

Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
Redistricting Public Hearing
Lafayette, Louisiana
2021-2022 Interim
October 26, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. in the Atchafalaya Ballroom at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Lafayette, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Malinda B. White

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Sharon W. Hewitt, chairman
Senator R. L. Bret Allain, II
Senator Jimmy Harris
Senator Barry S. Milligan, vice chairman
Senator Edward J. "Ed" Price
Senator Mike Reese
Senator Glen Womack
Senator Patrick Page Cortez, president

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Tanner D. Magee

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Franklin J. Foil
Senator Gregory W. Tarver, Sr.

HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Lorrienne Lucas, attorney
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant
Claire Stevenson, attorney
Michelle Fontenot, clerk of the House of Representatives

SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew R. DeVille, attorney
Angela Bizette, secretary
Yolanda J. Dixon, secretary of the Senate
J.W. Wiley, first assistant secretary of the Senate
Suzanne G. Morain, second assistant secretary of the Senate

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Dr. William Blair, demographer
John Harrington, House student intern
Clarence Russ, House sergeant at arms
Daniel Leming, House sergeant at arms
Louis Carral, Senate sergeant at arms
John Keller, Senate sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

Presentation on census data, redistricting terms and law, and information regarding existing district maps and 2020 Census population for the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Public Service Commission, Congress, Supreme Court, and Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate

Dr. William Blair, demographer, discussed Louisiana's 2020 Census apportionment data, the P.L. 94-171 data, and the population and demographic trends from a PowerPoint presentation, Exhibit A, "Redistricting in Louisiana - October 26, 2021, Lafayette, Louisiana", which is in the committee records.

Matthew R. DeVille, attorney for the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, discussed redistricting terms, concepts, and law from Exhibit A.

Claire Stevenson, attorney for the House Committee on Judiciary, discussed equal population based on federal law from Exhibit A.

Lorrienne Lucas, attorney for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, discussed discrimination against minorities and The Voting Rights Act of 1965 from Exhibit A.

Michelle Fontenot, clerk of the House of Representatives, discussed redistricting criteria from Exhibit A.

J.W. Wiley, first assistant secretary of the Senate, discussed malapportionment data for the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) from Exhibit A.

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, discussed malapportionment data for Congress, the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives, and House malapportionment data for the Acadiana region from Exhibit A.

Yolanda J. Dixon, secretary of the Senate, discussed malapportionment data for the Senate and the Senate malapportionment data for the Acadiana region from Exhibit A.

Chairman Stefanski discussed the timeline of the redistricting roadshow hearings from Exhibit A. He stated that information presented at the meeting could be found on the Legislature of Louisiana's redistricting website.

Public comment

Senator Fred H. Mills, Jr., Senate District No. 22, 1019 Periou Street, Parks, LA 70582, (337) 316-2396, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Representative Blake Miguez, House District No. 49, 4617 Highway 14, New Iberia, LA 70560, (337) 465-2783, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Representative Mike Huval, House District No. 46, 110 North Main Street, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517, (337) 332-3331, spoke for information only.

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, House District No. 48, 209 West Main Street, 4th Floor, Suite 403, New Iberia, LA 70560, (337) 373-4051, explained why Senate District No. 22 should be kept intact based on the redistricting criteria in Joint Rule No. 21 of the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives and Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Neil "Sam" Melancon, 1217 Hollier Road, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517, (337) 654-0945, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Kathryn Sadasivan, NAACP and Legal Defense Fund, 530 Wilder Place, Shreveport, LA 71104, (337) 600-9546, spoke for information only on the House, Senate, and Congress.

Troy Wayman, One Acadiana, no address provided, (251) 421-2948, spoke for information only.

Chester Cedars, parish president, St. Martin Parish Government, P.O. Box 9, St. Martinville, LA, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Larry Richard, no witness card provided, spoke for information only.

Amy Thibodeaux, Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce, 532 Southeast Court Circle, Crowley, LA 70526, (337) 277-4950, spoke for information only on Congress.

Raymond "Shoe-Do" Lewis, District 22, 1230 Angie Street, New Iberia, LA 70560, (337) 577-7284, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Carlton Jones, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 766-9289, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Kelly Garrett, VOTE, 110 Travis Street, Lafayette, LA, (404) 457-8765, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Keith Baudin, 1045 Oscar Guidry Drive, St. Martinville, LA 70582, (337) 909-9737, spoke for information only on the Senate.

George Swift, Chamber SWLA, P.O. Box 3110, Lake Charles, LA 70602, (337) 309-0870, spoke for information only.

Freddie DeCourt, mayor, city of New Iberia, no address provided, (337) 369-2360, spoke for information only.

Jessie Bellard, parish president, St. Landry Parish Government, 118 South Court, Opelousas, LA 70570, (337) 351-1482, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

M. Christian Green, League of Women Voters, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (404) 520-9326, spoke for information only on Congress.

Chris Tayzin, chairman, St. Martin Parish Council, Port Street, St. Martinville, LA, (337) 273-3563, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Consuela Gaines, Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), 110 Travis, Suite 140, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 212-5074, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Jan-Scott Richard, mayor, city of Scott, 125 Lions Club, Scott, LA 70583, 349-7591, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Melissa Flournoy, Louisiana Progress, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 936-7200, spoke for information only.

Joseph Pearson, 525 Clause Drive, Breaux Bridge, LA 70517, (337) 849-8440, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Kacie Scott, 106 Maurice Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke for information only.

Dr. Jordan Landry, 608 Marceaux Road, Kaplan, LA 70548, (337) 258-8620, spoke for information only.

Patrick Norris, Acadiana Regional Airport, 3011 West Admiral Doyle Drive, New Iberia, LA, (337) 367-2844, spoke for information only.

Craig Romero, Port of Iberia, 4611 South Lewis, no city or state given, (337) 388-2393, spoke for information only on the Senate.

Rhonda Kim Gleason, no address provided, Lafayette, LA, (337) 347-1616, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 6 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

There were no other matters.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman John M. Stefanski
Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: