



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of the Solicitor General

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*Washington, D.C. 20530*

January 24, 2025

Honorable Scott S. Harris  
Clerk  
Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: Louisiana v. Phillip Callais, et al., No. 24-109 & Press Robinson, et al. v. Phillip Callais, et al., No. 24-110

Dear Mr. Harris:

These consolidated cases concern a constitutional racial-gerrymandering challenge to Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District (CD6), which the Louisiana legislature redrew following a district court ruling that Louisiana's previous map likely violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), 52 U.S.C. 10301. In the decision under review, the three-judge district court found that race predominated in the drawing of the new CD6's lines and further determined that the State's use of race did not satisfy strict scrutiny.

On December 23, 2024, the United States filed a brief as amicus curiae in support of neither party. The brief took no position on the district court's finding of racial predominance at the first step of the racial-gerrymandering inquiry. The brief primarily argued that the district court applied the wrong legal framework in holding that CD6 fails strict scrutiny. Specifically, the brief argued that the earlier VRA litigation provided the State with a strong basis in evidence to believe that it needed to draw another majority-minority district to achieve Section 2 compliance, and that the court below erred in requiring the State to prove that CD6 as drawn would have satisfied the preconditions for VRA liability if it had been offered as an illustrative district by a Section 2 plaintiff.

On January 16, 2025, the United States filed a motion for leave to participate in the oral argument as amicus curiae and for enlargement of the argument time. The Court has not yet acted upon that motion.

Following the change in Administration, the Department of Justice has reconsidered the government's position in these cases. The purpose of this letter is to notify the Court that the previously filed brief no longer represents the position of the United States. In addition, the United States is withdrawing its pending motion to participate in the oral argument.

I would appreciate it if you could circulate this letter to the Members of the Court.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Harris  
Acting Solicitor General

cc: See Attached Service List

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