



## Prepared Remarks

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Albany Redistricting Town Hall

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Good evening. My name is Kimberly Fountain and I'm the Senior Community Engagement Manager at the ACLU of Georgia. The ACLU of Georgia is a non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting the civil liberties of each and every Georgian. 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.

We are here in Albany today, a community that represents the growing diversity in our state. The diversity of the Greater Albany Area has grown considerably over the last 10 years. For our data estimates, we looked at Dougherty county and the surrounding counties of Terrell, Worth, and Lee.

Although the Voting Age Population has decreased by about 4 percent in the Greater Albany Area, the diversity has grown exponentially.

The Black voting age population has grown by about 4 percent.

The Asian voting age population has grown by almost 40 percent.

The Hispanic voting age population has grown by nearly 30 percent.

And the White voting age population decreased by about 9 percent.

Overall, the people of color voting age population in the Greater Albany area has grown by 5 percent.

The maps that are drawn in 2021 need to take increasing diversity of the Greater Albany Area into account and ensure that voters of color have the same opportunity to elect candidates of their choice as white voters do. Ensuring that voters of color have the same opportunity to elect candidates of their choice as white voters do is key to preserving our democracy and protecting our sacred right to vote.

To further ensure that our sacred right to vote is protected, we must also have a fair redistricting 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 and we urge this body to ensure the redistricting process is fair and that the diversity of our state is adequately and appropriately reflected in the maps.

Thank you for your time.

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