

Maura Baker

From: Tiffany Keller <tiff0035@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:01 AM
To: House Redistricting; Senate Redistricting
Subject: *****STOP H. 4493 Redistricting for the SC House of Representatives

Dear Representatives,

I am writing because I have reviewed the redistricting proposal for Berkeley County, and I am very concerned about the impact of these changes. As I have reviewed the changes, it is very clear this would benefit the Democratic delegation. As a member of the Berkeley County GOP, whose delegation would be changed under this plan, I am asking that these plans be reconsidered and adjusted to reflect the conservative values of Berkeley County residents.

Furthermore, as we have a Republican majority in the SC Senate and House, I am puzzled as to why this proposal seems to favor the Democratic delegation.

Your consideration is appreciated,

Tiffany Keller
Berkeley County Resident
Registered Voter
BC GOP Member

--

Tiffany Keller
tiff0035@gmail.com

Maura Baker

From: Eva Daniel <eva@aoneatm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: Redistricting.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am currently in the Fairview area of Ryan McCabe's district. I STRONGLY oppose the current suggested changes to the Pelion 1, Pelion 2, Fairview, and Mack-Edisto changes. Our representation should stay connected to the communities that we choose to live in not spread around other counties and diminishing our voice in our area.

Eva Daniel
Resident of Fairview

Maura Baker

From: Deanna Cliatt <dcliatt411@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:59 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: Concerns over proposed senate redistricting

To whom it may concern:

I am a concerned citizen from the end of Lexington County that may possibly be split based on the senate district lines in the proposed Staff Plan. As a former teacher at Pelion High School, and a lifelong citizen of the Fairview/ Pelion area, I feel that Pelion and Fairview should both be included in the same district, and that the entire area should be represented by a Lexington County senator. Students from Fairview attend Pelion schools. Since there is only one restaurant, a Dollar General, and a small convenience store located in Fairview, the majority of Fairview area residents go to Pelion to shop and go to school and church. Please reconsider splitting the Fairview and Pelion areas as the areas are closely connected and need a senator that understands the unique needs of the area.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Deanna Cliatt

Maura Baker

From: Stephen Murray <stephen@mayormurray.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 11:07 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Cc: tdavis@harveyandbattey.com; Chip Campsen; Shannon Erickson; Margie Bright Matthews; Philip Cromer; Mike McFee; Neil Lipsitz; Mitch Mitchell; Bill Prokop
Subject: City of Beaufort Community of Interest Request
Attachments: City of Beaufort Community of Interest Request.pdf

Please see the attached letter regarding the City of Beaufort's request to be included in District 43 as a community of interest. I would appreciate confirmation of receipt of this email.

In Service,

Stephen Murray
Mayor
City of Beaufort
843.564.2207 Mobile
stephen@mayormurray.com
[Follow me on Facebook](#)
<https://www.cityofbeaufort.org>



William A. Prokop
CITY MANAGER
843-525-7070
FAX 843-525-7013



CITY OF BEAUFORT
1911 Boundary Street
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Stephen D. Murray III, Mayor
Mike McFee, Mayor Pro Tem
Phil Cromer
Neil Lipsitz
Mitch Mitchell

November 11, 2021

Honorable Luke A. Rankin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee
Gressette Building, Room 308
1101 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201
redistricting@scsenate.gov

Re: City of Beaufort Community of Interest, District 43

Dear Senator Rankin,

Thank you and your committee for your leadership on the difficult but necessary redistricting process. I write to you today on behalf of the City of Beaufort to respectfully request City of Beaufort Precincts 1, 2, and 3 be included in Senate District 43. This would keep most of our city in one district and meet the spirit of the "community of interest" redistricting requirement. District 43 is informally known as the "coastal district" because of its unique geography along South Carolina's pristine coastline. District 43, like our city is defined by established urban areas, a tourism-based economy, significant saltwater ecology, and strong partnerships with our municipal neighbors. Salt marsh protection, combatting sea-level rise, preventing offshore drilling, state support of tourism generated taxes, and growth management are just a few specific examples of issues the City of Beaufort shares with other municipalities within the proposed District 43 boundaries. Additionally, we work closely with the Town of Port Royal and have provided consolidated fire service for approximately 20 years now. Our joint fire department saves tax dollars and delivers ISO 1 level service to residents. We believe a single advocate in the SC Senate for both the city and town would be advantageous for our region and the state of South Carolina. Please let me know if you would like me to provide additional information or have other members of our community submit testimony to support our community of interest request. Thank you and the subcommittee for your consideration, and your service to the great state of South Carolina.

In Service,

Stephen D. Murray III
Mayor

Cc: Senator George E. "Chip" Campsen III
Senator Margie Bright Matthews
Senator Tom Davis
Representative Shannon Erickson

Maura Baker

From: Lynn Teague <teaguelynn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 6:58 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: LWVSC Written testimony for November 12 meeting
Attachments: LWVSC Senate Staff Map Testimony.pdf; LWVSC Congressional Map Testimony Senate.pdf

I have attached our written testimony (with supporting materials) on the Senate staff proposal and on our own Congressional map. I plan to testify on both in person with John Ruoff at the Nov. 12 meeting, orally covering the most important points.

As always, thank you for your kind assistance,

Lynn

Lynn Shuler Teague
VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC
teaguelynn@gmail.com
803 556-9802

Maura Baker

From: mazzie hall <mazziehall@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 8:35 PM
To: Senate Redistricting

I believe that it would be a disaster. The reason people of Pelion area like it so much right now is because they are heard. Just remember if we the people are not happy then voting time will be heard if you don't listen before then. Pelion is for good ole country folks and we are honest. We would like you to keep it this way.

Thank you!

Mazzie Hall

Maura Baker

From: Sommerville, Paul <psommerville@bcgov.net>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 8:14 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Cc: stephen@mayormurray.com
Subject: Including City of Beaufort in Senate District 43 boundaries
Attachments: Redistricting Letter 11122021.docx

November 12, 2021

Honorable Luke A. Rankin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee
Gressette Building, Room 308
1101 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201
redistricting@scsenate.gov

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Very Truly Yours,

D. Paul Sommerville
Vice-Chairman
Beaufort County Council

Cc: Senator George E. "Chip" Campsen III
Senator Margie Bright Matthews
Senator Tom Davis
Representative Shannon Erickson

Maura Baker

From: Howard, Alice G. <ahoward@bcgov.net>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Cc: repshannonerickson; Stephen Murray; Tom Davis; Cindy Maxey
Subject: FW: City of Beaufort Community of Interest, District 43
Attachments: district20211112A-Howard.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Alice G. Howard

Beaufort County
Chair-Natural Resources Committee
P.O. Drawer 1228
Beaufort, SC 29901-1228 Council, District 4
Tel: 843.986-7403 cell
ahoward@bcgov.net
"One County, One Mission"



November 12, 2021

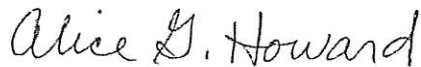
Honorable Luke A. Rankin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee
Gressette Building, Room 308
1101 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201
redistricting@scsenate.gov

Re: City of Beaufort Community of Interest, District 43

Dear Senator Rankin,

Thank you and your committee for your leadership on the difficult but necessary redistricting process. I write to you today on behalf of my constituents in the City of Beaufort Voting Precincts 1, 2 and 3 to respectfully request City of Beaufort Precincts 1, 2, and 3 be included in Senate District 43. This would keep the City of Beaufort in one district and meet the spirit of the "community of interest" redistricting requirement. District 43 is informally known as the "coastal district" because of its unique geography along South Carolina's pristine coastline. District 43, like our city is defined by established urban areas, a tourism-based economy, significant saltwater ecology, and strong partnerships with our municipal neighbors to include the Town of Port Royal. Salt marsh protection, combatting sea-level rise, preventing offshore drilling, preservation of critical lands, state support of tourism generated taxes, and growth management are just a few specific examples of issues the City of Beaufort shares with other municipalities within the proposed District 43 boundaries. Additionally, we work closely with the Town of Port Royal and have provided consolidated fire service for approximately 20 years now. Our joint fire department saves tax dollars and delivers ISO 1 level service to residents. We believe a single advocate in the SC Senate for both the city and town would be advantageous for our region and the state of South Carolina. Please let me know if you would like me to provide additional information or have other members of our community submit testimony to support our community of interest request. Thank you and the subcommittee for your consideration, and your service to the great state of South Carolina.

Sincerely,



Alice G. Howard
District 4
Chairman of Natural Resource Committee
Beaufort County Council

Cc: Senator George E. "Chip" Campsen III
Senator Margie Bright Matthews
Senator Tom Davis
Representative Shannon Erickson

Maura Baker

From: House Redistricting
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Cedric Blain-Spain
Cc: Senate Redistricting
Subject: RE: C. Blain-Spain opposes the SC Senate Proposed Redistricting Map at the least Horry County Senate Dist. and Concur w most speakers 11/12/2021

Thank you for your email. We are forwarding this to the Senate Redistricting email address to assist you. Thank you again.

From: Cedric Blain-Spain <cblainspain.stateec@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Michelle McGee <MichelleMcGee@scsenate.gov>; House Redistricting <Redistricting@schouse.gov>
Cc: Alester Linton-Pryor <hcdpsec@hotmail.com>; Doris J. Potter-Hickman, Chair Emeritus-HCDP <potterhickman64@gmail.com>; Henry Robinson, IV, HCDP Alt. State EC <pjrobinson840@gmail.com>; Nancy Anderson, HCDP Alt. State EC <votedems@sccoast.net>; Katrina Reaves <katrinareaves@gmail.com>
Subject: C. Blain-Spain opposes the SC Senate Proposed Redistricting Map at the least Horry County Senate Dist. and Concur w most speakers 11/12/2021

Greetings SC Senate Redistricting Committee,

I sincerely apologize that an email oversight on my part caused me to miss the deadline to have public testimony today and hope this email will be forwarded to the senate redistricting committee (I'm watching the hearing as I send this). This hearing has some powerful speakers thus far.

In short, I strongly oppose the proposed SC Senate Districts here in Horry County. I'm confident we can have contiguous lines and no cracking and packing in Horry County Senate Districts not just for the next ten years but a lifetime as each ten years rolls around or other laws are in place to remedy this process.. As Large as Horry County why a small portion of Horry county is split between SCD 28, 30, 32, 33 and 34.

I respectfully ask that this redistricting committee redraw Horry County and other senate districts that will allow voters to pick their elected officials instead of current legislators and whomever else are

behind the scenes trying to control the narrative of district lines. You have the power to do the right by South Carolina and your personal integrities to have fair and competitive senate districts across our great state. Also, as Brett Bursey said, "Blacks are basically considered three fifths of a white voter in these maps", aren't each of you better than to allow these barbaric mapping and policies to continue. Don't wwe all know we have to give an account of our actions seen and unseen. Thank you and please redraw these proposed maps and stop splitting up this and other counties this terribly. Thank you.

*Democratically, I Remain,
Cedric D. Blain- Spain, HCDP State E
C & SCDP State Executive Council
Belin-Blain-Spain & Associates (Consulting, Management & Events Firm), Principal*

*PO Box 661
Conway, SC 29528-0661
Office: (843)488-HCDP(4237)
Dem Mobile: (843) 246-4338
mail: CBlainSpain.StateEC@gmail.com*

*".. and the peace of God which pass all understanding, keep us today and days to come"
We the Officers and Precinct Officials, of the Horry County Democratic Party, DO NOT ENDORSE,
VOLUNTEER OR WORK FOR ANY CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN which opposes the Candidate
Nominated in our Democratic Primary for the General Election.
CONFIDENTIALITY DISCLAIMER:
This email message and any attachments to this email is for the sole use of the intended recipient (s)
and may contain privileged and confidential information. Any unauthorized review, disclosure, use
and/or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by
reply email and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank You For Helping to Maintain
Integrity, Confidential Society and Stop Identity Theft.*



Testimony of Brenda Murphy
President
South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP

Before the South Carolina Senate
Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee

Testimony on Proposed Congressional Redistricting Plans

November 12, 2021

Good morning, Chair Rankin and members of the Subcommittee. My name is Brenda Murphy, and, as you may remember, I am the President of the South Carolina State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or "South Carolina NAACP." We are a state conference of 77 branches and over 13,000 NAACP members throughout South Carolina.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with this Subcommittee today. As I explained the last time I appeared before this Subcommittee, I am speaking on behalf of a redistricting coalition I lead, which includes the South Carolina NAACP, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (or "LDF"), American Civil Liberties Union (or "ACLU"), and ACLU of South Carolina. I will briefly introduce our coalition's two proposed Congressional redistricting plans. Leah Aden of LDF and Somil Trivedi of the ACLU will then share additional information about them. We look forward to seeing the proposed Congressional plan that this Subcommittee is developing.

As I emphasized the last time I spoke before you, any maps this Subcommittee creates and considers must comply with the key constitutional command that districts have balanced populations and the Voting Rights Act's assurances of non-dilution of minority voting strength. These principles, along with others outlined in our submission letter, guided the development of our Congressional plans. And they should guide this Subcommittee's actions as well.

Having equal district population ensures equal representation for *all people* and equal electoral power for *all voters*. And, as we all have recognized, there have been significant population changes in South Carolina over the past decade, which must be addressed. Notably, Congressional District 6 now has far too *few* people, while CD 1 has far too *many* people. Any map this Subcommittee adopts must correct for these apportionment issues, as our maps do.

The Subcommittee also has an obligation under Section 2 to ensure that, under the totality of circumstances, Black South Carolinians have an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process and to elect representatives of our choice. In short, you must draw maps that do not minimize Black voting power throughout this State.

In some cases, that will require you to draw single-member districts in which Black voters are a majority. In other areas, this may compel you to draw districts in which Black voters form a plurality of voters, or otherwise can

influence the outcome of elections. In any redistricting, this Subcommittee must not “pack” Black voters into districts with unnecessarily high Black populations or “crack” us into districts with populations that are too low to give Black voters a meaningful voice in elections. And any redistricting must be done with an awareness of relevant voting patterns, our history and present realities in this State, and other circumstances.

It is relevant that, according to the 2020 Census, 27% of South Carolina’s people are Black. And among South Carolinians who are old enough to vote, 29% are Black. Yet only one of seven members of South Carolina’s Congressional delegation—or about 14%—is Black.

But our analysis considered more than a simple review of the population numbers in each district; we also considered, among other information:

- recent statewide and county-level voting patterns, including racially polarized voting patterns;
- whether past and newly proposed districts will be effective for Black voters;
- communities of interest, such as shared histories and membership in civic organizations; and
- the need for representatives to be responsive to Black communities’ economic plight, need for safe and affordable housing and police accountability, and much more.

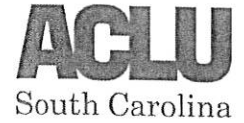
The two Congressional plans our coalition has submitted address Constitutional and Section 2 obligations and are informed by South Carolina’s voting patterns, history and ongoing realities, and other relevant information.

Based on all these considerations, our proposed plans correct for malapportionment between CD 1 and CD 6. And they maintain CD 6 as an electoral opportunity district in which a majority of voting-age residents are Black. This district—the only Congressional district in which Black South Carolinians have consistently enjoyed an equal opportunity to elect candidates of choice—was hard won. It has long served as a crucial voice for Black voters in our State. And it must continue to do so.

However, our plans *do not* unnecessarily raise CD 6's Black voting-age population beyond what our analysis showed to be appropriate. Therefore, our illustrative plans demonstrate that this Subcommittee does not need to—and, indeed, should not—take any action with respect to CD 6 that diminishes the electoral opportunities of Black voters in other districts.

We view these maps as the beginning, not the end, of this process. These are not the only possible Congressional plans that could satisfy the criteria I have discussed today. But we believe they deserve this Subcommittee's honest and open consideration. Because the Congressional map will determine South Carolinians' political power at the federal level for the next ten years, I encourage you to approach this process with the good faith, integrity, and humility its profound importance deserves.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments remotely during the Subcommittee's hearing today and hope there will be additional opportunities for public input on all redistricting plans this Subcommittee may propose. In the meantime, I look forward to working together with members of this Subcommittee for the people of South Carolina. Thank you. I will now turn to Leah Aden and Somil Trivedi to continue the testimony.



Testimony of Leah Aden
Deputy Director of Litigation
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Before the South Carolina Senate
Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee

Testimony on the Public's Proposed Congressional Plans

November 12, 2021

Good afternoon. Again, I am Leah Aden, a Deputy Director of Litigation with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (also known as "LDF"). LDF has been a separate organization from the NAACP since 1957. I am pleased to supplement the testimony of President Murphy of the South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP ("SC NAACP") today regarding the two congressional plans that a coalition of the SC NAACP, LDF, the American Civil Liberties Union ("ACLU") and the ACLU of South Carolina submitted to this body.

There is no question, as President Murphy mentioned, that this Subcommittee must adjust boundaries for South Carolina's Congressional districts to comply with constitutional principles including "one person one vote." Because of population changes since 2010, there are population variances among *all* of South Carolina's seven congressional districts. But, as you know, Congressional District 6 (or "CD 6") is now significantly underpopulated, while CD 1 is significantly overpopulated. CD 6 has more than 646,000 people, which is about 11.6% smaller than ideal size. It needs to gain more than 84,000 people in the current redistricting. Meanwhile, CD 1 has about 819,000 people, which is about 12.0% larger than ideal size. It thus needs to lose nearly 88,000 people for constitutional compliance. Based on 2020 Census data, both CD 6 and CD 1 rank among the nation's most malapportioned congressional districts.

In correcting for these apportionment issues, this Subcommittee must take care to not minimize Black voters' voices. As the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act require, and as President Murphy just reminded you, this Subcommittee must neither "pack" Black voters into districts with unnecessarily high Black populations or "crack" communities of interest of Black voters into fragmented districts where they are denied an equal or meaningful opportunity to elect their preferred candidates.

Based on the relevant circumstances and under the Voting Rights Act, at minimum, any congressional map that this Subcommittee adopts must preserve CD 6 as an effective opportunity district for Black voters. But at the same time, CD 6's Black population also must not be artificially inflated beyond what a functional analysis of the political process shows is sufficient for Section 2 compliance.

Our coalition's proposed plans represent ways to comply with the U.S. Constitution's equal-population mandate and the text and spirit of the Voting Rights Act, as well as other federal and state redistricting principles. Our two plans, in different ways, correct for population disparities across the state, maintain CD 6 as a Section 2-compliant opportunity district where Black voters are a majority, and do not needlessly elevate CD 6's Black population. I remind you, in a state where Black voters are 29% of the voting-age population, Black voters must not be packed into a single Congressional district electing only 14% of the state's seven-member Congressional delegation. Black voters deserve the opportunity to meaningfully participate and influence elections for more than one of seven Congressional seats, and our plans show two ways to provide such an opportunity. You've heard this desire that Black voters' voices be reflected in districts beyond CD 6 today not only from us, but also from the League of Women Voters of South Carolina and Stanford Law School's Law and Policy Lab; and that request is reflected in their maps and others submitted to this body.

Again, the Congressional maps we have proposed are not the only conceivable maps that could satisfy these criteria. Nor do they purport to incorporate all the extensive public input that you continue to receive, which is essential to drafting fair and nondiscriminatory maps. They are examples of maps that incorporate key analyses, address constitutional, federal, and state concerns, and discriminatory vote dilution. We believe they merit this Subcommittee's due consideration.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments. My colleague Somil Trivedi from the ACLU will share some additional feedback.

Thank you.



Testimony of Leah Aden
Deputy Director of Litigation
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Before the South Carolina Senate
Senate Judiciary Redistricting Subcommittee

Testimony on Proposed Senate
Redistricting Plans

November 12, 2021

Good afternoon, Chair Rankin and other Subcommittee members. My name is Leah Aden, and I am a Deputy Director of Litigation with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (also known as “LDF”). LDF has been a separate organization from the NAACP since 1957.

We thank the Senate staff for its work in developing this Committee’s proposed Senate plan, which we continue to evaluate to provide you with feedback. We do have concerns about certain proposed districts.

First, we ask the Subcommittee to reconsider its proposed boundary lines for **Senate District 39**, for the reasons Dr. John Ruoff with the League of Women Voters detailed this morning and the reasons set forth in the League’s written comments, and instead to adopt the approaches of our proposed plan or the League’s. The approaches in either of those proposals would be more protective of Black voters’ ability to continue to elect candidates of choice in that area given ongoing population changes and would give due consideration to the communities of interest in that area of the state that need to be protected.

Second, we also share the concerns of our colleagues at the League about proposed **Senate District 17**. Based on recent trends of population growth, SD17 as proposed by this body, which I understand differs both from our proposed plan and the League’s, puts at risk in the coming years the ability of Black voters to continue influencing elections in **SD17**.

Third, with respect to the configurations of proposed **Senate Districts 23, 24, 25, 26, and again 39**, we are concerned by the cracking of Black voters in communities within them, echoing the specific communities that the League has detailed this morning and in its written comments. We request that you look more closely at these areas and revisit any splitting of communities of interest impacting Black voters in these proposed districts.

Fourth, following testimony today, we also request that this body revisit the split of Spartanburg—which is split three ways into **Senate Districts 11, 12, and 13**—in its proposed plans. Spartanburg should be kept whole. Members of the public pointed out that Spartanburg’s split

runs afoul of this Committee's purported criteria, which express a commitment to endeavor to keep counties whole. And, as you know from the plan proposed by the League, it is possible to keep Spartanburg whole (as does Senate District 12 in the League's map). Testimony to this Subcommittee expressed the negative impact this split would have on Black voters in Spartanburg. For these reasons, we urge you to revisit how Spartanburg is treated in the Senate's proposed map.

We appreciate the opportunity to bring these areas of concern to your attention and encourage you to revisit them. As we continue to review the Senate's proposed plan, we will provide further comments in writing *if* we identify other areas of concern.

I also note, based on some of the comments made here today, that retrogression under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which has been immobilized by the 2013 Supreme Court decision, remains an important consideration. For example, it is an important indicium of discrimination if a redistricting plan intentionally cracks or packs a community of interest of Black voters or eliminates a majority-minority district.

I'd also note that the VRA protects Black voters' ability to elect candidates of choice, regardless of those candidates' race, gender, or other identity. I agree, however, that often the candidate of choice for Black voters is a Black candidate; but, of course, Black voters elect non-Black candidates all of the time.

Moreover, the Legislature has an affirmative obligation to consider any evidence of racially polarized voting patterns. Indeed, the U.S. Supreme Court recently instructed: a "legislature undertaking a redistricting must assess whether the new districts it contemplates (not the old ones it sheds) conform to the [Voting Rights Act]'s requirements."¹ Our previous correspondence with this Subcommittee, including the letter accompanying our October 8 submission of two Congressional plans and a proposed Senate plan, go into more detail about these required analyses. Even if this body has not done its own RPV analysis, which, once again, it is obliged to do, federal courts hearing redistricting disputes, decade after

¹ *Cooper v. Harris*, 137 S. Ct. 1455, 1471 (2017).

decade, have found that RPV patterns exist across the State. Moreover, the League proposed a district, SD39, comprised of a majority of Black voters at 50%+1. While the Senate Plan that our coalition proposed did not take this same approach, nor does this body's proposed plan, this Subcommittee has an obligation to ensure that SD39 can function for Black voters with a Black voting-age population below 50% in the presence of any racial bloc voting in that area, consistent with *Thornburg v. Gingles*.

Thank you.



PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC, 29202, (803) 636-0431, www.lwvsc.org

TESTIMONY ON SENATE STAFF MAP PROPOSAL BEFORE THE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
SC SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2021

I would like to begin by thanking the Senate staff for their work on the map that they have proposed, especially for their careful consideration of the comments received from the public and from the League of Women Voters and other concerned organizations. We believe the proposed map is a significant improvement on the current Senate district configuration. The Senate staff map has much to recommend it as well as some specific areas of concern that we hope can be addressed.

We will first address the most common issue in redistricting, that the map might be unfair, a gerrymander. Much of the public thinks of fairness of maps in terms of a very basic measure, partisan proportionality. Would the major parties win the same proportion of legislative seats as the statewide vote for president or governor would suggest, which in South Carolina is usually about 55% Republican to about 45% Democratic? Again, population distributions prevent perfect proportionality in South Carolina's legislative maps, but ratings from Dave's Redistricting App indicate that the map submitted by the Senate staff improves on the current level of proportionality and achieves a "good" score on that measure.¹

We also see that the Senate staff map produces 10 districts in which the partisan lean margin is $\pm 5\%$, which is considered competitive in general elections. This is equal to the number of competitive districts in the League's map. (See Appendix for individual district figures.) We believe that this is an important virtue in the Senate proposal.

We examined the question of bias and potential gerrymandering very thoroughly. Anna Marie Vagnozzi and Dr. Matthew Saltzman and their team of advanced mathematics students at Clemson University continued the work that they began last year when they evaluated current districts. Information on the methodology of this study can be found in a thesis by Anna Marie Vagnozzi, which can be provided to the committee in digital form on request.² We wish to add that this analysis is one example of the excellent and important work that South Carolina's universities do to bring deep scholarly expertise to the service of our state to inform policy issues of public importance.

An initial review of the current Senate Staff map is shown in Appendix 1. The plan now proposed by the Senate staff has a strong underlying partisan bias with respect to the *median-mean* measure, which is widely accepted and commonly used in election map analysis. After $2^{30} \approx 1$ billion maps were sampled, the p-values were $p=0.030545$ for median-mean (500,889 maps found to have worse measures).³ In comparison, the scores for

¹ <https://davesredistricting.org/join/269499c2-0ea8-4b4b-b088-f03c77db5ae4>

² Anna Marie Vagnozzi, "Detecting Partisan Gerrymandering through Mathematical Analysis: A Case Study of South Carolina," MS Thesis, the Graduate School of Clemson University, May 2020.

³ In the context of the simulation, the p-value is the probability of seeing a map as extreme as this or more so if one is drawn at random from the population of maps that we sampled in the simulation. Those have districts that are contiguous, within population limits ($\pm 5\%$), and no less compact overall than the proposed map.

the LWVSC proposal are $p=0.028358$ for median-mean (431,754 maps were worse). Therefore, the analysis shows that in this respect the Senate proposal and that of the LWVSC are not very different. The LWVSC plan serves as a control sample, because we know with certainty that it was not manipulated to produce a given partisan or incumbent protection result. Any bias is a result of underlying demography. We conclude that this measure does not show a serious defect in the Senate map.

The Senate plan does show greater evidence of geometric partisan bias (1,361,894 maps found to have worse measures at $p=0.050366$) than the League map (17,485,733 maps were worse at $p=0.18047$). Our overall conclusion on this measure is that the Senate map could be improved in this respect, but given other measures that we have examined, we do not consider this a fatal flaw.

We especially appreciate the much-improved attention to keeping voting precincts intact in the Senate proposal, with only 5 such splits in contrast to the 151 precinct splits in the current map. It is possible to micro-engineer districts to produce districts with wildly distorted partisan imbalances by splitting voting precincts into multiple fragments to enhance partisan consistency within districts. This practice is harmful to our politics but the Senate staff plan does not do that. The partisan gap estimated for this map is an average or mean of about 25 percent, down from 27.5 in the current maps and only 1% more than the mean 24% difference between winners and losers that would be expected in the League map. Bluntly put, the Senate staff map would give most incumbents an opportunity to retain their seats but doesn't exaggerate that effect by piling on unneeded percentage points. This is very important even when a district is not easily competitive, because more extreme districts produce more extreme politics for reasons we have discussed in previous hearings.

We understand that the staff attempted to respect county boundaries, although the number of county splits that they produced is not very different from that in current maps. The Senate staff has split 27 counties 69 times in contrast to the League's 21 counties split 45 times. Union County, which is relatively small, is split among Districts 9, 13, and 14. This, and some other differences, appear to be the consequence of the Senate's attention to preserving incumbents in their current districts. We appreciate that incumbent protection is not carried to an extreme in the staff plan but we continue to wish that this could become a criterion only at the lowest level of priority, after satisfaction of all voter-focused criteria.

We commend the mapmakers for working to ensure appropriate representation for cities, for example in keeping Spartanburg whole rather than splitting it as in the current map. However, the often-stated preference of Mt. Pleasant residents to be represented by a single senator was not realized. A wish for a single district is unrealistic (we also couldn't do that in the League map), but in the staff proposal Mt. Pleasant is again very fragmented, with representation from three senators.

Our remaining comments focus on specific districts of concern to minority voters. John Ruoff will discuss these. Some are of relatively low potential impact while at least one has more serious implications. Briefly, they are as follows:

- District 39 is of concern. As drawn in the Senate Staff map it probably provides minorities an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice at present, but it is drawn with a relatively low 39% BVAP. We appreciate the staff not engaging in minority packing in this district, a practice that dilutes the influence of minority voters. In an area with less vigorous non-minority growth the district as drawn would be of less concern. However, the district includes areas in Berkeley County, including Nexton, Carnes Crossroads, and Cane Bay, where rapid population growth is primarily Non-Hispanic White and very different in character from the rural core of the rest of the district. The LWVSC plan has a 50% NHBVAP. The NAACP plan is at 43% NHBVAP but doesn't come as far into the growth areas

of Berkeley County. As the decade progresses the opportunity of minority voters in this area to elect a senator of their choice may be in danger as currently drawn in the Senate map.

Lesser Concerns:

- District 17 remains a minority influence district but includes significant areas of primarily White population growth, even reaching into Lancaster County. The future may not treat minorities well here.
- Districts 25 and 23 split Batesburg-Leesville and crack a Black community in that town, cutting Lexington School District 3 in two.
- Districts 25 and 24 crack the Black community in China Springs from that in the City of Aiken and crack a Black community at North Augusta.
- Districts 26 and 39 split St. Matthews in a way that cracks a Black community at a precinct line.

Contact: Lynn Shuler Teague, Vice President for Issues and Action, LWVSC
803 556-9802 TEAGUELYNN@GMAIL.COM

APPENDIX 1

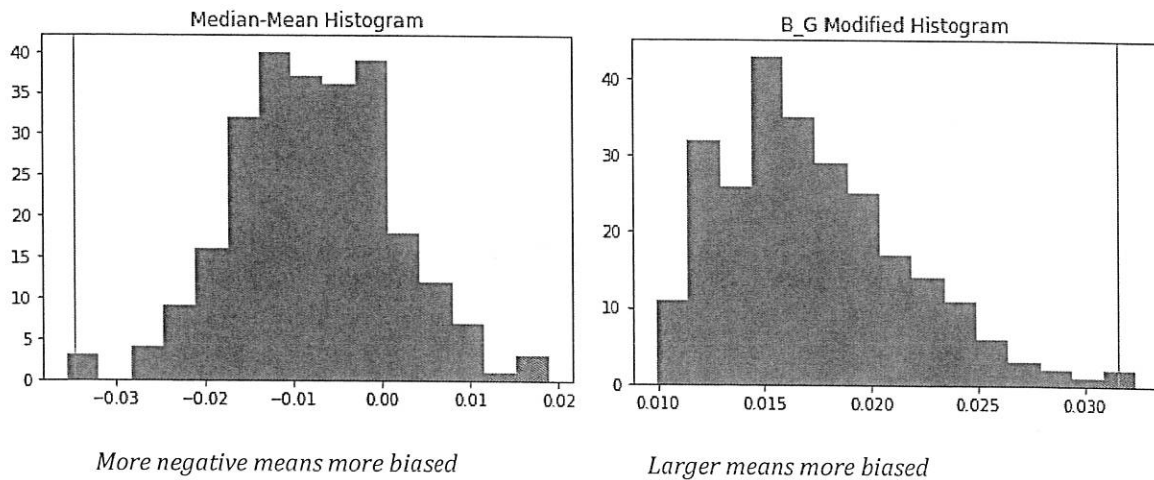
PROPOSED SENATE DRAFT

After $2^{30} \approx 1$ billion maps were sampled, the p-values were...

p=0.030545 for median-mean (500,889 maps found to have worse measures)

p=0.050366 for geometric partisan bias (1,361,894 maps found to have worse measures)

Distribution of measure statistics for a systematic sample (every 2^{22} steps) of maps:

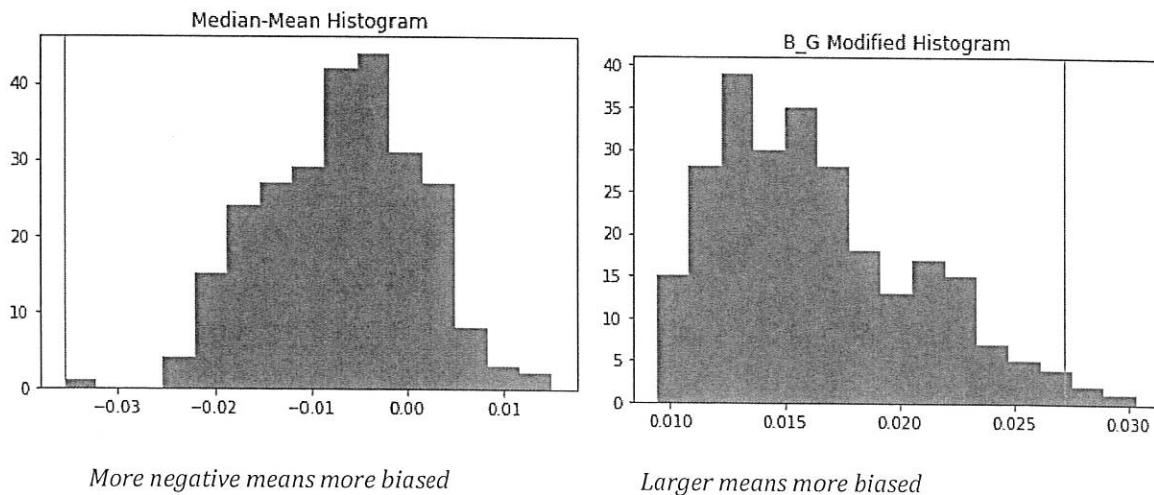


LWV'S SENATE MAP

p=0.028358 for median-mean (431,754 maps were worse)

p=0.18047 for geometric partisan bias (17,485,733 maps were worse)

Distribution of measure statistics for a systematic sample (every 2^{22} steps) of maps:

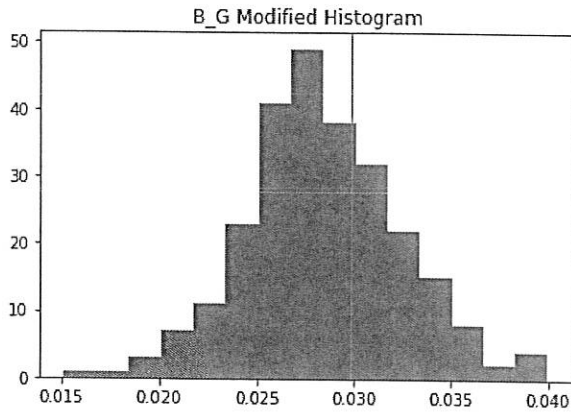
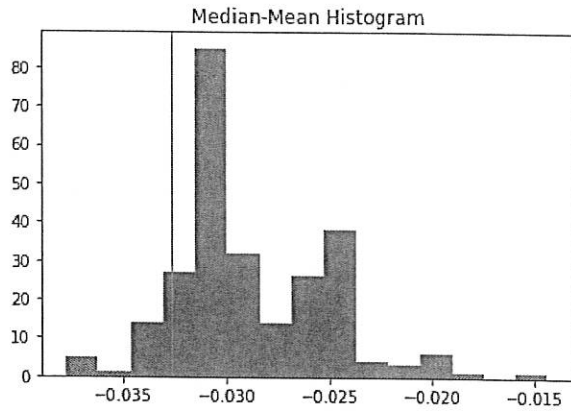


ORIGINAL (2011) MAPS - *what if we stick with what we had last time?*

p=0.46783 for median-mean (117,502,161 maps were worse)

p=0.15691 for geometric partisan bias (398,218,111 maps were worse)

Distribution of measure statistics for a systematic sample (every 2^{22} steps) of maps:



More negative means more biased

Larger means more biased

APPENDIX 2

BASIC SC SENATE STAFF MAP COMPARISON WITH CURRENT AND LWVSC MAPS

DAVE'S REDISTRICTING RATINGS

	Current Districts	LWVSC Districts	Senate Staff Districts
Competitiveness	18	23	16
Proportionality	69	71	76

Splitting (Counties)	22	51	23
Compactness	41	50	43
Minority	87	87	86

ACTUAL SPLITS

County Splits	34 counties split 63 times (44.06% of people in state affected)	21 counties split 45 times (24.10% of people in state affected)	27 counties split 69 times (38.9% of people in state affected)
Precinct Splits	151	5	5

SENATE STAFF PLAN WITH 2020 PARTISAN LEAN COMPARISON

The district-by-district figures below are reasonable comparisons for those districts that have not changed markedly from those in the current Senate map or in the League proposal. However, in some cases geographic change is so great (for example, S. 20) that the comparison is useful only for contributing to statewide calculations.

Partisan Lean calculated as composite of 2016 Pres, 2020 Pres, 2016 Sen, 2020 Sen, 2018 Gov, 2018 AG

District #	Partisan Lean % 2020 Districts			Partisan Lean % LWVSC Map Proposal			Partisan Lean % Senate Staff Map Proposal		
	Rep PL 2020	Dem PL 2020	2020 PL NN	Rep 2020 LWVSC	Dem 2020 LWVSC	NN LWVSC	SS Rep	SS Dem	SS NN PG
01	69.73	28.09	42	70.14	29.86	40	70.40	29.60	41
02	78.42	19.70	59	79.85	20.15	58	78.62	21.38	57
03	72.22	25.77	46	72.40	27.60	45	72.87	27.13	46
04	68.73	29.66	39	68.88	31.12	38	68.47	31.53	37

05	74.15	23.64	51	69.99	30.01	40	75.07	24.93	50
06	62.76	34.49	28	62.27	37.73	25	61.83	38.17	24
07	37.71	61.17	23	36.91	63.09	26	37.30	62.70	25
08	59.99	37.62	22	58.20	41.80	16	58.71	41.29	17
09	65.28	32.82	32	64.63	34.37	30	64.81	35.19	30
10	58.33	40.16	18	62.46	37.54	25	67.36	32.64	35
11	56.90	41.25	16	53.05	46.95	6	60.25	39.75	21
12	63.18	34.70	28	64.70	35.30	29	59.04	40.96	18
13	63.87	34.21	30	66.85	33.15	34	66.18	33.82	32
14	71.26	26.92	44	74.98	25.02	50	74.10	25.90	48
15	58.11	39.47	19	49.38	50.62	1	61.24	38.76	22
16	58.87	39.03	20	63.06	36.94	26	57.18	42.82	14
17	47.36	50.98	4	55.32	44.68	11	47.49	52.51	5
18	67.01	30.86	36	63.63	36.37	27	62.77	37.23	26
19	17.52	80.73	63	21.57	78.43	57	19.15	80.85	62
20	49.05	48.36	69	36.33	63.67	27	38.27	61.63	23
21	23.00	75.32	52	28.75	71.25	43	23.83	76.17	52
22	37.28	60.82	24	31.92	68.08	36	34.90	65.10	30
23	68.17	29.11	39	66.54	33.46	33	68.20	31.80	36
24	64.34	33.55	31	60.75	39.25	22	60.84	39.16	22

25	66.34	31.86	34	66.80	33.20	34	63.43	36.57	27
26	53.22	44.52	9	62.51	37.49	25	47.06	52.94	6
27	60.00	38.61	21	61.24	38.76	22	65.96	34.04	32
28	66.78	31.94	35	70.20	29.80	40	68.66	31.34	37
29	46.11	52.65	7	47.39	52.61	5	47.02	52.98	6
30	39.21	59.85	21	46.25	53.75	8	45.62	54.38	9
31	60.25	38.16	22	52.33	47.67	5	58.59	41.41	17
32	39.25	59.76	21	43.79	56.21	12	42.24	57.76	16
33	64.56	33.61	31	61.40	38.60	23	61.09	38.91	22
34	64.37	34.01	30	56.80	43.20	14	67.46	32.54	35
35	50.32	47.83	2	67.74	32.26	35	46.13	53.87	8
36	42.92	55.73	13	45.98	54.02	0	46.28	53.72	7
37	58.55	39.25	19	56.24	43.76	12	58.07	41.93	16
38	56.61	40.69	16	51.91	48.09	4	57.66	42.34	15
39	41.47	57.28	16	41.93	58.07	16	46.98	53.02	6
40	42.15	56.83	15	48.14	51.86	4	45.63	54.37	9
41	49.50	47.73	2	43.69	56.31	13	53.92	46.08	8
42	21.65	75.95	54	23.79	76.21	42	25.10	74.90	50
43	52.97	44.72	8	49.75	50.25	1	53.68	46.32	7
44	55.85	41.53	14	58.79	41.21	18	55.32	44.68	11

45	40.41	58.37	18	47.18	52.82	6	41.14	58.86	18
46	59.12	39.27	20	58.56	41.44	17	58.56	41.44	17

AVERAGE PARTISAN GAP

2020 SENATE DISTRICTS ELECTION PARTISAN GAP

Count	46
Mean	24.0652
StdDev	15.6040

2020 SENATE DISTRICTS PARTISAN LEAN GAP

Count	46
Mean	27.4565
StdDev	16.1558

LWVSC PROPOSAL PARTISAN LEAN GAP

Count	46
Mean	23.9348
StdDev	15.3527

SENATE STAFF PROPOSAL PARTISAN GAP

Count	46
Mean	25.0435
StdDev	15.2737



PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC, 29202, (803) 636-0431, www.lwvsc.org

TESTIMONY ON LWVSC CONGRESSIONAL MAP PROPOSAL BEFORE THE REDISTRICTING
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SC SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2021

The League's Congressional plan relies upon criteria that we have previously reviewed for you. I will not reiterate them here. As in the Senate District plan, substantial population growth along the coast and south of Charlotte accompanied by population stagnation in the I-95 corridor require adjustments of district boundaries, in particular boundaries associated with CD 1 and CD 6. Appropriate adjustment of these boundaries requires careful attention to the rights of minorities to elect a candidate of their choice. CD 6 serves now to protect those rights and must continue to do so.

However, at present CD 6 has a very high percentage of minority voters, especially when minorities smaller than our Black population are considered. In 2020 the incumbent received more than 68% of the votes cast, to 30.82% for his major party opponent. We cannot build districts with the assumption that an established incumbent will continue, but this is a margin so large that it would protect the rights of Black voters even with a new and less known candidate. The current minority margin can and should be reduced.

We believe that the best way to achieve this is to focus CD 6 on the Midlands and upper Lowcountry, withdrawing it from the Charleston area. 2020 census figures permit the League to draw CD 6 as a relatively compact inland district that follows county and municipal boundaries more often than the current map. This in turn permits drawing CD 1 to reflect the strong economic and social ties between municipalities in the Charleston area. The League map places Daniel Island, North Charleston, and other local cities entirely in CD 1, with Charleston. This gives these cities unified representation and surely makes sense to anyone who knows the close economic and other relationships that unite this part of South Carolina's coast.

The League plan offers improvement over the current map in several overall assessment areas. Instead of 12 counties split 12 times, there are 6 counties split 6 times. Instead of 65 split precincts there are 12. Our map improves competitiveness, although we did not design the map using voting history data. The map has somewhat better competitiveness simply because it isn't designed not to allow successful competition. We did not engineer districts for bomb-proof "safe" margins for incumbents.

We acknowledge that one current congressman has been drawn out of his district in our map. To clarify a point that has come up in a hearing in the lower house, the League has no position in favor of ejecting incumbents from their districts to get turnover in representation. We simply do not attempt to protect incumbents in the districts that they currently represent. We are agnostic on the issue.

We hope that the Senate subcommittee will consider our map and its underlying principles in preparing your own. Thank you.

Contact: Lynn Shuler Teague, Vice President for Issues and Action, LWVSC
803 556-9802 TEAGUELYNN@GMAIL.COM

APPENDIX

BASIC SC LWVSC CONGRESSIONAL MAP COMPARISON WITH CURRENT MAPS

DAVE'S REDISTRICTING RATINGS

	Current Districts	LWVSC Districts
Competitiveness	9 (very bad)	20 (very bad/bad)
Proportionality	0 (very bad)	25 (bad)
Splitting	30 (bad)	78 (good)
Compactness	38 (bad)	42 (ok)
Minority	50 (ok)	50 (ok)

ACTUAL SPLITS

	Current	LWVSC
County Splits	12 split 12 times	6 split 6 times
Precinct Splits	65	23

LWVSC CONGRESSIONAL PLAN WITH PARTISAN LEAN COMPARISON TO CURRENT MAP

The district-by-district figures below are reasonable comparisons for those districts that have not changed markedly from those in the current Senate map or in the League proposal. However, in some cases geographic change is so great (for example, S. 20) that the comparison is useful only for contributing to statewide calculations.

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Congressional District Number	2020 Congressional Election Results			Current Congressional Map			LWVSC Map		
	Rep	Dem	Gap	Rep	Dem	Gap	Rep	Dem	Gap
1	50.58	49.31	1.27	54.46	43.19	11.27	49.26	48.31	0.95
2	55.66	42.59	13.07	56.50	41.29	15.21	60.29	37.67	22.62
3	71.21	29.69	42.52	67.98	30.19	37.79	68.19	29.96	38.23

4	61.61	68.28	35.72	60.81	36.96	23.85	59.97	37.79	22.18
5	60.07	38.14	20.21	57.51	40.58	16.93	58.85	39.3	19.55
6	30.82	68.28	-37.46	31.45	67.08	-35.63	35.43	62.95	-27.52
7	61.80	38.14	23.66	58.54	40.08	18.46	59.76	39.74	20.02

AVERAGE PARTISAN GAP

2020 ELECTION PARTISAN GAP

Count	7
Mean	23.2857
StdDev	14.1034

CURRENT DISTRICTS PARTISAN GAP

Count	7
Mean	22.7143
StdDev	10.5153

LWVSC PARTISAN GAP

Count	7
Mean	21.7143
StdDev	11.1163



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	Current	LWVSC
County Splits	12 split 12 times	6 split 6 times
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LWVSC CONGRESSIONAL PLAN WITH PARTISAN LEAN COMPARISON TO CURRENT MAP

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4	61.61	68.28	35.72	60.81	36.96	23.85	59.97	37.79	22.18
5	60.07	38.14	20.21	57.51	40.58	16.93	58.85	39.3	19.55
6	30.82	68.28	-37.46	31.45	67.08	-35.63	35.43	62.95	-27.52
7	61.80	38.14	23.66	58.54	40.08	18.46	59.76	39.74	20.02

AVERAGE PARTISAN GAP

2020 ELECTION PARTISAN GAP

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StdDev	14.1034

CURRENT DISTRICTS PARTISAN GAP

Count	7
Mean	22.7143
StdDev	10.5153

LWVSC PARTISAN GAP

Count	7
Mean	21.7143
StdDev	11.1163

Maura Baker

From: kay roshnow <roshnow@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: LWVHHI-BA Redistricting Input

I am the President of the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island and Bluffton Area. We respectfully request our input be included in the public record for the 2021 Redistricting testimony:’

In general, according the Redistricting guidelines:

- There should be fewer precinct splits
- There should be fewer county and municipal splits
- Voters’ interests should be placed first
- And communities of interest should be protected

The LWVHHI-BA also supports the analyses and statements made by the LWVSC representatives, Lynn Teague and John Ruoff.

I provided testimony as the LWVHHI-BA President to both the SC Senate and House public hearings and it is included in the public record.

Thank you for your consideration of our input to this critical and vital process to protect the voters’ voice to our legislators.

Kay Roshnow
LWVHHI-BA President
(843) 540-2143

Maura Baker

From: Linnea Bennett <linnea_bennett@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 8:50 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Cc: Senate Judiciary Committee; Thomas "Case" Brittain; Myrtle Beach City Council (DearCityCouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com)
Subject: Public Comments on the Draft SC Senate Plan – RE: Senate District 33

As a resident of the rapidly growing southern end of Myrtle Beach, I object that portions of our Market Common area city residents and taxpayers are not joined with the vast majority of the City of Myrtle Beach in the proposed Senate District 33. Preserving city boundaries is one of the foremost principles of the Redistricting process.

I urge you to re-evaluate the voting precinct boundaries proposed as Jet Port 2, 3 and 4, and the new Belle Harbor developments that are inside city limits, but that have been wrongly aligned in Surfside 4, which is primarily in unincorporated Horry County. Now is the time to make these changes to avoid inevitable voter stress and confusion later.

I and my neighbors recommend the following:

1. Realign the current and future city residents that reside in Surfside 4 to the new Jet Port 3 or 4 precinct thereby including them in Senate District 33 instead of 34.
2. Redraw the new Jet Port 3 and 4 boundaries to avoid splitting neighborhoods. Both Emmens Preserve and Balmoral communities have residents on both sides of Coventry Blvd. [Please refer to map attached] For example, the three sections of Emmens Preserve share in common property and financial resources (pool, clubhouse, park, ponds, etc.) and extensive weekly, monthly, and annual social activities. We identify as one neighborhood, and we should identify as voters in the same precinct. This eliminates one layer of confusion in communicating to voters when and where to vote.

My area's public services, our environment and our quality of life is totally dependent on the City of Myrtle Beach. The mighty economic engine of Myrtle Beach and its contributions to the State deserve State House representation which consistently represents all city resident voices.

Therefore, do not split the City of Myrtle Beach between multiple districts and precincts. We need one voice focused directly on the issues of rapid growth in the City of Myrtle Beach.

Respectfully,

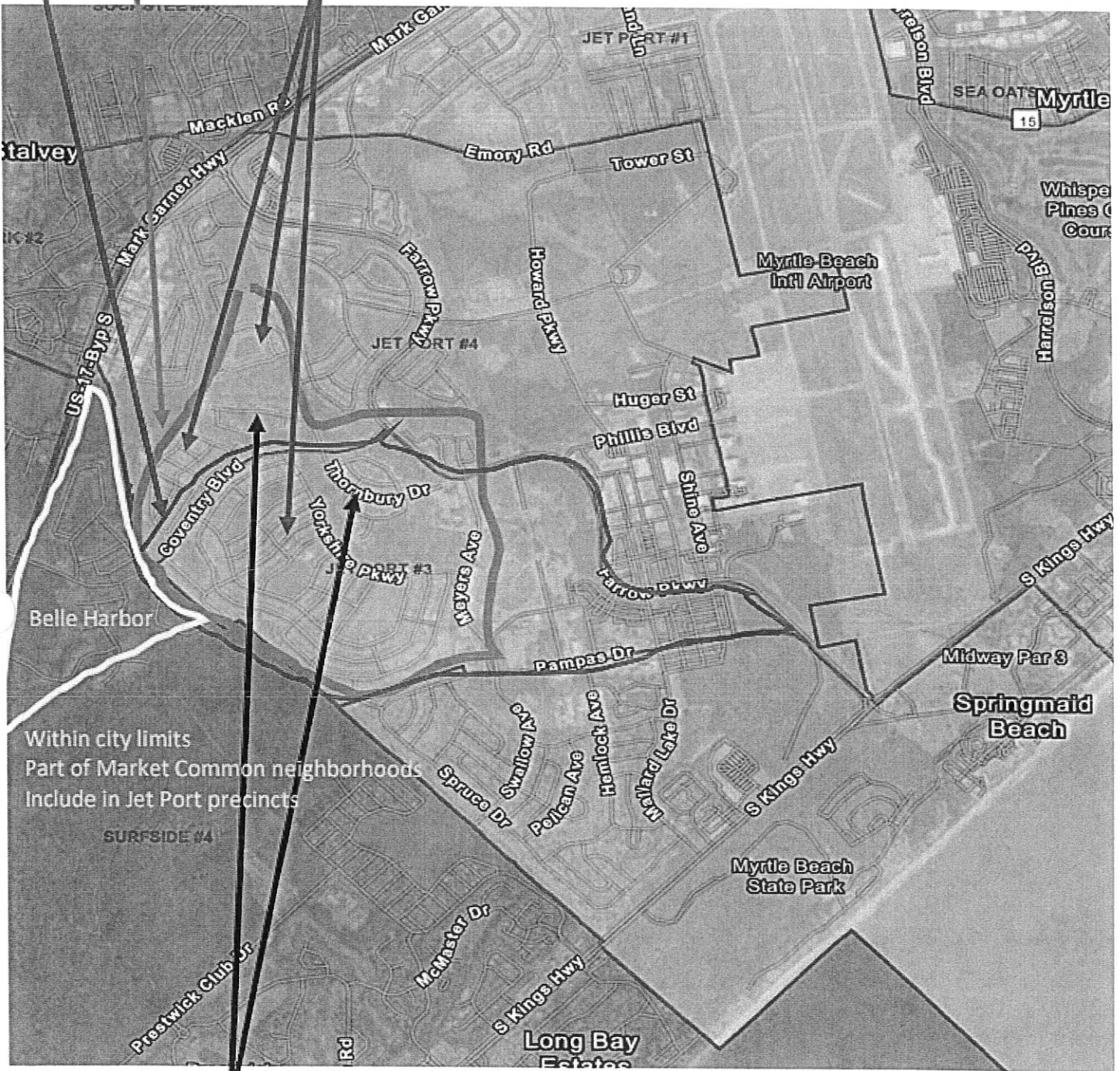
Linnea Bennett
1734 Legacy Loop
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
425-223-6257

cc: SC Senator Luke Rankin SJudComm@scsenate.gov
SC Rep Case Brittain casebrittain@schouse.gov
Myrtle Beach City Council dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com

Amend SENATE STAFF PLAN (Nov 2021) Pending changes to create Jet Port 3 and 4 (Red line)

Requested change to new Jet Port 3 boundary (Green line)

→ Keep 3 sections of Emmens Preserve in one precinct



Also consolidates 2 sections of the Balmoral community anchored by Thornbury and Edgewood Drives.

November 15, 2021

TO: SC Senate Redistricting Subcommittee [*redistricting@scsenate.gov*]

SUBJECT: Public Comments on the Draft SC Senate Plan – RE: Senate District 33

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Respectfully,

Pat Shama, 1680 Essex Way, Myrtle Beach SC 29577
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843-839-1344

cc: SC Senator Luke Rankin
SC Rep Case Brittain
Myrtle Beach City Council

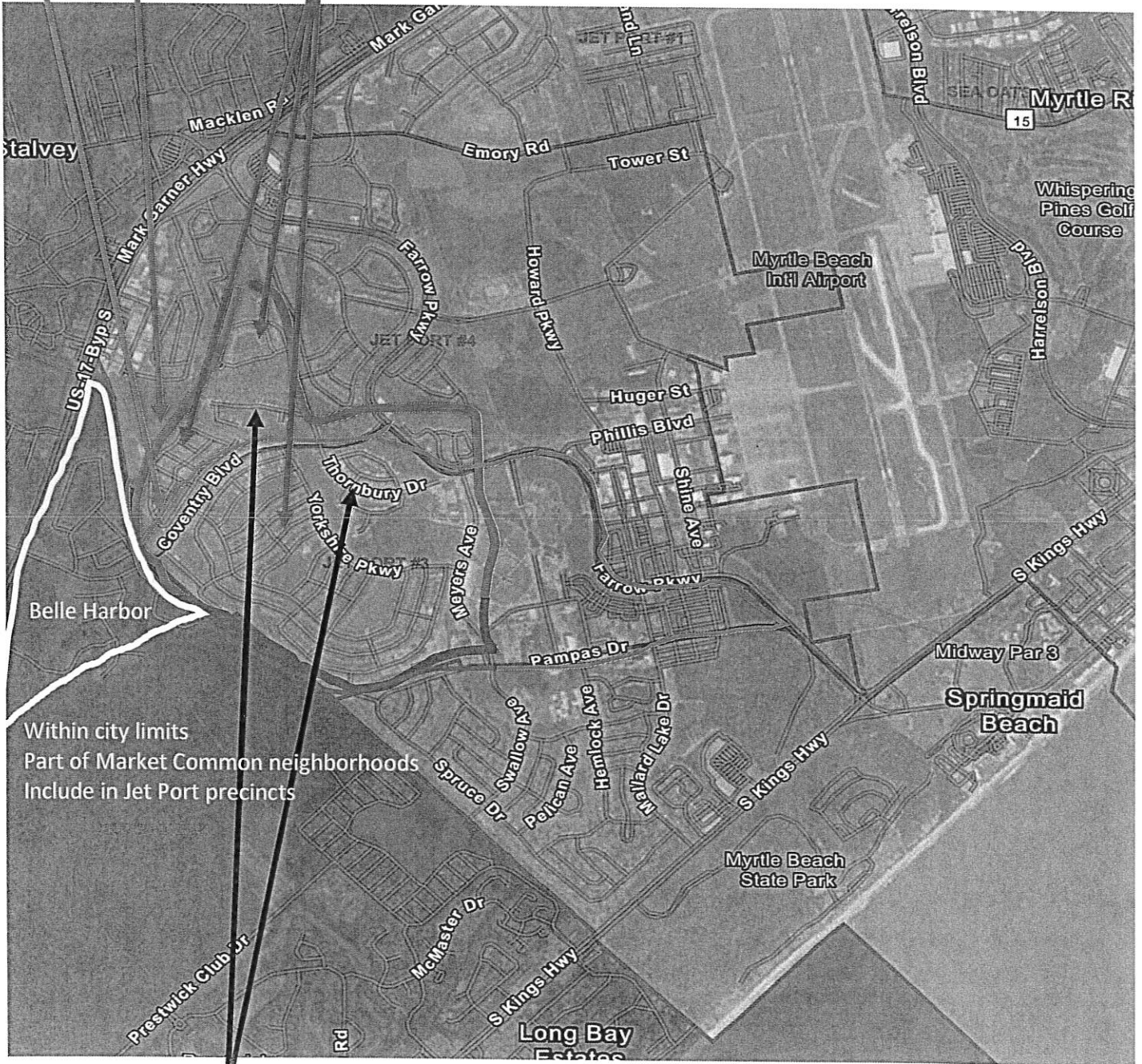
SJudComm@scsenate.gov
casebrittain@schouse.gov
dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com

Amend SENATE STAFF PLAN (Nov 2021)

Pending changes to create Jet Port 3 and 4 (Red line)

Requested change to new Jet Port 3 boundary (Green line)

→ Keep 3 sections of Emmens Preserve in one precinct



Within city limits
Part of Market Common neighborhoods
Include in Jet Port precincts

Also consolidates 2 sections of the Balmoral community anchored by Thornbury and Edgewood Drives.

November 15, 2021

TO: SC Senate Redistricting Subcommittee [redistricting@scsenate.gov]

SUBJECT: Public Comments on the Draft SC Senate Plan – RE: Senate District 33

As a resident of the rapidly growing southern end of Myrtle Beach, I object that portions of our Market Common area city residents and taxpayers are not joined with the vast majority of the City of Myrtle Beach in the proposed Senate District 33. Preserving city boundaries is one of the foremost principles of the Redistricting process.

I urge you to re-evaluate the voting precinct boundaries proposed as Jet Port 2, 3 and 4, and the new Belle Harbor developments that are inside city limits, but that have been wrongly aligned in Surfside 4, which is primarily in unincorporated Horry County. Now is the time to make these changes to avoid inevitable voter stress and confusion later.

I and my neighbors recommend the following:

1. Realign the current and future city residents that reside in Surfside 4 to the new Jet Port 3 or 4 precinct thereby including them in Senate District 33 instead of 34.
2. Redraw the new Jet Port 3 and 4 boundaries to avoid splitting neighborhoods. Both Emmens Preserve and Balmoral communities have residents on both sides of Coventry Blvd. [Please refer to map attached] For example, the three sections of Emmens Preserve share in common property and financial resources (pool, clubhouse, park, ponds, etc.) and extensive weekly, monthly, and annual social activities. We identify as one neighborhood, and we should identify as voters in the same precinct. This eliminates one layer of confusion in communicating to voters when and where to vote.

My area's public services, our environment and our quality of life is totally dependent on the City of Myrtle Beach. The mighty economic engine of Myrtle Beach and its contributions to the State deserve State House representation which consistently represents all city resident voices. Therefore, do not split the City of Myrtle Beach between multiple districts and precincts. We need one voice focused directly on the issues of rapid growth in the City of Myrtle Beach.

Respectfully,

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