



**LOUISIANA
LEGISLATIVE
BLACK CAUCUS**

CHAIRPERSON

REP. JOSEPH BOUIE
New Orleans, District 97

VICE CHAIRPERSON

REP. RANDAL GAINES
LaPlace, District 57

FIRST VICE CHAIRPERSON

REP. JIMMY HARRIS
New Orleans, District 99

SENATE WHIP

SEN. YVONNE DORSEY-COLOMB
Baton Rouge, District 14

SECRETARY

REP. EDWARD "TED" JAMES
Baton Rouge, District 101

TREASURER

REP. PATRICIA HAYNES SMITH
Baton Rouge, District 67

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

REP. KENNY R. COX
Mansfield, District 23

PARLIAMENTARIAN

REP. VINCENT J. PIERRE
Lafayette, District 44

CHAPLAIN

REP. PATRICK O. JEFFERSON
Arcadia, District 11

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

KATRINA R. JACKSON
Monroe, District 16

SENATORS

REGINA BARROW
Baton Rouge, District 15

WESLEY BISHOP
New Orleans, District 4

GERALD BOUDREAU
Lafayette, District 24

TROY BROWN
Napoleonville, District 2

TROY CARTER
New Orleans, District 7

JEAN PAUL "JP" MORRELL
New Orleans, District 3

KAREN CARTER PETERSON
New Orleans, District 5

GREGORY TARVER
Shreveport, District 39

REPRESENTATIVES

JOHN BAGNERIS
New Orleans, District 100

BARBARA WEST CARPENTER
Baton Rouge, District 63

GARY CARTER
Algiers, District 102

A.B. FRANKLIN
Lake Charles, District 34

CEDRIC GLOVER
Shreveport, District 4

JEFFEREY "JEFF" HALL
Alexandria, District 26

MARCUS HUNTER
Monroe, District 17

SAMUEL L. JENKINS, JR.
Shreveport, District 2

EDMOND JORDAN
Baton Rouge, District 29

TERRY C. LANDRY, SR.
New Iberia, District 96

RODNEY LYONS, SR.
Harvey, District 87

C. DENISE MARCELLE
Baton Rouge, District 61

DUSTIN MILLER
Opelousas, District 40

BARBARA NORTON
Shreveport, District 3

EDWARD J. PRICE
Gonzales, District 58



POST OFFICE BOX 44003
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
(225) 342-7342
FAX: (225) 342-0364
email: caucusb@legis.la.gov
www.llbc.louisiana.gov

PRESS RELEASE

August 8, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chairman: Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.

Executive Director: Cynthia Buggage

(225) 342-7342 Office • (225) 376-5940 Fax

Commemorating the 51st Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act

Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC), Commemorates the 51st Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one of the most noted and effective pieces of civil rights legislation that has impacted the history of the United States. After the murder of voting rights activists in Philadelphia and Mississippi gained national attention as a result of the vicious attacks of violence and terrorism which became the impetus to persuade for President Lyndon Johnson and Congress to overcome Southern legislators' resistance to effective voting right legislation.

President Johnson signed this legislation into law on August 6, 1965. Section 2 of the Act, which closely followed the language of the 15th amendment, applied a nationwide prohibition against the denial or abridgment of an individual's right to vote on the literacy tests on a nationwide basis. This legislation was operative in helping to break barriers of discrimination and disenfranchisement – especially in the southern states.

However, three years after the Supreme Court decided to dismantle key provisions of the Voting Rights Act. There are still some refusing to allow a vote on a renewed and strengthened Voting Rights Act and for this reason we urge action to ensure that every citizen has the right to vote and that every "vote" is counted as cast.

In addition, we are also encouraging "inactive" voters to become "active" voters in the upcoming elections. Louisiana Citizens can update their personal information with their local Voters Registrar Office prior to the November elections to ensure that there are no challenges on Election Day.

###

Established in 1977, the primary purpose of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus is to raise the quality of life for those underrepresented, the indigent and working people through legislation, education and economic development.