

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Phillip Callais, Lloyd Price, Bruce Odell,
Elizabeth Ersoff, Albert Caissie, Daniel
Weir, Joyce LaCour, Candy Carroll
Peavy, Tanya Whitney, Mike Johnson,
Grover Joseph Rees, Rolfe McCollister,

Plaintiffs,

v.

NANCY LANDRY, in her official
capacity as Secretary of State of the
State of Louisiana.

Defendant.

Civil Action: 3:24-cv-00122

Hon. Carl E. Stewart
Hon. Robert R. Summerhays
Hon. David C. Joseph

**THE STATE’S BRIEF EXPLAINING HOW IT IS COMPLYING WITH
THE SUPREME COURT’S OPINION AND THIS COURT’S INJUNCTION**

On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court affirmed this Court’s judgment that SB8’s congressional map was an unconstitutional racial gerrymander and remanded to this Court for further proceedings. *Louisiana v. Callais*, No. 24–109, 2026 WL 1153054 (U.S. Apr. 29, 2026), *judgment entered*, 2026 WL 1209010 (U.S. May 4, 2026). The next day, this Court clarified that its prior “permanent Injunction ... prohibiting the State of Louisiana ‘from using SB8’s map of congressional districts for any election’ remain[ed] in effect.” ECF 261 at 1 (citation omitted). The Court then indicated that it would give the State an “opportunity to enact a Constitutionally compliant map consistent with the Supreme Court’s opinion ... and this Court’s Injunction” and ordered the State to “file a brief outlining how [it] intends” to enact such a map within three days of this Court’s receipt “of a certified copy of the Supreme

Court’s Judgment.” *Id.* Five days later, on May 5, this Court received that certified copy. *See* ECF 265. Accordingly, the State submits this brief to explain how it is complying with *Callais*, 2026 WL 1153054, and this Court’s Injunction.

Following the Supreme Court’s April 29 decision and this Court’s April 30 order, State officials immediately sprung to action. Hours after this Court issued its April 30 order, the Secretary of State declared an election emergency under Louisiana Revised Statute § 18:401.1(B). *See* Ex. A (Secretary’s emergency declaration), <https://perma.cc/4DKN-4Y6D>. And the Governor issued Executive Order JML 26-038 suspending the congressional primaries “until July 15, 2026 or until such time as determined by the Legislature.” *See* Ex. B (Executive Order JML 26-038), <https://perma.cc/4VWK-LYJK>. All other elections are proceeding as scheduled.

The Governor has “encouraged” the Legislature “to enact new Congressional maps and schedule those elections as soon as practical, including laws governing qualification of candidates, in order to conduct the November 3, 2026 election.” *Id.* The Governor is committed to signing into law any constitutionally compliant map that the Legislature enacts and in doing so in time for the congressional election to occur on November 3, 2026, as required by federal law. *See* 2 U.S.C. § 7.

The Legislature, for its part, is currently in regular session until June 1, 2026, and is already in the process of enacting a constitutionally compliant congressional map and scheduling elections accordingly. *See* La. Const. art. III, § 2(A)(3)(a); *id.* art. XI, §§ 1, 2 (empowering the Legislature to provide for the conduct of all elections, including counting of ballots and absentee voting); 2026 Regular Session Information

Bulletin, House Legislative Services, <https://perma.cc/26K9-JJNE>. Multiple “redistricting” bills are pending. *See* La. House Bill 642 (2026), <https://perma.cc/6SA2-WG3M>; La. Senate Bill 116 (2026), <https://perma.cc/NU4W-L247>. Tomorrow, the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee will start hearing those bills. *See* <https://perma.cc/W7NJ-HMX9>; Lisa Combs, *New Congressional Map on Horizon as Black Caucus Joins Lawsuit Against State*, WAFB9 News, May 6, 2026, <https://perma.cc/WZF7-TXZJ> (“The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee will take public testimony on new map proposals at 9 a.m. on May 8, Sen. Boudreaux said. Options range from keeping two majority Black districts or none at all.”). And if needed, the Legislature may sit for up to thirty additional days as part of an extraordinary session, which a majority of the members of each chamber can call by petition or the Governor can call unilaterally. *See* La. Const. Art. III, § 2(B)–(C).

In past sessions, the Legislature has deliberated and produced congressional maps in as little as seven days and even overridden gubernatorial vetoes of those maps. *See* Senate Bill 8 (2024 First Extraordinary Session of 2024), <https://perma.cc/KCX9-N77R> (Map introduced on January 15, 2024, and signed into law on January 22, 2024); House Bill 1 (2022 First Extraordinary Session), <https://perma.cc/Y75A-XRM2> (Legislature passed map and overrode veto); House Bill 6 (2011 First Extraordinary Session), <https://perma.cc/3VLY-YD5N> (Legislature drew map in regular session and called extraordinary session to enact that map).

As this legislative process unfolds, Defendants commit to keeping the Court informed of any material developments. Defendants will notify the Court (and submit

copies of any final legislation if applicable) within twenty-four hours of (a) the Governor’s signing into law any legislation related to the 2026 congressional election, (b) a call for any extraordinary “redistricting” session, and/or (c) the Legislature’s adjournment sine die without passing relevant legislation. Defendants are committed to a constitutional congressional election in Louisiana in 2026 and have opened the way for the Legislature “to enact a Constitutionally compliant map consistent with the Supreme Court’s opinion ... and this Court’s Injunction.” ECF 261 at 1.

Dated: May 7, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

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