

Advocates for fair redistricting say state officials may not be working to preserve the voting power of minority groups in Arkansas. A statement from the ACLU of Arkansas and the state chapter of the NAACP warns that new maps for the state's House and Senate districts may not fairly represent all Arkansans. ACLU of Arkansas executive director Holly Dickson says that has been an issue in the past.

News01

0:21

"...dilute their power."

The state Board of Apportionment, comprised of the governor, attorney general and secretary of state, released new House and Senate district maps in a meeting last week. Gov. Asa Hutchinson said the new maps increase the number of House districts in which people from minority groups are in the majority. But, Dickson says that may not necessarily be true.

News02

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"...should be calculated."

Dickson says her team is continuing to use Census data to look for disparities included in the state's new House and Senate district maps. The maps are currently open for public comment, after which state officials can give them final approval later this month.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas and the state chapter of the NAACP are urging state officials to re-draw district lines in a fair and equitable manner. The two groups issued a statement following new state House and Senate maps were released late last week. ACLU of Arkansas executive director Holly Dickson says the goal is to ensure the voting power of minority communities.

News03

0:26

“...voters of color.”

Dickson says the new state legislative districts could potentially seek to isolate communities of color, which could then dilute their vote. She says that could have disastrous consequences for already underserved communities in the state.

News04

0:18

“...already face.”

The state Board of Apportionment, which is made up of the governor, secretary of state and attorney general, released new proposed maps for the state’s House and Senate districts late last week. The maps are subject to a 30-day public comment period, after which they face a final vote by the board.