

# 2011 REDISTRICTING AND 2012 ELECTIONS IN LOUISIANA

September 2012

### **Final Congressional Redistricting Plan**



Signed into law by Gov. Bobby Jindal on April 14, 2011.

### **2012 Projections (5R, 1D)\***

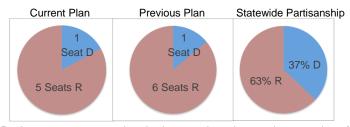
Louisiana has among the most consistently imbalanced districts in the nation, with five districts that are at least 63% Republican and one district that is 70% Democratic.

The state's top two system has done little to threaten incumbents, including a 30-race streak of incumbent wins in 1998-2006. William Jefferson's criminal record led to his 2008 defeat, with Democrats regaining his seat in 2010. Absent such drama, expect a 5-1 Republican edge for the decade. Two Republican incumbents — Jeff Landry and Charles Boustany — are facing off in District 3 due to Louisiana losing a district.

\* See details and the fair voting alternative on the following pages.

### **Louisiana's Redistricting Map Compared to the Previous Lines**

### **New Redistricting Plan Distorts Political Landscape**



Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election.

### Competition and Voting Rights in Louisiana

	<b>Current Plan</b>	Previous Plan
District Competition	0% (0/6)	0% (0/7)
African American Voting Strength*	32%	20%

<sup>\*</sup> Measures the percentage of African American eligible voters living in districts where they are a majority of eligible voters. Voters might not choose to vote for a candidate of their same race.

# Redistricting Process in Louisiana

The Louisiana state legislature is responsible for redistricting. Due to Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana had been the third slowest growing state in the nation and Louisiana lost a congressional seat. Katrina also substantially altered the distribution of the population, meaning that voters were no longer equally distributed among the districts.

Louisiana's redistricting process was fraught with conflict, with almost ten different maps submitted to the legislature for consideration. The legislature ultimately passed a plan pitting two Republican incumbents against one another, moderate Rep. Boustany against Tea Party backed Rep. Landry.

On August 1, 2011, the DOJ pre-cleared the redistricting map, in spite of a joint letter from the NAACP, the Legislative Black Caucus, and the Urban League pointing out that the map failed to create a possible majority-minority district in Shreveport.

### U.S. House Elections in Louisiana

Louisiana is the only state in the nation that will not hold a congressional primary before November. All candidates run on the November ballot, and any candidate winning more than half the votes is declared a winner. In any race without such a winner, a December runoff between the top two candidates will take place.

This system provides a chance for more choice in November, but the state's elections are usually not competitive. In 2010, every election was won by more than 20%. Republicans also cemented a lopsided advantage, winning six of seven seats.

No woman has won a House seat since 1988. Although two Asian Americans won recently, African American Cedric Richmond is the delegation's only person of color.



# **2012 ELECTIONS IN LOUISIANA**

September 2012

Listed below are the partisanship changes and projections for Louisiana's new congressional districts. Incumbents are listed according to the districts in which they are running in 2012, with the 2010 district partisanship connected to that incumbent.

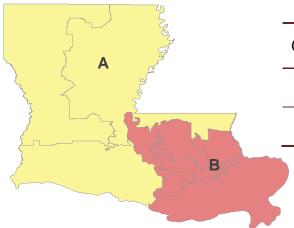
District	Incumbent	Party	Year First Elected	Last Election Winning %	2010 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Partisanship (D% / R%)	2012 District Projection	2012 Election Projection
1	Steve Scalise	R	2008 (Special)	79%	23 / 77	23 / 77	Strong R	Safe R
2	Cedric Richmond	D	2010	65%	71 / 29	70 / 30	Strong D	Safe D
3	C. Boustany J. Landry	R R	2004 2010	100% 64%	32 / 68 34 / 66	31 / 69	Strong R	Safe R
4	John Fleming	R	2008	62%	37 / 63	37 / 63	Strong R	Safe R
5	Rodney Alexander	R	2002	79%	34 / 66	34 / 66	Strong R	Safe R
6	Bill Cassidy	R	2008	66%	38 / 62	28 / 72	Strong R	Safe R
7	ELIMINATED (C.Boustany)	R						



# LOUISIANA REDISTRICTING & THE FAIR VOTING ALTERNATIVE

September 2012

### Louisiana's Fair Voting Plan



Super-District (w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	# of Seats	Pop. Per Seat	% to Win*	Partisanship (D% / R%)	Partisan Projection: 4R, 2D
A (CDs - 3,4,5)	3	755,594	25%	34 / 66	2R, 1D
B (CDs - 1,2,6)	3	755,530	25%	40 / 60	2R, 1D

\* plus 1 vote

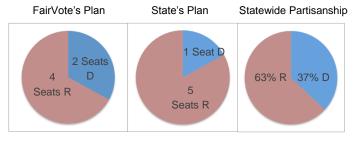
### **How Does Fair Voting Work?**

Fair voting describes American forms of proportional representation that uphold electoral traditions and are based on voting for candidates. They ensure meaningfully contested elections and provide voters with more accurate representation.

Instead of six individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into two larger "super-districts" with three representatives each. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a quarter of voters in a three-seat district will win a seat.

### Comparing a Fair Voting Plan to Louisiana Redistricting Plan

### More Accurate Political Representation\*



#### \* Partisan percentages and projections are based on an interpretation of the 2008 presidential election similar to the Partisan Voting Index. They do not account for other candidate-based factors like incumbency.

### Meaningful Elections and Representation

	FairVote's Plan	State's Plan
District Competition	100% (2/2)	0% (0/6)
Shared Representation*	100% (2/2)	0% (0/6)

<sup>\*</sup> Shared representation indicates districts represented by both Democrats and Republicans – which enables more accurate congressional representation for most voters.

# **Benefits of a Fair Voting Plan**

**Shared representation of different views:** Supporters of both major parties elect candidates everywhere, with accurate balance of that district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice: Better chance for third parties, independents and major party innovators, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat.

More competition: With voters having a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

**Better representation of racial minorities:** Lower threshold for racial minority candidates to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidacies.