



Prepared Remarks

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Redistricting Town Hall Meeting

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To the Chairs and Members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is Nicole Robinson, and I am a Policy Analyst at the ACLU of Georgia. I'm fortunate to have grown up in Georgia. My parents moved the family here when I was two years old and raised us in North Fulton County, the county where I still live.

The ACLU of Georgia firmly believes that the right to vote is one of the most sacred civil liberties we have as Americans and that fair maps are crucial to ensuring that every vote counts equally.

Today, I want to talk a little bit about the population changes that have occurred in the Greater Dalton area over the last 10 years and about the importance of fairness in the redistricting process.

The Greater Dalton Area has grown more diverse in the last 10 years. The voting age population has increased by 4% alone. And on top of that, the Black voting age population has grown by 15%. The Asian voting age population has grown by 25%. The Hispanic voting age population has grown by 23%. And the White voting age population decreased by 2%. And overall, the people of color voting age population in the Greater Dalton area has grown by 22%.

These demographic changes must result in maps that adequately reflect the diversity of the Greater Dalton area. The maps that are drawn in 2021 need to take that diversity into account and ensure that voters of color have the same opportunity to elect candidates of their choice as white voters do.

To ensure that the right to vote is protected and that we have fair maps, we also must have a fair process. This means providing more opportunities for public hearings across the state *after* the full Census data has been released in the fall, and having a robust mechanism for citizens to provide feedback on proposed maps. The decisions made during this redistricting process will impact the lives of countless Georgians for the next ten years or more. This is a tremendous responsibility before the legislature, and we urge this body to ensure that the voices of all Georgians are heard and meaningfully considered, because our democracy depends on it.

Thank you all for your time.