

A local activist group is seeking to prevent newly-drawn boundaries for Arkansas' four congressional districts from going into effect. The group Arkansans for a Unified Natural State announced on Sunday it will begin the process of collecting signatures in an effort to overturn the new map, through a process known as a veto referendum or "popular veto." Last week the legislature gave final approval to two identical versions of the same redrawn map. It has generated widespread criticism for splitting Pulaski County into three separate districts, and allegedly diluting the vote of minority populations. Local officials, including Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott Jr. and North Little Rock Mayor Terry Hartwick have criticized the redrawn map. Gov. Asa Hutchinson can either sign the bills into law, veto them, or let them become law without his signature.