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**REPUBLICAN DELEGATION WELCOMES  
SENATOR RICK WARD  
TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY**

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA** -- State Senator Rick Ward (R - District 17) has switched to the Republican Party, making him the eighty-fifth member of the Republican Delegation and giving the Senate Republican Delegation a two-thirds majority. An attorney, Senator Ward has a proven conservative record and is a member of the Louisiana and American Bar Associations as well as the National Rifle Association.

Senator Danny Martiny, chairman of the Senate Republican Delegation, remarks on his colleague's decision, "Senator Ward's decision to join our Delegation comes as no surprise to me. Although he has only been in the Senate for a little over two years, I have come to heavily rely upon his vote as a good conservative legislator. He has a bright future in the Republican Party, and I am proud to be his friend and colleague."

"As our Delegation continues to grow, we are excited to welcome our new members like Senator Ward. He has strong conservative values and is a pro-business legislator," stated Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Republican Delegation.

Senator Ward was first elected to the State Senate in 2011. His district encompasses parts of St. Helena, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, Assumption, and St. Martin Parishes. Although only in his freshman term, Sen. Ward has proven himself by serving as the vice-chairman of the Senate Natural Resource Committee. He is also a member of the Insurance and Judiciary A Committees.

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