

**NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE, STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**NUMBER C-716690**

**SECTION 24**

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

**VERSUS**

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

**\*\*\*\*\*CONSOLIDATED WITH\*\*\*\*\***

**NUMBER C-716837**

**SECTION 25**

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

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**MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE**

**NOW INTO COURT**, through undersigned counsel, appearing solely for the purpose of this motion, comes Defendant, R. Kyle Ardoin, in his official capacity as the Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana, who respectfully moves this this Court to order the consolidation of the above-captioned cases for the reasons set forth herein.<sup>1</sup>

1.

The petition in *Bullman et al. v. Ardoin*, Docket No. C-716690, was filed on March 10, 2022, and it alleges that the current configuration of Louisiana's congressional districts violate the Louisiana and United States Constitutions, as well as asking hits Court to implement a new congressional district plan that complies with the United States and Louisiana Constitutions, among other requests for relief.

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<sup>1</sup> A memorandum is not necessary for this motion, pursuant to Uniform Rule 9.9(g)(8).

2.

The petition in *NAACP Louisiana State Conference et al. v. Ardoin*, Docket No. C-716837 was filed on March 15, 2022 and alleges the current configuration of Louisiana's congressional districts violates the United States Constitution and asks this Court to adopt and implement a congressional district plan that complies with the U.S. Constitution.

3.

Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure article 1561, a court may order consolidation of actions where "common issues of fact and law predominate."

4.

Defendant Secretary of State maintains that common issues of fact and law predominate here.

5.

The petitions in both of the above-captioned cases challenge the current makeup of Louisiana's congressional districts, as well as requesting the court to adopt new districts.

6.

The petitions in both cases present common issues of fact, including recent information from the Census, including population and demographic information, as well as recent action by the Legislature and Governor.

7.

The petitions in both cases present common issues of law, including Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

8.

The petitions in both cases allege that their harm is the result of an impasse between the Legislature and Governor regarding the adoption of Congressional districts.

9.

The petitions in both cases allege that it is not likely that the Legislature will adopt new Congressional districts using the 2020 Census data in time to conduct the 2022 Congressional elections.

10.

The petitions in both cases allege that the current Congressional districts are malapportioned and violate the Constitution, as well as additional relief.

11.

The plaintiffs in both cases include individuals who claim to be registered voters in the State of Louisiana.

12.

The defendant is the same in both cases, the Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin.

13.

The consolidation of these cases would improve judicial efficiency and allocation of resources for the Court, as well as for the State defendant.

14.

The failure to consolidate these cases could potentially result in outcomes that could conflict with each other from two different judges in this Court.

15.

Consolidation of these cases would not violate La. C.C.P. art. 1561 because it would not cause jury confusion, prevent a fair and impartial trial, give one party an undue advantage, or prejudice the rights of any party.

16.

Counsel for Defendant has contacted counsel for Plaintiffs in both cases, and the Intervenor in Docket No. 716690, and counsel for Plaintiffs and Intervenor have stated they have no objection to the consolidation of these suits.

WHEREFORE, Defendant, R. Kyle Ardoin, in his official capacity as the Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana, respectfully asks this Court to consolidate the above-captioned cases in the first-filed action for discovery, motions, hearings and trial, in accordance with La. C.C.P. art. 1561.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFF LANDRY  
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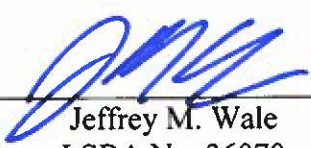
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*Counsel for the Secretary of State*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the above and foregoing exceptions with proposed rule to show cause has on this date been served upon all known counsel of record by electronic mail at the email address provided.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.

  
Jeffrey M. Wale  
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NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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**ORDER**

Considering the foregoing Motion to Consolidate by Defendant, R. Kyle Ardoin, in his official capacity as the Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above-captioned cases, *Bullman et al. v. Ardoin*, Docket No. C-716690 and *NAACP Louisiana State Conference et al. v. Ardoin*, Docket No. C-716837 be consolidated in Section 24 of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE DONALD R. JOHNSON  
SECTION 24  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

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