



Prepared Remarks
Andrea Young
Executive Director, ACLU of Georgia
Virtual Redistricting Town Hall
July 30, 2021

Good afternoon, Chair Rich, Chairman Kennedy, and members of the Joint Redistricting Committees. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.

I am Andrea Young, the Executive Director of the ACLU of Georgia.

I and members of the ACLU of Georgia team have joined you for each of these hearings across the state. The ACLU of Georgia is a statewide organization with members and supporters in every Georgia County who care deeply about our democracy and the right to vote for every Georgia citizen.

With only one exception, every ACLU staff person who spoke to you was born and raised in this state-- and he finished high school in Georgia and is a product of UGA's law school.

As you begin drawing districts, we wanted to share the data on Georgia's growing diversity. Our state is no longer composed of White and Black citizens, as it was when I was born in Thomasville. The world came to Georgia in 1996-- and loved our great state.

In Georgia diversity is our strength. As we watch the Olympic Games with our families, we remember when the world came to Georgia for the Centennial Olympic Games in 1996. From that time, our diversity has increased so that more than 45% of voting age Georgians identify as Black, Hispanic, or Asian American. Our elected representatives should reflect that diversity.

This increasing diversity is seen across our state over the past decade- as you heard from witness testimony and in the data packets we provided, Georgia's diversity has increased from the coast to the mountains.

In Greater Albany, the Hispanic voting age population has grown 30% and Asian Americans, 40%. In Greater Athens, the Black voting age population has grown by almost 19% and Hispanics by 16%.

In Greater Augusta, the Hispanic voting age population has grown by nearly 42%. In the Greater Brunswick area, the Asian American population has grown 74%. In Greater Cumming, the Asian American voting age population grew by 175% and the Black population 103%.



In Greater Dalton, the Hispanic voting age population increased by 23% and Asian Americans by 25%. In Greater Macon, Asian American voting age population has increased by 27% and Hispanics by 13%. In the Greater Atlanta region, the Black voting age population grew by 24%, Asians 36%, and Hispanics by 10%.

We urge you to draw maps that reflect this reality, maps that ensure that in Georgia – Black Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans – have the same opportunity to elect candidates of their choice as white Americans do.

When you watch the Olympics, look at the great diversity of our medal winners – from the pool, the mat, the courts, to the field and the track – Team USA looks like America. Our elected representatives should too.