## NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana Department of State



## Tom Schedler Secretary of State

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## Secretary of State Tom Schedler, New Orleans City Council Vice President Stacy Head and Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Sandra Wilson Announce New Early Voting Location in Lakeview

**NEW ORLEANS, La.**—In advance of the February 1<sup>st</sup> Orleans Parish Municipal Election early voting period, Secretary of State Tom Schedler, New Orleans City Council Vice President Stacy Head and Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Sandra Wilson announced this morning a new early voting location at the Regional Transportation Management Center, 10 Veterans Boulevard.

Council Vice President Head worked with Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler and New Orleans Registrar of Voters Sandra Wilson to establish the new early voting location which will be open on Saturdays only during the early voting period that begins on January 18 and ends on January 25. Early voting hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Early voting will continue to be held at City Hall, the Algiers Courthouse, and the Voting Machine Warehouse in New Orleans East.

Recognizing the need for an additional early voting location in a convenient and easy to access location on the western side of the City, Councilmember-at-Large Stacy Head worked with Secretary of State Tom Schedler and Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Sandra Wilson to quickly establish an early voting location that will better serve the Lakefront, Mid-City, Gentilly, and Uptown neighborhoods.

"Voter participation during the early voting period has increased across the state during the last several elections, and New Orleans is no exception," said Secretary Schedler. "During the 2008 Presidential Election, 10% of registered voters cast a ballot early, but by 2012 that number had doubled to close to 20%. In fact, we've seen numbers as high as 38% turnout for early voting in Orleans Parish which supports the push to open this temporary new site. I'm so proud of the collaborative efforts of city and elections officials that resulted in improved services for the voters of New Orleans."

"Secretary Schedler, Dr. Wilson and I share the collective goal of making early voting as easy and convenient as possible for all New Orleanians," said Councilmember Head. "The availability of early voting increases participation in the democratic process, relieves congestion at polling stations on election day and allows those who may not be able to vote on set election days due to work, medical procedures, adherence to religious commitments and other obligations to cast their vote at their convenience. I'm thrilled that we are able to offer this additional location for early voting and as always, I encourage all New Orleanians to vote early."

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"As Registrar of Voters, I am extremely pleased to have been a participant in this cooperative effort that creates more opportunities for electors to exercise their right to vote at their convenience and at a location of their choosing," said Dr. Sandra Wilson. "I truly appreciate the efforts of Secretary Schedler and Councilmember Head in expanding what I like to call 'convenience voting'."

"I appreciate Councilmember Head's leadership in establishing this convenient early voting location in District "A" and enjoyed working with her to pass this through the budget process," said New Orleans City Councilmember Susan Guidry. "Countless voters throughout the city will benefit from this new service."

For more information on early voting, visit <u>www.GeauxVote.com</u>.

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