

Dear Rhonda,

Thank you for all that you've done, and all that you've fought for on the commission. As someone who spent hours watching the previous commission members debate the congressional, state senate, and state house maps, your commitment to principle stood out. So many of us know what you've gone through and are so thankful to you for doing the right thing. Your character stood out in a group of people who are willing to sell their soul to get their personal, partisan, and sometimes petty agenda passed.

I want to first thank you for speaking against the splitting up of communities of interest all across the state – purely to help democrats in the name of partisan fairness. Even when the lawyers told them that partisan fairness is BELOW communities of interest, the VRA, and equal protection laws, they don't care. They just sliced and diced our communities of interest left and right. This is a chance to stop them and give us one single map that isn't manipulated and crafted to just hand control over to the democrats.

Please, please, please don't let them do that again!

I write to you today to encourage you to continue to stand up to these commissioners, and to please stop the partisan score-chasing by some fellow commissioners. We have seen the first senate, first house, first congressional, and second house map be carved up aggressively. I would ask that you please, please, please fight for this last chance for the new senate map.

Dr. Handley made clear that the partisan numbers would be higher this time. With VRA and COIs higher on the list of criteria, I ask that you support communities of interest and fight the inevitable partisan changes.

I thank you for who you are and how you've committed to serve. Now I ask that you fight for this final map. We need you.

Thank you, and God bless.



Barbara VanZant