

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

EDWARD GALMON, SR., CIARA HART,
NORRIS H. ANDERSON, and TRAMELLE
HOWARD,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as
Secretary of State for Louisiana,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-00214

Chief Judge Brian A. Jackson

Magistrate Judge Richard L. Bourgeois, Jr.

**MOTION OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF
THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE TO INTERVENE**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 24, Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and Patrick Page Cortez, President of the Louisiana Senate, in their respective official capacities (collectively, the “Proposed Intervenors”), respectfully move this Court to grant them leave to intervene in this action. This lawsuit challenges the congressional redistricting plan that was recently enacted by the Louisiana Legislature. Plaintiffs allege that “[t]he Louisiana State Legislature was well aware of the need to draw a second majority-Black congressional district” and criticize the Legislature’s purported “failure to create a second congressional district in which Black voters have an opportunity to elect their preferred candidates,” which they contend “perpetuates” an “imbalance” in voting opportunity in Louisiana. (Doc. 1, ¶¶ 3, 4, 6.) Plaintiffs ask the Court to declare the plan unlawful, enjoin its use in future elections, and fashion a redistricting plan to govern Louisiana elections to the U.S. House of Representatives. (Doc. 1, p.26 (Prayer for Relief).) And they ask the Court to do all of this without affording the Legislature an opportunity (in the event of a liability ruling) to enact another redistricting plan. (*See id.*)

Plaintiffs named the Louisiana Secretary of State as the sole defendant, but the Louisiana Legislature enacted the challenged plans pursuant to a mandate of the U.S. Constitution, would be subject to any remedy this Court issues, and would lose its redistricting authority if Plaintiffs prevail. As the Legislature's presiding officers, Proposed Intervenors are real parties in interest and should be permitted to intervene. The Court should not entertain allegations of discrimination without affording those most concerned in the allegations, and the requested remedy, to appear and respond. Proposed Intervenors are entitled to intervene as of right: this motion is timely, their numerous interests in the challenged plan are directly implicated in this case, and no current litigant adequately represents those interests. Alternatively, Proposed Intervenors ask the Court to grant permissive intervention. Proposed Intervenors clearly raise issues in common with Plaintiffs' Complaint, their participation would enhance the Court's ability to resolve issues raised in this litigation, and Plaintiffs will not be prejudiced by their participation to respond to allegations regarding the actions of the Legislature. Because all elements of intervention are satisfied, the motion should be granted.

THE LEGAL STANDARD

Rule 24(a) requires a federal court to permit intervention of a non-party who "claims an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the action, and is so situated that disposing of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede the movant's ability to protect its interest, unless existing parties adequately represent that interest," and Rule 24(b) permits a federal court to allow intervention of non-parties that tender "a claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact." Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(a)(2) and (b)(1)(B). "Rule 24 is to be liberally construed" in favor of intervention. *Brumfield v. Dodd*, 749 F.3d 339, 341 (5th Cir. 2014); *see also Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Tex. Alcoholic Beverage Comm'n*, 834 F.3d 562, 565 (5th Cir. 2016) (same). "The inquiry is a flexible one, and a practical analysis

of the facts and circumstances of each case is appropriate.” *Brumfield*, 749 F.3d at 341 (quotation marks omitted). “Intervention should generally be allowed where no one would be hurt and greater justice could be attained.” *Ross v. Marshall*, 426 F.3d 745, 753 (5th Cir. 2005).

ARGUMENT

I. Proposed Intervenors Are Entitled To Intervene as of Right

Proposed Intervenors satisfy the elements of intervention of right. “A party seeking to intervene as of right must satisfy four requirements:

(1) The application must be timely; (2) the applicant must have an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the action; (3) the applicant must be so situated that the disposition of the action may, as a practical matter, impair or impede its ability to protect its interest; and (4) the applicant’s interest must be inadequately represented by the existing parties to the suit.”

Brumfield, 749 F.3d at 341 (citation omitted). Proposed Intervenors satisfy each of these elements.

A. Timeliness

This intervention motion is timely. The complaint was filed on March 30, 2022, the deadline for responsive pleadings has not yet passed, and no meaningful case events have occurred. As a result, “timeliness is not at issue.” *Brumfield*, 749 F.3d at 342; *see Edwards v. City of Houston*, 78 F.3d 983, 1000 (5th Cir. 1996) (finding that delays of “only 37 and 47 days . . . are not unreasonable”); *Ross*, 426 F.3d at 755 (permitting post-judgment intervention); *United States v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, 282 F.R.D. 403, 405 (E.D. Va. 2012) (“Where a case has not progressed beyond the initial pleading stage, a motion to intervene is timely.”); *Mullins v. De Soto Securities Co.*, 3 F.R.D. 432, 433 (W.D. La. 1944) (finding motion to intervene timely during the initial pleading stage).

B. Direct Interest

Proposed Intervenor also “have a ‘direct, substantial, legally protectable interest in the proceedings.’” *Edwards*, 78 F.3d at 1004 (quoting *New Orleans Pub. Serv., Inc. v. United Gas Pipe Line Co.*, 732 F.2d 452, 463 (5th Cir. 1984)). “A ‘legally protectable’ right” for intervention purposes “is not identical to a ‘legally enforceable’ right, such that ‘an interest is sufficient if it is of the type that the law deems worthy of protection, even if the intervenor . . . would not have standing to pursue her own claim.’” *DeOtte v. State*, 20 F.4th 1055, 1068 (5th Cir. 2021) (citations omitted); *see also Wal-Mart Stores*, 834 F.3d at 566 (same). Rather, “[a] movant found to be a ‘real party in interest’ generally establishes sufficient interest.” *League of United Latin Am. Citizens, Council No. 4434 v. Clements*, 884 F.2d 185, 187 (5th Cir. 1989) (“*LULAC, Council No. 4434*”). “[A] ‘real party in interest’ may be ascertained by determining whether that party caused the injury and, if so, whether it has the power to comply with a remedial order of the court.” *Id.* at 187. Proposed Intervenor has multiple interests implicated in this case.

1. *Legislative Role in Redistricting.* Proposed Intervenor are the presiding officers of the legislative chambers that enacted the challenged congressional redistricting plan and, as such, have legally protectable interests in the defense of those plans. *See Karcher v. May*, 484 U.S. 72, 77 (1987) (recognizing that “presiding officers” of state legislature had authority to intervene in lawsuit challenging state legislation). These include an interest in seeking to prevent their votes in favor of the challenged plans from being nullified by an order deeming the plans violative of the Voting Rights Act. *See Ariz. State Leg. v. Ariz. Indep. Redistricting Comm’n*, 576 U.S. 787, 803–04 (2015) (finding Arizona Legislature’s interest in enacting congressional redistricting plan sufficient to create Article III standing)¹; *I.N.S. v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919, 930 & n.5, 931 n.6 (1983)

¹ Because the interest showing for intervention purposes is lower than the injury showing for Article III standing purposes, cases on standing establish what interests are sufficient to establish

(similar holding as to Houses of Congress). Proposed Intervenor also have an interest in defending the injury to the legislative department of Louisiana, and the State itself, that would result from an injunction against the challenged plans. *Arizonans for Official English v. Arizona*, 520 U.S. 43, 65 (1997) (“We have recognized that state legislators have standing to contest a decision holding a state statute unconstitutional if state law authorizes legislators to represent the State’s interests.”); *cf. Swenson v. Bostelmann*, No. 20-cv-459, 2020 WL 8872099, at *1 (W.D. Wis. June 23, 2020) (granting state legislature intervention as of right in election law-related case reasoning that “the Legislature has an interest in the continued enforceability of its laws”).²

These legislative interests are of paramount importance because the United States Constitution affords the Legislature of each state the power to establish “[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives.” U.S. Const., art. I, § 4. By consequence, the Supreme Court’s “precedent teaches that redistricting is a legislative function, to be performed in accordance with the State’s prescriptions for lawmaking,” *Ariz. State Legislature*, 576 U.S. at 808. Plaintiffs acknowledge that the Legislature is responsible for enacting congressional district boundaries. (Doc. 1, ¶¶ 32, 39.) But their suit seeks to override the Legislature’s redistricting choices and transfer redistricting authority from the Legislature to the Court. Indeed, they fail to acknowledge that, in the event of a liability ruling, the Legislature must be afforded “an adequate opportunity” to enact a new plan compliant with the Court’s ruling. *White*

intervention but do not establish what is necessary. *See Virginia House of Delegates v. Bethune-Hill*, 139 S. Ct. 1945, 1955 (2019) (distinguishing standing from intervention).

² Notably, the Nineteenth Judicial District Court recently permitted Proposed Intervenor to intervene in litigation concerning Louisiana’s congressional redistricting plan. *See Exhibit A* (order granting intervention); *cf. Karcher*, 484 U.S. at 82 (affording weight to the fact that the “New Jersey Supreme Court has granted applications of the Speaker of the General Assembly and the President of the Senate to intervene as parties-respondent on behalf of the legislature in defense of a legislative enactment”).

v. Weiser, 412 U.S. 783, 795 (1973) (citation omitted); (*see* Doc. 1, p.26 (asking the Court to adopt a new plan with no such opportunity)). Plaintiffs, in short, make no effort to disguise their goal of displacing the Legislature from redistricting. And that injury to their interests would be especially stark, given that support for those policies was sufficient within the Legislature to override the Governor’s veto. (Doc. 1, ¶¶ 4, 39.)

2. *Diversion of Resources.* Proposed Intervenors also have an interest in avoiding a second redistricting process at all. For that reason, even if the Court were (in the event of a liability ruling) to follow the law and afford the Legislature an opportunity to enact a plan compliant with a liability ruling, Proposed Intervenors’ interests still will be impaired.

“Redistricting is never easy,” *Abbott v. Perez*, 138 S. Ct. 2305, 2314 (2018), but it would be required if this Court finds the redistricting plans unlawful, *see, e.g., Chapman v. Meier*, 420 U.S. 1, 27 (1975). The Louisiana Legislature spent months crafting, deliberating over, seeking public input regarding, and enacting the challenged plans, and the Legislature was required to call a veto override session to enact the plan over the Governor’s veto. (*See* Doc. 1, ¶¶ 30–39.) An injunction in Plaintiffs’ favor would compel Proposed Intervenors and their colleagues to divert time and resources from other pressing legislative items. This is an independent interest supporting intervention.

3. *Legislative Policies and Legal Choices.* Proposed Intervenors have a compelling and justiciable interest in defending and advancing legitimate legislative policies. The Complaint alleges that alternative proposals were offered to the Legislature during redistricting and criticizes the Legislature for choosing differently. (*See, e.g.,* Doc. 1, ¶¶ 4, 31, 34–38.) The Legislature is directly concerned in responding to those and related assertions and defending its policy choices.

Moreover, if this Court ultimately issues a remedy in this case, Proposed Intervenor have an interest in ensuring that such a remedy implements legitimate legislative policies. “[A] court, as a general rule, should be guided by the legislative policies underlying the existing plan.” *Abrams v. Johnson*, 521 U.S. 74, 79 (1997); *see also Perry v. Perez*, 565 U.S. 388, 393 (2012). The Legislative Intervenor have an interest in ensuring that its policy choices guide redistricting overseen by a court and in ensuring this suit does not “defeat the policies behind a State’s redistricting legislation.” *Perry*, 565 U.S. at 394. Likewise, Proposed Intervenor have an interest in advocating their understanding of the legal requirements applicable to redistricting plans, including Voting Rights Act (“VRA”) requirements. *See id.* (“A district court making such use of a State’s plan must, of course, take care not to incorporate into the interim plan any legal defects in the state plan.”). The question in this case is how many majority-minority districts, if any, are required by VRA Section 2 in the congressional plan. That choice is, in the first instance, directed to the Legislature. *See Shaw v. Hunt*, 517 U.S. 899, 917 n.9 (1996) (“States retain broad discretion in drawing districts to comply with the mandate of § 2.”).

Proposed Intervenor have a distinct but related interest in the ultimate adoption of redistricting plans that do not, “without sufficient justification,” “separate[e] . . . citizens into different voting districts on the basis of race.” *Bethune-Hill v. Va. State Bd. of Elections*, 137 S. Ct. 788, 797 (2017) (citation omitted). The purposeful creation of an additional majority-minority district would likely trigger strict scrutiny under the U.S. Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause. *See Cooper v. Harris*, 137 S. Ct. 1455, 1468–69 (2017). The U.S. Supreme Court recently summarily reversed a Wisconsin Supreme Court order adopting legislative redistricting plans creating “one more [majority-minority district] than the current map”—“by reducing the black voting-age population in the other six majority-black districts”—because the plans were obvious

racial gerrymanders. *Wis. Leg. v. Wis. Elections Comm’n*, No. 21A471, 2022 WL 851720, at *1 & n.1, *2–4 (U.S. Mar. 23, 2022). The appeal of the Wisconsin Legislature upheld the right of equal protection of Wisconsin citizens against such race-based discrimination. Plaintiffs appear to be asking this Court to make the error the Wisconsin Supreme Court made. Proposed Intervenor, like the Wisconsin Legislature in *Wisconsin Legislature*, have a compelling interest in ensuring that Louisiana citizens’ equal protection rights are honored in any future redistricting plan.

For all these reasons, Proposed Intervenor is a real party in interest in this case. Plaintiffs allege that the Legislature “caused the injury” and the Legislature “has the power to comply with a remedial order of the court.” *LULAC, Council No. 4434*, 884 F.2d at 187. The Fifth Circuit has recognized that the legislative body that played a “part in creating” challenged districts is a real party in interest. *See id.* (denying intervention of a county in redistricting suit because other state bodies, not the county, had authority to redistrict); *see also Miss. State Conf. of N.A.A.C.P. v. Barbour*, No. 3:11-cv-00159, 2011 WL 1327248, at *3 (S.D. Miss. Apr. 1, 2011) (finding that the Mississippi House of Representatives Apportionment and Elections Committee had the right to intervene in redistricting case); *Theriot v. Parish of Jefferson*, CIV. A. No. 95-2453, 1996 WL 383130, at *4 (E.D. La. July 8, 1996), *on reconsideration*, No. 95-2453, 1996 WL 517695 (E.D. La. Sept. 11, 1996) (denying intervention by neighboring city council because the neighboring city council did not have the power to redraw the councilmanic district lines in question). Plaintiffs’ Complaint repeatedly references the Louisiana Legislature and challenges its legislative choices. (*See, e.g.*, Doc. 1, ¶¶ 30–43.) The Court should not entertain such allegations without affording those most directly concerned the opportunity to respond. And, if the Court ultimately issues an injunction, only the Legislature “has the power to comply with a remedial

order of the court,” *LULAC, Council No. 4434*, 884 F.2d at 187, since no other body is empowered to redistrict Louisiana’s congressional districts.

C. Impairment

The disposition of this action may “impair or impede” Proposed Intervenor’s “ability to protect” the above-described interests. *Wal-Mart Stores*, 834 F.3d at 566. A ruling in Plaintiffs’ favor would effectively bind the Legislature even as a non-party because Plaintiffs ask the Court to enjoin the plan, direct the Legislature to enact a new one, and craft its own plan if the Legislature fails to do so. *See, e.g., Perry*, 565 U.S. at 394; *Upham v. Seamon*, 456 U.S. 37, 41–42 (1982); *Swenson*, 2020 WL 8872099, at *1 (granting state legislature intervention as of right in part because “plaintiffs seek to enjoin certain state election laws, any disposition in their favor would impair the Legislature’s interest.”). The Fifth Circuit has found the impairment element met where proposed intervenors “in essence will be bound by” an adverse ruling, at the expense of their interests. *Edwards*, 78 F.3d at 1005; *see also Stallworth v. Monsanto Co.*, 558 F.2d 257, 268 (5th Cir. 1977). Here, an adverse ruling would: (1) nullify the votes of Proposed Intervenor and a majority of the Legislature’s members on the challenged plan, (2) compel the Legislature to divert time and resources to the already completed task of redistricting, (3) override the Legislature’s discretion and policy choices, (4) potentially impose a judicial plan, and (5) potentially strip the Legislature of its constitutional redistricting role.

D. Adequacy of Representation

Proposed Intervenor’s interests are not adequately represented by existing parties to this action. “The Supreme Court has decided ‘[this] requirement . . . is satisfied if the applicant shows that representation of his interest ‘may be’ inadequate; and the burden of making that showing should be treated as minimal.” *Edwards*, 78 F.3d at 1005 (quoting *Trbovich v. United Mine Workers of Am.*, 404 U.S. 528, 538 n.10 (1972)). Here, the sole Defendant is Louisiana’s Secretary

of State, who has no legal duty or authority to enact redistricting legislation and does not share or represent Proposed Intervenor's interests. No presumption of adequacy arises, and any such presumption is, in any event, overcome.

1. *Government Representation.* This is not a case where “the putative representative is a governmental body or officer charged by law with representing the interests of the absentee.” *Entergy Gulf States La., L.L.C. v. U.S. E.P.A.*, 817 F.3d 198, 203 n.2 (5th Cir. 2016) (citation omitted). In such a case, “a much stronger showing of inadequacy is required.” *Id.* (citation omitted). But, here, the presumption does not apply for at least two reasons.

First, the above-described interests are those of the chambers and members of the Louisiana Legislature as the bodies and persons whose votes are at issue, whose constitutional redistricting authority is concerned, whose policies are challenged, and whose resources (or authority) will be diverted in the event of an adverse ruling. Plaintiffs have not called into question the actions of the Secretary of State, and the Secretary does not share Proposed Intervenor's interests and is not charged by law with representing them. *See* La. R.S. §§ 18:18 and 36:742 (defining Secretary of State's powers and duties).

Second, the presumption of adequacy of representation attaching to government representatives “is restricted . . . to those suits involving matters of sovereign interest.” *Entergy Gulf States*, 817 F.3d at 203 n.2. (citation omitted). The Fifth Circuit “has not required a stronger showing of inadequacy in other cases where a governmental agency is a party.” *Id.*; *see also John Doe No. 1 v. Glickman*, 256 F.3d 371, 380–81 (5th Cir. 2001). Moreover, the above-described institutional and legislative interests extend well beyond any sovereign interest shared by an executive officer or branch. The Secretary did not enact the challenged plans, lacks constitutional authority to do so, has no knowledge of the policy considerations underpinning them, has no

particular interest in defending those policy choices, and will not be tasked with enacting new plans if they are enjoined. *Cf. League of Women Voters of Mich. v. Johnson*, 902 F.3d 572, 579 (6th Cir. 2018) (explaining that district maps do not affect the State Secretary of State, who “just ensures the maps are administered fairly and accurately,” whereas “the contours of the maps affect the Congressmen directly and substantially by determining which constituents the Congressmen must court for votes and represent[.]”). For these reasons, it is common for legislative intervenors in redistricting cases to “intervene[] and assume[] responsibility for defending the plan.” *Bethune-Hill*, 137 S. Ct. at 796; *see also Arrington v. Elections Bd.*, 173 F. Supp. 2d 856, 858, 867 (E.D. Wis. 2001) (permitting intervention as of right by Wisconsin Assembly Speaker and Senate Minority Leader).

Any presumption of adequacy related to the Secretary State’s participation that may arguably apply is overcome, because Proposed Intervenors’ “interest is in fact different from that of” the Secretary and “the interest will not be represented by” the Secretary. *Edwards*, 78 F.3d at 1005 (citation omitted). The Secretary of State’s interest is in administering whatever election rules may apply by law, not in administering the specific plans challenged in this case. La. R.S. § 18:18. And, as noted, none of the distinctly legislative interests implicated in this legislative redistricting case are shared between Proposed Intervenors and the Secretary. *Cf., e.g., Priorities USA v. Benson*, 448 F. Supp. 3d 755, 764 (E.D. Mich. 2020) (“Although the Executive Branch . . . is tasked with enforcing the law and providing the primary defense against lawsuits directed at the State, the Legislature has an interest in the preservation and constitutionality of the laws governing the State.”). There is no reason to believe Proposed Intervenors’ interests will be represented by the Secretary.

2. *Ultimate Objective.* For similar reasons, this is not a case where “the would-be intervenor has the same ultimate objective as a party to the lawsuit.” *Entergy Gulf States*, 817 F.3d at 203 (citation omitted). As explained, the Secretary of State’s objective is in orderly implementation of whatever election rules are in force. Proposed Intervenors, however, intend to defend the challenged plans as well as the policies undergirding them. *Sierra Club v. Espy*, 18 F.3d 1202, 1208 (5th Cir. 1994) (finding no alignment of ultimate objectives because “[t]he government must represent the broad public interest, not just the economic concerns of the timber industry.”).

Regardless, any presumption of adequacy is surmounted here, because Proposed Intervenors’ “interests diverge from the putative representative’s interests in a manner germane to the case.” *Entergy Gulf States*, 817 F.3d at 204 (quoting *Texas v. United States*, 805 F.3d 653, 662 (5th Cir. 2015)). A proposed intervenor can overcome the presumption of adequacy by “specify[ing] the particular ways in which their interests diverge from the” putative representative’s. *Texas*, 805 F.3d at 663.

In this case, Proposed Intervenors have interests in preserving the effectiveness of their votes, avoiding another costly redistricting process that would divert resources from other important legislative matters, defending the challenged plans, and preserving the policies underpinning those plans, including the policies pertinent to VRA compliance. *Cf. Priorities USA*, 448 F. Supp. 3d at 764–65 (explaining that, because “the laws that the Legislature enacted, that the Legislature is tasked with designing, and that impact the manner in which members the Legislature are chosen will be essentially declared void” by an adverse ruling, this is not “a situation where the interest of the Legislature is only peripherally relevant and where the main contests in the case have no effect on that interest.”). The Secretary of State’s principal interest is in election administration. These are specific differences akin to those that have been found

sufficient to overcome the presumption of adequacy in governing precedent. *See, e.g., Trbovich*, 404 U.S. at 539 (“[T]he Secretary has an obligation to protect the vital public interest in assuring free and democratic union elections that transcends the narrower interest of the complaining union member.” (quotation marks omitted)); *Brumfield*, 749 F.3d at 346 (“The state has many interests in this case—maintaining not only the Scholarship Program but also its relationship with the federal government and with the courts that have continuing desegregation jurisdiction. The parents do not have the latter two interests; their only concern is keeping their vouchers.”); *Texas*, 805 F.3d at 663 (finding sufficient divergence, despite shared interests in upholding law, where the United States had an interest in an expansive legal interpretation and the proposed intervenors sought to obtain the benefits on the law); *see also Northeast Ohio Coal. for Homeless and Serv. Emp. Int’l Union, Local 1199 v. Blackwell*, 467 F.3d 999, 1008 (6th Cir. 2006) (recognizing that “the Secretary [of State of Ohio]’s primary interest is in ensuring the smooth administration of the election, while the State [proposed intervenor] and General Assembly have an independent interest in defending the validity of Ohio laws . . .”).

These differences are germane to this case. Because the Secretary’s principal concern is orderly elections, Proposed Intervenors’ interests are unlikely to be given priority over election-administrative considerations. “Even if the Secretary is performing his duties, broadly conceived, as well as can be expected, [Proposed Intervenors] may have a valid complaint about the performance of ‘[their] lawyer.’” *Trbovich*, 404 U.S. at 539. The Secretary of State’s interests in election administration would not be impaired by an injunction forbidding the use of the challenged plan, an order requiring a new redistricting, a remedial plan departing from the Legislature’s VRA-compliance goals or other policies, or a court-conducted redistricting—so long as all of that were to occur in time to administer the next scheduled legislative elections. The

divergence of interests is therefore directly implicated in the defense of this action, any presumption of adequacy is overcome, and Proposed Intervenor—because all intervention elements are satisfied—should be afforded intervention as a matter of right.

II. Proposed Intervenor Should Be Permitted To Intervene

In the alternative, Proposed Intervenor request that the Court permit them to intervene in its discretion under Rule 24(b), which authorizes the Court to allow intervention of a non-party who “has a claim or defense that shares with the main action a common question of law or fact.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(1)(B). “Even if not warranted as a matter of right, the Court has broad discretion to allow permissive intervention where, as here, the parties seeking to intervene assert claims with a common question of fact or law in connection with the main action.” *Hanover Ins. Co. v. Superior Lab. Servs., Inc.*, 179 F. Supp. 3d 656, 667 (E.D. La. 2016) (footnote omitted). “Intervention is appropriate when: ‘(1) timely application is made by the intervenor, (2) the intervenor’s claim or defense and the main action have a question of law or fact in common, and (3) intervention will not unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties.’” *Franciscan All., Inc. v. Azar*, 414 F. Supp. 3d 928, 934 (N.D. Tex. 2019). “Federal courts should allow intervention when no one would be hurt and the greater justice could be attained.” *Wal-Mart Stores*, 834 F.3d at 565 (citation omitted).

The elements of permissive intervention are clearly satisfied here. The motion is timely, for reasons set forth above. *Martinez v. United States*, No. 05-cv-055, 2005 WL 8155760, at *5 (W.D. Tex. Dec. 12, 2005) (“The timeliness standards for permissive intervention are the same as those for intervention of right.”). And there is no question that Proposed Intervenor intend to assert defenses with a common question of fact or law in connection with the main action. Indeed, every assertion Proposed Intervenor intend to proffer relates to the same questions of fact or law raised in the complaint. Plaintiffs contend that the congressional plan contravenes Section 2, and

Proposed Intervenor contend the plan complies with the law. *See League of Women Voters of Mich.*, 902 F.3d at 577 (finding intervenors in redistricting case satisfied this element where they intended to defend the challenged plan); *Hunter v. Bostelmann*, No. 21-cv-512, 2021 WL 3856081, at *1 (W.D. Wis. Aug. 27, 2021) (granting permissive intervention by Wisconsin Legislature in redistricting case); *Baldus v. Members of Wis. Govt. Accountability Bd.*, No. 11-cv-562, 2011 WL 5834275, at *1 (E.D. Wis. Nov. 21, 2011) (granting permissive intervention by congress members because “[w]hile, in the eyes of the law, the intervenors may have no greater interest than the average citizen-of-age in the outcome of this case, as a matter of logic, the intervenors are much more likely to run for congressional election and thus have a substantial interest in establishing the boundaries of their congressional districts.”); *Carter v. Degraffenreid*, 266 A.3d 1208, 2021 WL 4735059, at *1 n.2 (Pa. Commw. Ct. Oct. 8, 2021) (permitting legislative leaders to intervene in redistricting litigation). Nor will intervention prejudice existing parties. Plaintiffs have squarely placed the Legislature’s work at issue and cannot claim injury from Proposed Intervenor’s defense of that work.

Additionally, various factors that typically guide courts’ discretion favor intervention. First, “[i]n determining whether to allow a permissive intervention, a factor to be considered is whether the intervenor is likely to contribute significantly to the development of the underlying factual issues.” *Grumpy, Inc. v. Unidentified Wrecked & Abandoned Sailing Vessel*, No. 93-cv-2621, 1995 WL 41711, at *2 (E.D. La. Jan. 30, 1995). In this case, the Secretary of State did not participate in the adoption of the challenged plan and has no personal knowledge of the policies it effectuates. Proposed Intervenor, by contrast, were directly involved in the redistricting and know the analyses that informed choices relevant to this case. Second, for reasons explained, intervention “would not prejudice the existing parties by confusing the issue properly before the Court.”

Aderholt v. Bureau of Land Mgmt., No. 7:15-cv-00162, 2016 WL 3365252, at *6 (N.D. Tex. Mar. 24, 2016); *see Hunter v. Bostelmann*, No. 21-cv-512, 2021 WL 4206654, at *2 (W.D. Wis. Sept. 16, 2021) (“Now that the court has granted these motions to intervene [to the state legislature, individual congressmen, state governor, and state residents with malapportionment claims before the state supreme court], the existing parties represent the spectrum of legitimate interests in [the State’s] decennial redistricting.”). Third, Proposed Intervenor have, for reasons set forth above, met their “minimal burden of showing current representation is inadequate” for purposes of the permissive intervention test. *Det. Equip. Installation, LLC v. C.A. Owens & Assocs., Inc.*, No. 20-cv-2342, 2021 WL 6496785, at *6 (E.D. La. Mar. 24, 2021).

Finally, intervention will not “unduly delay or prejudice” the rights of existing parties. *Franciscan All.*, 414 F. Supp. 3d at 934. The participation of legislative leaders is common in redistricting litigation; North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Alabama present recent examples of this. *See, e.g., League of Women Voters of Ohio v. Ohio Redistricting Comm’n*, __ N.E.2d __, 2022 WL 110261, at *11 & n.8 (Ohio 2022) (explaining that, although state statute made the redistricting commission the only necessary respondent, the “better practice” is to name the commission’s members, which included legislative members); *Carter v. Chapman*, __ A.3d __, 2022 WL 702894, at *3 (Pa. Feb. 23, 2022) (recognizing intervention of presiding officers of Pennsylvania General Assembly); *Harper v. Hall*, 868 S.E.3d 499, 513 (N.C. 2022) (legislative leaders as principal defendants); *Caster v. Merrill*, No. 2:21-cv-1536, 2022 WL 264819, at *7 (N.D. Ala. Jan. 24, 2022) (recognizing intervention of legislative leaders). Proposed Intervenor’s participation in this case will provide greater assurance to the Court and the public that a fulsome set of arguments is marshalled in defense of the plans—an essential component of our adversarial system of justice. In those cases, participation of members of the legislature did not lead to delay

or prejudice, and there is no reason to believe it would do so here. *See, e.g., Carter*, 2002 WL 702894, at *5 (“We would like to extend our gratitude to the parties and their counsel who participated in that hearing. Their submissions and advocacy have greatly aided this Court”); *Caster*, 2002 WL 264819, at *2 (recognizing that parties and counsel “developed an extremely extensive record on an extremely expedited basis” and provided “able argument”).

All relevant facts and considerations therefore favor permissive intervention.

CONCLUSION

The Court should grant the Motion of the Presiding Officers of the Louisiana Legislature to Intervene to participate in this suit.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 6, 2022, this document was filed electronically on the Court's electronic case filing system. Notice of the filing will be served on all counsel of record through the Court's system. Copies of the filing are available on the Court's system.

/s/ Michael W. Mengis

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Louisiana Senate*

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EXHIBIT A

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NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

JAMES BULLMAN, KIRK GREEN, STEPHEN
HANDWERK, DARRYL MALEK-WILEY,
AMBER ROBINSON, and POOJA PRAZID,

Plaintiffs,

v.

R. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as
Louisiana Secretary of State,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. C-716690

Div.: C

Sec.: 24

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE, POWER
COALITION FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE,
DOROTHY NAIRNE, EDWIN RENÉ SOULÉ,
ALICE WASHINGTON, and CLEE EARNEST
LOWE,

Plaintiffs,

v.

R. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as
Louisiana Secretary of State,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. C-716837
(consolidated with
Civil Action No. C-716690)

Div.: C

Sec.: 25

STIPULATION REGARDING PARTY APPEARANCES AND LEGISLATIVE
INTERVENTION

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

Plaintiffs James Bullman, Kirk Green, Stephen Handwerk, Darryl Malek-Wiley, Amber Robinson, and Pooja Prazid (the “*Bullman* Plaintiffs”); Plaintiffs National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Louisiana State Conference, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, Dorothy Nairne, Edwin René Soulé, Alice Washington, and Clee Earnest Lowe (the “*NAACP* Plaintiffs”); Intervenor-Plaintiffs Michael Mislove, Lisa J, Fauci, Robert Lipton, and Nicholas Mattei (the “*Math/Science* Intervenors”); Defendant Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin (the “*Secretary*”); and Proposed Intervenor-Defendants Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives Clay Schexnayder and President of the Louisiana Senate Patrick Page Cortez (the “*Legislative* Intervenors”), by and through their undersigned counsel, respectfully stipulate to the following issues.



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East Baton Rouge Parish
Clerk of Court

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First, on the issue of party appearances, all parties request the Court to allow the respective parties to be represented by their counsel without the need for in-person or video presence by any party, at any hearing or setting in the case, unless directed in advance by the Court or requested reasonably in advance by another party for purposes of providing testimony or on other reasonable grounds specified.

Second, Legislative Intervenors agree that they will not use or seek to use any provision of law that allows for a legislative continuance or any similar remedy or protection afforded specifically to legislators to postpone, delay, stay, or continue any hearing or conference or other setting in this matter.

Third, the parties do not object to Legislative Intervenors' intervention in this matter.

[SIGNATURE BLOCK ON NEXT PAGE]

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Dated: March 28, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

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Representatives, and of Patrick Page Cortez,
in his Official Capacity as President of the
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the above and foregoing has been electronically mailed this date to all known counsel of record on this 28th day of March, 2022.

/s/ Darrel J. Papillion
Darrel J. Papillion

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- 8 -



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NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

JAMES BULLMAN, KIRK GREEN, STEPHEN HANDWERK, DARRYL MALEK-WILEY, AMBER ROBINSON, and POOJA PRAZID, Plaintiffs, v. R. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Louisiana Secretary of State, Defendant.	
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE, POWER COALITION FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE, DOROTHY NAIRNE, EDWIN RENÉ SOULÉ, ALICE WASHINGTON, and CLEE EARNEST LOWE, Plaintiffs, v. R. KYLE ARDOIN, in his official capacity as Louisiana Secretary of State, Defendant.	

Civil Action No. C-716690

Div.: C Sec.: 24

Civil Action No. C-716837
(consolidated with
Civil Action No. C-716690)

Div.: C Sec.: 25

ORDER PURSUANT TO STIPULATION
REGARDING PARTY APPEARANCES AND LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTION

CONSIDERING THE STIPULATION filed on behalf of Plaintiffs James Bullman, Kirk Green, Stephen Handwerk, Darryl Malek-Wiley, Amber Robinson, and Pooja Prazid (the “*Bullman* Plaintiffs”); Plaintiffs National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Louisiana State Conference, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, Dorothy Nairne, Edwin René Soulé, Alice Washington, and Clee Earnest Lowe (the “*NAACP* Plaintiffs”); Intervenor-Plaintiffs Michael Mislove, Lisa J, Fauci, Robert Lipton, and Nicholas Mattei (the “*Math/Science* Intervenors”); Defendant Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin (the “*Secretary*”); and Proposed Intervenor-Defendants Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives Clay Schexnayder and President of the Louisiana Senate Patrick Page Cortez (the “*Legislative* Intervenors”):

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the respective parties can be represented by their counsel without the need for the parties’ in-person or video presence, at any hearing or setting in the case,



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unless the party is needed for testimony or a specific reason or basis articulated, in advance, by the Court or another party.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the request of Proposed Intervenor-Defendants Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives Clay Schexnayder and President of the Louisiana Senate Patrick Page Cortez is hereby GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court approves the terms of the parties' stipulation.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED, this 28 day of March, 2022, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



HONORABLE DONALD R. JOHNSON, 19TH JDC

**PLEASE PROVIDE NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES
PURSUANT TO LSA-CCP ART. 1913**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THIS DAY A COPY OF
THE WRITTEN REASONS FOR JUDGMENT /
JUDGMENT / ORDER / COMMISSIONER'S
RECOMMENDATION WAS MAILED BY ME WITH
SUFFICIENT POSTAGE AFFIXED.
SEE ATTACHED LETTER FOR LIST OF RECIPIENTS.

DONE AND MAILED ON APRIL 01, 2022



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

EDWARD GALMON, SR., CIARA HART,
NORRIS HENDERSON, AND TRAMELLE
HOWARD,

Plaintiffs,

v.

R. KYLE ARDOIN, IN HIS OFFICIAL
CAPACITY AS LOUISIANA SECRETARY
OF STATE,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-00214

Judge Brian A. Jackson

Magistrate Judge Richard L. Bourgeois, Jr.

**ANSWER OF INTERVENORS TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

For their Answer to Plaintiffs' Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief (ECF No. 1, the "Complaint"), Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and Patrick Page Cortez, President of the Louisiana Senate, in their respective official capacities (collectively, the "Intervenors") respond as follows. All allegations not expressly admitted herein are denied.

1. Intervenors admit that Plaintiffs bring this action to challenge Louisiana's new congressional districting plan, House Bill 1, but deny that the plan violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

2. Intervenors state that the demographics of the State of Louisiana speak for themselves. Intervenors deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 2 of the Complaint.

3. Intervenors deny the allegations in paragraph 3 of the Complaint.

4. Intervenor's admit that House Bill 1 was enacted into law after the Louisiana Legislature voted to override the veto of Governor John Bel Edwards. The allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 4 of the Complaint purport to characterize and quote from statements by Governor Edwards, which speak for themselves. Intervenor's deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 4 of the Complaint.

5. Intervenor's deny the allegations in paragraph 5 of the Complaint.

6. Intervenor's deny the allegations in paragraph 6 of the Complaint.

7. Intervenor's deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any requested relief, and deny any remaining allegations in paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. Intervenor's admit that the Middle District of Louisiana has jurisdiction over this matter, but deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any relief, and deny any remaining allegations in paragraph 8 of the Complaint.

8. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because "a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred" in this district.

9. Intervenor's admit the allegations in paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

10. Intervenor's admit that the Middle District of Louisiana has jurisdiction over this matter, but deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any relief, and deny any remaining allegations in paragraph 10 of the Complaint.

II. PARTIES

11. Intervenor's are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the first, second, and third sentences of paragraph 11 of the

Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. Intervenor deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

12. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the first, second, and third sentences of paragraph 12 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. Intervenor deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

13. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the first, second, and third sentences of paragraph 13 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. Intervenor deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

14. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the first, second, and third sentences of paragraph 14 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. Intervenor deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

15. Intervenor admit the allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 15 of the Complaint. The remaining allegations in paragraph 15 of the Complaint purport to quote from and characterize sections of the Louisiana election code and the decision in *Hall v. Louisiana*, 974 F. Supp. 2d 978 (M.D. La. 2013), which speak for themselves.

III. LEGAL BACKGROUND

16. Paragraph 16 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required.

17. Paragraph 17 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required.

18. Paragraph 18 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent paragraph 18 of the Complaint is interpreted to contain any factual allegations, any such allegations are denied.

19. Paragraph 19 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required.

20. Paragraph 20 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required.

21. Paragraph 21 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required.

22. Paragraph 22 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Louisiana's 2011 Congressional Redistricting

23. Intervenors admit the allegations in the first and last sentences of paragraph 23 of the Complaint. Intervenors admit that the Louisiana Senate voted 25 to 13 to approve the 2011 congressional plan, but deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 23 of the Complaint.

24. Intervenors admit that bills proposing congressional redistricting plans were introduced during the 2011 First Extraordinary Session, and that those bills speak for themselves.

25. The allegations in paragraph 25 of the Complaint purporting to describe various proposed congressional maps and districts introduced in 2011 without identifying those bills by number are vague and undefined, Intervenors are without knowledge of their precise meaning, and they therefore deny the same.

26. The allegations in paragraph 26 of the Complaint purporting to describe various amendments to congressional maps and districts introduced in 2011 without identifying those amendments by number are vague and undefined, Intervenor is without knowledge of their precise meaning, and they therefore deny the same.

27. Intervenor denies the allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 27 of the Complaint. The remaining allegations in paragraph 27 of the Complaint purport to describe vaguely defined “parts” and neighborhoods of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Intervenor is without knowledge of their precise meaning, and they therefore deny the same.

B. The 2020 Census

28. Intervenor admits that the allegations in paragraph 28 of the Complaint purport to summarize the results of the 2020 Census, which speak for themselves.

29. Intervenor admits that the allegations in paragraph 29 of the Complaint purport to summarize the results of the 2020 Census, which speak for themselves.

C. Louisiana’s 2022 Congressional Redistricting

30. Intervenor admits that the House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees held a joint public meeting in Baton Rouge on November 16, 2021. The remaining allegations in paragraph 30 of the Complaint purport to quote from and characterize statements by former Representative Ted James and members of the public, which speak for themselves.

31. Intervenor admits that Louisianians were given many opportunities to provide public comment on the redistricting process and deny any remaining allegations in paragraph 31 of the Complaint.

32. Intervenor denies the allegations in paragraph 32 of the Complaint.

33. Intervenor admits that the House passed House Bill 1, which speaks for itself, and sent it to the Senate for further consideration and passage, but deny that the House vote occurred on February 11, 2022. The remaining allegations in paragraph 33 of the Complaint purport to describe House Bill 1, Senate Bill 5, and the 2011 congressional map, and the similarities and differences between those maps, which speak for themselves.

34. Intervenor admits that during the 2022 First Extraordinary Session, bills proposing congressional redistricting plans were introduced. The remaining allegations in paragraph 34 of the Complaint purport to quote from and characterize those bills and statements by Senator Fields, which speak for themselves. Intervenor denies any remaining allegations in paragraph 34 of the Complaint.

35. Intervenor admits that amendments to House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 5 were not adopted by the House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees, but deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 35 of the Complaint.

36. Intervenor denies the allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 36 of the Complaint. The remaining allegations of paragraph 36 of the Complaint purporting to characterize “critic[s]” by “[o]pponents” of Senate Bill 5 and House Bill 1 Intervenor are vague, Intervenor is without knowledge of their precise meaning, and they therefore deny the same.

37. Intervenor admits that House Bill 1, as amended, and Senate Bill 5, as amended, were passed by both chambers of the Legislature on February 18, 2022, but deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 37 of the Complaint.

38. Intervenor admits that Governor Edwards vetoed House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 5 on March 9, 2022. The remaining allegations in paragraph 38 of the Complaint purport to characterize

and quote from statements by Governor Edwards, which speak for themselves. Intervenor deny any remaining allegations in paragraph 38 of the Complaint.

39. Intervenor admit that House Bill 1 was enacted into law after the Legislature voted on March 30, 2022, to override the veto by Governor Edwards, but deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 39 of the Complaint.

D. Louisiana's New Congressional Plan

40. Intervenor deny the allegations in paragraph 40 of the Complaint.

41. Intervenor admit that East Carroll Parish, Madison Parish, and Tensas Parish are located within the Fifth Congressional District. The remaining allegations in paragraph 41 of the Complaint purport to describe the demographics of those parishes and of the Fifth Congressional District, which speak for themselves.

42. Intervenor deny the allegations in paragraph 42 of the Complaint.

43. Intervenor deny the allegations in paragraph 43 of the Complaint.

E. Racial Polarization in Louisiana

44. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 44 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. To the extent the allegations in paragraphs 44 purport to characterize legal opinions, those opinions speak for themselves.

45. The allegations in paragraph 45 of the Complaint contain only legal conclusions, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Intervenor deny the allegations in paragraph 45 of the Complaint.

46. The allegations in paragraph 46 of the Complaint contain only legal conclusions, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Intervenor deny the allegations in paragraph 46 of the Complaint.

47. The allegations in paragraph 47 of the Complaint contain only legal conclusions, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Intervenor deny the allegations in paragraph 47 of the Complaint.

48. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 48 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

49. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 49 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

F. Voting-Related Racial Discrimination in Louisiana

50. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 50 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

51. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 51 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

52. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 52 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

53. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 53 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

54. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 54 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

55. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 55 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

56. Intervenors are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 56 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

57. Intervenors are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 57 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

58. Intervenors are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 58 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

59. Intervenors are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 59 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

60. Intervenors are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 60 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

61. Intervenors are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 61 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

62. Intervenors admit that Congress passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and that Louisiana was a covered jurisdiction under Section 4(b), but are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 62 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. Intervenors admit the remaining allegations in paragraph 62 of the Complaint.

63. Intervenors are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 63 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. Intervenors admit that the U.S. Department of Justice has previously objected to voting-related changes in Louisiana jurisdictions, and that those objections speak for themselves. Intervenors deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 63 of the Complaint and affirmatively state that preclearance can be denied under Section 5 or liability found under Section 2 without a

finding of intentional “efforts...to dilute, limit, or otherwise adversely impact minority voting access and strength.”

64. Intervenor^s admit that the U.S. Department of Justice has previously objected to voting-related changes in Louisiana jurisdictions, and that those objections speak for themselves. Intervenor^s deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 64 of the Complaint and affirmatively state that preclearance can be denied under Section 5 or liability found under Section 2 without a finding of intentional “efforts...to dilute, limit, or otherwise adversely impact minority voting access and strength.”

65. Intervenor^s deny the allegations in paragraph 65 of the Complaint.

66. Intervenor^s admit that prior redistricting plans have been challenged under the VRA, but deny the allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 66 of the Complaint. The remaining allegations in paragraph 66 of the Complaint purport to characterize the proceedings in *Major v. Treen*, 574 F. Supp. 325 (E.D. La. 1983), which speak for themselves. Intervenor^s deny any remaining allegations in paragraph 66 of the Complaint.

67. Intervenor^s admit that the U.S. Department of Justice objected to the redistricting plan proposed by the Legislature in 1981, and that the plan did not become effective after that objection, which speaks for itself. Intervenor^s deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 67 of the Complaint.

68. Intervenor^s admit that the U.S. Department of Justice objected to the redistricting plan proposed by the Legislature in 1991, and that the objection speaks for itself. Intervenor^s deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 68 of the Complaint.

69. Intervenor^s deny the allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 69 of the Complaint. Intervenor^s admit that the Legislature sought preclearance of its redistricting plan in

2001 in a federal action in the D.C. District Court, and that the Legislature enacted a revised redistricting plan that redrew the disputed districts. The remaining allegations in paragraph 69 of the Complaint purport to characterize those proceedings, which speak for themselves.

70. Intervenor deny the allegations in paragraph 70 of the Complaint.

71. Intervenor admit that the U.S. Department of Justice has objected to voting-related changes in Louisiana, and that those objections speak for themselves. The remaining allegations in paragraph 71 of the Complaint purport to characterize the proceedings in *Clark v. Roemer*, which speak for themselves. Intervenor affirmatively state that liability can be found under Section 2 without a finding of intentional “efforts...to dilute, limit, or otherwise adversely impact minority voting access and strength.”

72. The allegations in paragraph 72 of the Complaint purport to characterize legislation passed by the Legislature in 1998 and in 2009, and objections by the U.S. Department of Justice to that legislation, which speak for themselves. Intervenor deny any remaining allegations in paragraph 72 of the Complaint.

73. The allegations in the first sentence of paragraph 73 of the Complaint purport to characterize a plan adopted by the Legislature in 2001, which speaks for itself. The remaining allegations in paragraph 73 of the Complaint purport to characterize the proceedings in *St. Bernard Citizens for Better Gov't v. St. Bernard Par. Sch. Bd.*, No. CIV.A. 02-2209, 2002 WL 2022589 (E.D. La. Aug. 26, 2002), which speak for themselves.

74. Intervenor are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 74 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same. Intervenor affirmatively state that preclearance can be denied without a finding of discriminatory intent.

75. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 75 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

76. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 76 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

77. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 77 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

G. Ongoing Effects of Louisiana's History of Discrimination

78. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 78 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

79. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 79 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

80. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 80 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

81. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 81 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

82. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 82 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

H. Racial Appeals in Louisiana Politics

83. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 83 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

84. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 84 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

85. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 85 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

86. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 86 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

87. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 87 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

88. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 88 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

I. Black Officeholders in Louisiana

89. Intervenor admits the allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 89 of the Complaint. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 89 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

90. Intervenor denies the allegations in the last sentence of paragraph 90 of the Complaint. Intervenor is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 90 of the Complaint, and, therefore, deny the same.

91. The allegations in paragraph 91 of the Complaint purport to quote from the decision in *Terrebonne Par. Branch NAACP v. Jindal*, 274 F. Supp. 3d 395 (M.D. La. 2017), which speaks for itself.

92. Intervenor admits the allegations in paragraph 92 of the Complaint.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

**Violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act
52 U.S.C. § 10301**

93. Intervenor incorporates their responses to paragraphs 1-93 of the Complaint as if fully re-stated herein.

94. Paragraph 94 of the Complaint contains only legal conclusions to which no response is required.

95. Intervenors deny the allegations in paragraph 95 of the Complaint.

96. Intervenors deny the allegations in paragraph 96 of the Complaint.

97. Intervenors deny the allegations in paragraph 97 of the Complaint.

98. Intervenors deny the allegations in paragraph 98 of the Complaint.

99. Intervenors deny the allegations in paragraph 99 of the Complaint.

100. Intervenors deny the allegations in paragraph 100 of the Complaint.

ANSWER TO PRAYER FOR RELIEF

The Prayer for Relief contains a summary of the relief Plaintiffs seek, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Intervenors deny that Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief sought.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Intervenors assert the following defenses to the Complaint, without assuming the burden of proof or persuasion where such burden rests on Plaintiffs:

1. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
2. Intervenors reserve the right to assert such other additional defenses as may be appropriate at a later time.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered the Complaint, Intervenors request that Plaintiffs' Complaint be dismissed with prejudice, with costs taxed to Plaintiffs.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael W. Mengis

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* *Pro hac vice motions to be filed*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 6, 2022, this document was filed electronically on the Court's electronic case filing system. Notice of the filing will be served on all counsel of record through the Court's system. Copies of the filing are available on the Court's system.

/s/ Michael W. Mengis

Michael W. Mengis, LA Bar No. 17994

*Counsel for Proposed Legislative Intervenors,
Clay Schexnayder, in his Official Capacity as
Speaker of the Louisiana House of
Representatives, and of Patrick Page Cortez,
in his Official Capacity as President of the
Louisiana Senate*

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

EDWARD GALMON, SR., CIARA HART,
NORRIS HENDERSON, AND TRAMELLE
HOWARD,

Plaintiffs,

v.

R. KYLE ARDOIN, IN HIS OFFICIAL
CAPACITY AS LOUISIANA SECRETARY
OF STATE,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-00214

Judge Brian A. Jackson

Magistrate Judge Richard L. Bourgeois, Jr.

[PROPOSED] ORDER

Upon consideration of the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, Clay Schexnayder, and President of the Louisiana Senate, Patrick Page Cortez, in their official capacities (collectively, the “Proposed Intervenors”), motion to intervene, and considering the grounds presented, it is hereby

ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED; and further

ORDERED that the Proposed Intervenors are permitted to participate in the above captioned matter as Intervenor-Defendants;

SO ORDERED.

This ____ day of _____ 2022.

United States District Judge