



Supreme Court
STATE OF LOUISIANA
New Orleans

CHIEF JUSTICE

JOHN L. WEIMER

JUSTICES

WILLIAM J. CRAIN
SCOTT J. CRICHTON
JAMES T. GENOVESE
JAY B. MCCALLUM
JEFFERSON HUGHES
PIPER D. GRIFFIN

Sixth District

First District
Second District
Third District
Fourth District
Fifth District
Seventh District

VERONICA O. KOCLANES
CLERK OF COURT

400 Royal St., Suite 4200
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130-8102

TELEPHONE (504) 310-2300
HOME PAGE <http://www.lasc.org>

December 28, 2023

Hon. Jeffrey M. Landry
Attorney General and Governor-Elect
landryj@ag.louisiana.gov

Hon. Cameron Henry
Senator and President-Designate
henryc@legis.la.gov

Hon. Phillip DeVillier
Representative and Speaker-Designate
devillierp@legis.la.gov

Hon. Elizabeth Murrill
Solicitor General and Attorney
General-Elect
murrille@ag.louisiana.gov

Re: Louisiana Supreme Court Redistricting

The Honorable:

With regard to the Louisiana Supreme Court redistricting proposal and the letter issued by five of my colleagues on December 27, I write to lodge my strong objection. I note upfront that, because I turn 70 years old in June of 2024, which is the last year of my term, the Louisiana Constitution prohibits me from running for reelection. *See* La. Const. art. V, sec. 23(B) ("Except as otherwise provided in this Section, a judge shall not remain in office beyond his seventieth birthday. A judge who attains seventy years of age while serving a term of office shall be allowed to complete that term of office."). As a result, any redistricting proposal does not personally impact me or affect my service.

Importantly, I agree with my colleagues that malapportionment issues related to the Supreme Court must be resolved to create a second majority-minority election district, for the reasons noted in their letter. I also prefer that our duly-elected representatives in the legislature adopt a plan to achieve that objective, rather than the federal courts doing so for us. Despite agreeing with my colleagues on these general points, however, I object to the specifics in their proposed map. I am disturbed that the proposal effectively obliterates Supreme Court District 2, as it is presently comprised. In doing so, it disenfranchises every member of this district, who become subsumed into Supreme Court Districts 3 and 4. These individuals—well over half a million citizens—will now have no representation on the Supreme Court from January 1, 2025 (when a new justice will begin his or her term from District 2) until an election for both Districts 3 and 4 are held for the terms ending December 31, 2026.

As a result, I feel compelled to lodge this public objection, on behalf of the citizens of the current District 2, to my colleagues' proposal. I believe that a proposal that achieves the laudable objective of increased minority representation on the Supreme Court, without gross gerrymandering and without disenfranchising a large percentage of north Louisiana voters, can be achieved by the legislature.

Please contact me should you have any questions about my concerns.

Sincerely,



Scott J. Crichton