



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Louisiana Legislature today announced the schedule of joint statewide public meetings by the House and Senate Governmental Affairs committees on the upcoming redistricting process. Meetings will begin February 17 and end March 1. A meeting schedule follows this news release.

The committees will show current district maps with the new Census population figures for current districts and discuss which districts no longer meet population guidelines. It is important for the public to participate in these meetings and make their opinions known so that the committees may consider public input as plans are drafted and discussed.

In an effort to allow for maximum participation in the process, all meetings will be streamed live over the Internet. Further, comments and questions can be submitted at [http://house.louisiana.gov/H\\_Redistricting2011/](http://house.louisiana.gov/H_Redistricting2011/) .

House and Governmental Affairs Chairman Rick Gallot said it is necessary to begin the meetings as soon as the Census data is available due to the time constraints the legislature faces with this process.

"We expect to receive the Census data during the first week of February," Gallot said. "Over a three week period we will hold statewide meetings and will probably convene a three-week special session in late March to adopt our plans. With the regular legislative session beginning on April 25, this will give the legislature a short time to complete the redistricting process as the plans must be submitted to the U. S. Justice Dept. for pre-approval. The department then has at least 60 days to either approve or reject our plan. Additionally, qualifying for most offices affected by redistricting begins September 6."

(more)

## **add one - redistricting meetings**

The legislature is required to re-draw congressional, legislative, public service commission, and BESE districts.

Due to the lack of population growth over the last 10 years, Louisiana is expected to lose a congressional seat. Current estimates also suggest that federal and state districts will change due to the population shifts in the state, including those resulting from the hurricanes in 2005.

**##**

### **SCHEDULE OF REDISTRICTING MEETINGS 2011**

#### **February**

Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Northshore (Covington or Mandeville)
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	New Orleans
Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Houma
Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Baton Rouge
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Lake Charles
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Lafayette
Monday, 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Shreveport

#### **March**

Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Monroe
Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 p.m.	Alexandria

**Meeting locations will be provided as soon as they are confirmed.**