

Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
Redistricting Public Hearing
Lake Charles, Louisiana
2021-2022 Interim
December 15, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

(Audio loss due to technical difficulties from 0:09 - 8:57.)

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. in Tritico Theatre at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Barry Ivey
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 Franklin J. Foil
Senator Barry S. Milligan, vice chairman
Senator Edward J. "Ed" Price
Senator Mike Reese
Senator Glen Womack

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Tanner D. Magee

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator R. L. Bret Allain, II
Senator Jimmy Harris
Senator Gregory W. Tarver, Sr.

HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew R. DeVille, attorney
Laur'en M. Cimino, 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
Daniel Leming, House sergeant at arms
Louis Carral, Senate sergeant at arms
John Keller, Senate sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

Presentation on 2020 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 - December 15, 2021, Lake Charles, Louisiana", which is in the committee records.

Michelle Fontenot, clerk of the House of Representatives, discussed redistricting terms, concepts, and law, and 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.

Matthew R. DeVille, attorney for the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, 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 Southwest region from Exhibit A.

Yolanda J. Dixon, secretary of the Senate, discussed malapportionment data for the Senate and the Senate malapportionment data for the Southwest 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

J. Frankie Hyers, Jefferson Parish, 509 Houma Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 261-4670, spoke for information only.

Sampson "Poncho" LeJeune, town of Lake Arthur, 515 Mill Avenue, Lake Arthur, LA 70549, (337) 329-0547, spoke for information only on the House.

Dustin Granger, 605 Mill Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (225) 202-6749, spoke for information only on the House, Senate, and Congress.

Donald Fondel, 1806 2nd Avenue, Lake Charles, LA, (337) 912-4384, spoke for information only on the Senate and Congress.

Megan Duhon, Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce, no address provided, (337) 581-2959, spoke for information only on the Senate and Congress.

Creed Romano, Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development, 100 Rue de L'Acadie, Jennings, LA 70546, (337) 821-5534, spoke for information only.

Keely McGibboney, One Acadiana, 804 East St. Mary Boulevard, Lafayette, LA, (337) 356-4378, spoke for information only.

Eric Brassard-Bueno, 521 Ford Street, Unit B, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 717-0402, spoke for information only on the House, Senate, BESE, PSC, and Congress.

Carolyn Woosley, 117 Pithon Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 842-3100, spoke for information only.

Adam Moore, 2786 East Tank Farm Road, no city or state given, spoke for information only.

George Swift, SWLA Economic Development Alliance, 1321 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA, (337) 433-3632, spoke for information only.

Breon Robinson, The 337 Vote Project, 1329 North Grace Street, no city or state given, (337) 936-7211, spoke for information only on Congress.

Michael Pernick, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, no address provided, (917) 790-3597, spoke for information only on Congress.

Mark Ifland, Beauregard Parish DPEC, 181 Kerry Street, DeRidder, LA, (337) 348-9361, spoke for information only on the House and Congress.

Jake Shaheen, Jake Shaheen and America, 3545 Greenwich Boulevard, no city or state given, (337) 419-8697, spoke for information only on the House and Congress.

Luke Dupré, Acadia Parish Republican Party, 21 Henrietta Drive, Crowley, LA, (337) 250-2577, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Lydia Larce, 1716 Wendell Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 515-1832, spoke for information only on the House, Senate, BESE, PSC, Congress and Courts.

Paul Geary, Citizenship, 2205 Gerstner Memorial, no city or state given, (337) 540-3449, spoke for information only.

Debra Ramirez, NLEAN, 1313 6th, Lake Charles, LA, (337) 508-8343, spoke for information only on the House, BESE, and Courts.

Natalie Lawton, 3066 Choupique Road, Sulphur, LA 70665, (337) 485-9229, spoke for information only.

Lois Booker Malvo, North Lake Charles, 717 South Franklin Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 912-4262, spoke for information only.

Dominique Darbonne, SWLA Community Member/The Vessel Project, 373 West Oak Lane, Lake Charles, LA, spoke for information only.

Pastor Larry Miles, Abraham, 1863 Alvin Acres Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70607, (337) 309-5075, spoke for information only.

Andres Nava, 618 Moss Street, Lake Charles, LA, (337) 526-8706, spoke for information only.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1. 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: 7 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman John M. Stefanski
Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: