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Officials, residents weigh in on redistricting

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HOUMA — A chorus of about 300 Lafourche and Terrebonne public officials, business leaders and area residents voiced a clear message Monday morning to the state legislators who will redraw Louisiana's political boundaries: keep Lafourche and Terrebonne together.

Members of the House and Senate Governmental Affairs committees held a public hearing Monday to gather input from residents about the redistricting process, an event many saw as an opportunity to show solidarity between the two parishes before legislators meet in March to redraw the state's congressional districts.

Voting districts are redrawn every 10 years to adjust for population shifts reflected in the U.S. census.

The 2010 census figures show Louisiana's population grew less than all but two other states over the past 10 years. As a result, it will lose one of its seven congressional seats.

State House and Senate leaders have scheduled a special session for March 20 to redraw Louisiana's voting districts.

The two committees have scheduled public hearings in Houma, Covington, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Shreveport, Monroe and Alexandria.

Local residents have raised concerns that the Houma-Thibodaux area could lose its dominant spot as the center of voting strength in the 3rd Congressional District. Locals have also expressed concern about how state legislative districts might be realigned and whether Terrebonne and Lafourche might each get their own senator.

For the full story, read Tuesday's Daily Comet or Courier or check back at www.dailycomet.com or www.houmatoday.com.

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