



IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 24, 2022

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas H. Bostwick

410-887-3196

MEDIA ADVISORY

Federal Judge Approves Baltimore County Council's New Redistricting Map

Towson, MD – Today, U.S. District Judge Lydia Kay Griggsby issued from the bench an Opinion and Order approving the County Council's new Redistricting Map. The Plaintiffs in the Redistricting litigation sought an injunction to prevent the County from conducting future elections under the Council's 2021 Redistricting Plan. Judge Griggsby granted the Plaintiffs' motion and ordered the County to file a new Redistricting Plan. As part of the Order, the Court directed the County to "adopt a redistricting map that ... includes ... an additional County District in which Black voters otherwise have an opportunity to elect a representative of their choice and that comports with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act ... and any other relevant constitutional and statutory requirements, by March 8, 2022."

The Council submitted a new Redistricting Plan to the Court that included a Redistricting Map that maintains an important majority-minority district in District 1, maintains a strong 61% majority-Black district in District 4, and creates a new majority-minority district in District 2. Significantly, the Black population in District 2 increases to over 41%, the white population decreases to 45%, and no demographic constitutes a 50+% majority.

In rejecting the Plaintiffs' objections and accepting the Council's new Plan, the Court agreed with the Council's premise that the newly-constituted District 2 enhances the already-existing "coalition" and "cross-over" voting to enable Black citizens a meaningful opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice, while also keeping District 4 at a substantial Black majority to enable Black voters in that district to continue to elect a candidate of their choice.

"On behalf of my Council colleagues, we are very satisfied the Court recognized the commitment to diversity and hard work of the Council in approving our latest Redistricting Plan," said Baltimore County Council Chairman Julian E. Jones, Jr. "As we have seen all over the country recently, redistricting is an extremely difficult process, and my colleagues and I worked together in crafting a Map that was acceptable to the Court, while also staying true to the will of our communities."

Mr. Jones stated further, "I am especially gratified that the Map Judge Griggsby approved today offers Black and other minority candidates a more level playing field and provides better opportunities to get elected than ever before in this County's history."

For more information related to the County Council, please visit the Council's website at <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/index.html> or contact the County Council at 410-887-3196.

###