



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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HOUSE TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUMS ON REDISTRICTING

First Forum to be Held December 15 in Baton Rouge

The Louisiana House of Representatives will hold a series of nine regional pre-Census public forums on the Redistricting process beginning in mid-December and ending in February.

The purpose of the forums is to explain the process of redistricting, raise awareness of the importance of every citizen participating in the census, and to engage public participation in the Census and redistricting process.

The forums will be held in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport, Slidell, and Thibodaux.

In order to allow maximum public participation, all meetings will be held after work hours beginning at 5:30 p.m. and will be streamed live via the House Internet site at <http://house.louisiana.gov/>.

The first forum will take place on Tuesday, December 15, in House Committee Room 6 at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. As stated above, the forum will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Presentations will be made by House staff on the Census, redistricting law, population trends in the region where the meeting is being held, current Census estimates for the region, and the timeline for 2011 Redistricting as it affects congressional, Public Service Commission, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), state Supreme Court, and state House of Representatives.

(more)

add one - Public Forums

Taken every 10 years, the Census kicks-off April 1, 2010. It affects political representation on the federal, state and local levels and directs the allocation of billions of federal dollars in government funding to the states. After the census is complete, the number of Congressional seats for each state is determined according to population or reapportionment. Once this is complete, redistricting begins. The legislature will redraw congressional, legislative, Public Service Commission, BESE and Supreme Court districts according to population changes.

Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on census data, or more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period. Census data also guides local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals and schools.

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

For information regarding the redistricting process, general and meeting information, please visit the Louisiana House Redistricting Web page at http://house.louisiana.gov/H_Redistricting2011/.

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