

## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING CONGRESSIONAL MAP SPLITTING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9**

**WHEREAS**, the 114<sup>th</sup> Tennessee General Assembly concluded on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026; following the General Assembly's adjournment, Governor Bill Lee announced on May 1, 2026, that a special legislative session would be convened on May 5, 2026, to review the congressional district map for Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2026, the United States Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Louisiana v. Callais*, weakening Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which limits the ability to use the Voting Rights Act to challenge maps that dilute the political power of minority voters; on May 5, 2026, the Supreme Court chose to finalize the *Louisiana v. Callais* decision; and

**WHEREAS**, during the special legislative session from May 5-7, 2026, the redrawn Tennessee congressional map was introduced, debated, and passed by the Tennessee Legislature, and signed into law by the Governor, with public input and participation in the session severely limited by restrictive rules set by the Republican supermajority in the General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Congressional map splits U.S. Congressional District 9, which includes Memphis, into three separate districts and groups each portion of the city with other counties and areas of the state that extend into rural counties in West and Middle Tennessee, with the expressed intent to make the congressional representation from Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives a 9-0 Republican majority; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Congressional District 9 has been the sole majority Black and Democratic district in the state of Tennessee for 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the rushed special legislative session to redraw the congressional district map deliberately splits the City of Memphis into gerrymandered districts which have vastly different priorities, demographics, needs, and physical landscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, the newly drawn districts seek to further disenfranchise Black and Democratic voters by purposely diluting their voting strength in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Memphis City Council does hereby vehemently oppose the newly redrawn Tennessee congressional map, as it has damaging effects on the City of Memphis's voters and Congressional representation, undermines the priorities of the City of Memphis, and disrespects the history, work, sacrifice, and martyrdom of civil rights and voting rights advocates from the past through the present day.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Memphis City Council does hereby condemn the actions of Tennessee Representatives and Senators who voted in favor of the new congressional map and Governor Bill Lee for choosing partisan loyalty over civic duty and citizen welfare.

Sponsors:  
JB Smiley, Jr.  
Janika White