

70th Louisiana Legislature Convenes Monday

At 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 9, 2012, the 70th Legislature convenes, three months shy of the 200th anniversary of Louisiana gaining statehood.

The House will be called to order by its senior ranking member, Representative Jeff Arnold, who was elected in 2002. Following the opening preliminaries and the judging of qualifications and elections of members, 105 elected members will take the oath of office. The speaker, speaker pro-tempore, and clerk of the House will also be elected.

The group of 105 members includes 58 Republicans, 45 Democrats, one Independent and one with no party affiliation. This is a decrease of 1 Democrat, a gain of 1 Republican. The number of members not affiliated with either major party remains the same.

From a demographic standpoint, there are 93 males and 12 females (a decrease of 3 females); 81 Caucasians, 23 African-Americans, and 1 Hispanic in the class. Thirty-one members will begin their first term, eight members who were elected at some time during the last term, and 15 members who are term-limited after completion of this term.