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Gerrymandering

I Jimmy L Page vote against gerrymandering.

Sent from my iPad

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Fred Palm <fredpalm2301@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 10:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Keep AA communities intact

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

*Live up to your preferred address of honorable.*

Honorable Senate Legislators,

The 2020 census population data is not available to inform the SC redistricting hearings. This is akin to going into surgery without the benefit of the pre-op data available to the medical team. That is a serious problem.

The 2020 hearing process is a theory of generic redistricting. Nothing more than a PolySci 101 lab exercise held in public forums. This is a flawed data-less process. Maybe farce.

Do not trust the self-serving legislators to correctly apply the pre-data public hearing inputs and comments to the actual 2020 population data when it is released. Their memories will be clouded by self and party interest.

The fear of losing their supporting constituencies and majority going up in smoke will rob these legislators of their ethics of fair play, the rights of others, equity, etc.

Fairness will never happen. We should not expect the best from the legislators in this gladiatorial pit. When it comes to self-preservation the worst is revealed.

That will be the case in this dataless redistricting. Made much worse as there is not data in evidence to reveal the crime until after the data is released. Then it is too late. Steamrolled over for made up rationales with no way out. Tough luck. The minority in population numbers is magically transformed using lines to be the majority in legislative seats.

Repeated many times in our history, is the intentional dilution of the vote of African-Americans. That will play out in the current uninformed process lacking 2020 population data. No Department of Justice tool will be at hand to cure the lesser injustices. To soften the blows of the hold on power by the fewer of us. Only the post-approval Federal filings left to secure modest justice.

Black communities have been economically gerrymandered or concentrated since the emancipation through racism and economic marginalization. We should expect the camouflage of these original crimes. Dilution and dismemberment of the concentrated vote count influence designed to preserve the incumbency of these legislators rendering judgements in the name of "compromise" or "fairness."

The African-Americans communities need to be identified using the 2020 population counts. Preserved and protected in the bargaining and horse-trading of election districts or precincts from intentional splitting. In the disaggregation of the individual AA communities to cause vote dilution. Or split the adjacent clusters with half

to district A, half to district B to ensure a majority does not emerge to challenge the incumbency of the designers.

Not a single line in a redistricting is ever unintentionally drawn. They are all premeditated.

Fred Palm  
July 26, 2021



**Maura Baker**

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**From:** Charlene Preston <cramanpreston@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 12:25 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** My Community of Interest

As a person of color living in SC, Im tired of seeing my vote not count due to gerrymandering.

The goal should be to design legislative districts without gerrymandering, defined by the Brennan Center for Justice as “the practice of drawing districts to favor one political party or racial group” that skews election results, “makes races less competitive, hurts communities of color, and thwarts the will of the voters.”

You need to do the work to ensure we have a functioning and fair democracy for everyone not act on what your personal next move is to move yourself up the political ladder

Read more here:  
[https://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article253032443.html?utm\\_content=buffer9f2bf&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer#storylink=cpy](https://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article253032443.html?utm_content=buffer9f2bf&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer#storylink=cpy)

Charlene Preston  
Sent from my iPhone

## Maura Baker

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**From:** Rolf's <kayandrolf@roadrunner.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 4:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am a registered voter in SC. I urge you to use a non partisan approach to redistricting

Sent from my iPhone

## Senate Redistricting

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**From:** geraldine siegel <tonyngeri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 24, 2021 8:03 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Stop stealing voter rights. Stop gerrymandering. Redistricting by zip code is fair & unbiased.

Sent from my iPhone

**Maura Baker**

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**From:** Hope Soroos <hopesoroos@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2021 2:19 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting legislative and congressional districts

Hello S. C. Senators,

I like to believe we live in a truly representative democracy. I also hope our elective officials can work harder to cooperate across party lines for the good of all the people. Until the procedure of redistricting the state is assumed by a nonpartisan legislative staff, my hope of bipartisan legislative work and genuine representation of the will of the people is dim, indeed. Please work to make our government work fairly.

Hope Soroos

## Maura Baker

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**From:** gretchen spiro <gretchenspiro68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 4:02 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am a SC citizen, a voter and your constituent. I urge you to develop voting district lines using a non-partisan process to ensure trust in our elections.

Please use traditional criteria to create non-partisan voting district lines and encourage citizen participation in the process now and after the maps are drawn.

For example, districts should have contiguous lines – no areas unconnected to the rest of the district – and should respect communities of interest that have common economic, cultural and policy interests.

I will be closely following this issue and your response to my request. Thank you.

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**Gretchen Spiridopoulos**  
**Personal Trainer/Fitness Instructor**  
**Cell 843-295-3173**

## Madison Faulk

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**From:** Michele Springsteen <michele\_springsteen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 2:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** voters

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This re-districting process and these hearings are a sham. There are no House or Senate rules that require a fair process for drawing district lines. In South Carolina, incumbents pick their voters rather than allowing voters to have a say in who they want to run for House or Senate.

We need fairness in our re-districting. No party should have favorable treatment. We need independent committee members to draw these lines.

We want passage of S.750 and H.4229 "South Carolina Fairness, Accountability, and Integrity in Redistricting Act". This Act calls for "establishing a bipartisan independent citizens commission to construct reapportionment plans in a timely fashion to prescribe a schedule to best ensure that the periodic redistricting...is carried out in conformity with statutorily and constitutionally prescribed dates in the nomination and election process and with all other state and federal election laws."

In South Carolina incumbent state politicians draw the maps of the voting districts to ensure the incumbent wins an "election". This is an illegitimate process. Incumbents always stack the deck to make sure the lines are drawn in favor of their own political party. This gerrymandering makes all races less competitive, hurts communities of color and ignores the will of the voters. The result: many believe there is no point in voting because their voice and their vote don't matter.

As proof that South Carolina state politicians are ignoring the will of the people:

- In 2016, 70% of SC State House races had only 1 candidate on the ballot
- In 2020, 52% of SC State House races had only 1 candidate on the ballot
- In 2020, 164 out of 170 state house races were won by incumbents
- In 2020, only 6 of 170 state house races flipped political parties. 5 democratic seats were flipped to republican and 1 republican seat was flipped to democratic

### Gerrymandering

- decreases voter turnout. Voters ask "why even vote when there is only one candidate on the ballot?"
- decreases the number of candidates that run for office. Potential candidates ask "why even try to run when the incumbents always win?"
- allows for those candidates that hold extreme views to run and win because candidates with no opposition are not accountable to the voters.

- hampers compromise and creates gridlock and bad government.

After the most successful and highest voter turnout in the 2020 election, we do not agree to more sham redistricting hearings where our voices and our votes are consistently ignored. We want, need and demand appointment of a bipartisan, independent citizens commission and passage of S. 750 and H.4229.

**Maura Baker**

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**From:** Kirk Weeks <fkweeks2017@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 7:28 AM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redrawing political districts.

The result of this process will depend entirely on the personal political ideology of those who make the final decisions. Unfortunately, sc is cursed with hatred by the spritiually ignorant who continue to worship a pagan, false god. Plantationism is sc's pandemic of choice.

Will be praying for the best and preparing for the worse. After all , we're in a plantation state of mind either way.

PEACE OUT!