

DIVISION

VERSUS

FILED:

AFFIDAVIT OF EDWIN RENÉ SOULÉ

1. My name is Edwin René Soulé. I am over 18 years of age and have personal knowledge of the statements made in this affidavit and each is true and correct.
2. I am African-American and a U.S. citizen.
3. I am a resident of the State of Louisiana, and I currently reside in Hammond, Louisiana. My address is 42798 Scarlett Circle, Hammond, Louisiana 70403.
4. I am lawfully registered to vote in Congressional District (“CD”) 1.
5. I am a regular voter who votes in federal, state, and local elections. I most recently voted in the elections for Hammond City Judge on March 17, 2022. I intend to vote in future elections, including the upcoming 2022 congressional elections.
6. I have been politically active for over the past 40 years. I regularly attend rallies and town halls in Hammond and neighboring parishes, as well as legislative committee hearings at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. I worked as campaign manager for a candidate for CD 5, Sandra “Candy” Christophe, during the special election for CD 5, in March 2021.
7. I have volunteered with the U.S. Census Bureau during the 2020 decennial census cycle and received a report about the final population count for Louisiana. This is how I learned that based on 2020 census data, the population in my district, CD 1, has increased because there has been an influx of people moving into my district. I also understand that CD 1 is now overpopulated and contains more people than several of the other congressional districts.

8. I am frustrated that Louisiana has not created a new congressional map that makes the population in each congressional district equal. If the old, outdated map remains in place and I am forced to vote in an overpopulated district, it will dilute the strength of my vote.
9. One result of the overpopulation in my district, CD 1, that harms me is that I will not have equal access to my congressional representative when compared to voters in other districts. If the outdated map from 2011 remains in place, I will have to work harder get the attention of my Congressperson. I feel that the Legislature's failure to pass a new congressional map resulting in my district having too many people, deprives me of my voice and my right to be heard by my congressional representative.
10. I have previously met with my Congressperson, Representative Steve Scalise, at a town hall meeting, approximately three years ago, and he was not responsive to my needs and did not treat me like a constituent that he represents. I believe that if the old congressional map remains in place, it would be even more difficult for me to advocate for myself and appeal to my representative.
11. Another problem with the Legislature's failure to create a new congressional map is that I do not know where I will reside when a new map is developed. The 2022 congressional election is approaching, and I will need to educate myself about the candidates and their positions. If I do not know where I will reside and how districts will be drawn when the new map is developed, I will not know which candidate may represent me. I will not be able to engage in the political process the way I normally do, by attending town hall meetings and rallies, and even by working for the political campaigns for the candidates I support. Because I do not know which district I will reside in, I am unable to do these things.

12. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of Louisiana that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed on this 18th day of March, 2022.



Edwin Rene Soule

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 18th day of March, 2022.



NOTARY PUBLIC

Print Name: Jai Juan Allen

Notary No.: 128631

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 18th day of March, 2022.



WITNESS 1

Print Name: Nehesia Allen

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 18th day of March, 2022.



WITNESS 2

Print Name: DORIS M. SOULE

