
NEWS RELEASE

**Louisiana
Department of State**



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Sept. 1, 2011

**PARISHES RECEIVE REDISTRICTING PRECLEARANCE
FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Secretary of State Tom Schedler is announcing that new redistricting plans for 58 parishes holding local police jury or council elections along with the statewide elections this fall have been implemented. Avoyelles, Concordia and East Feliciana parish police jury plans have not yet been approved by the U.S. Department of Justice, and parish council elections are not scheduled this year for East Baton Rouge, Orleans and Plaquemines parishes. All other regularly scheduled parishwide local elections will be held along with races for statewide elected officials, state legislators and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education members.

The police jury election for Avoyelles, Concordia and East Feliciana parishes are postponed until the next available regularly scheduled election date after approval by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Following the decennial census every 20 years, the timeframe in which the state and local parish governing authorities must complete their re-apportionment is reduced to months instead of years. The census data is released in February and the statutory deadline for receipt of preclearance notification was Aug. 29, 2011. In those few months, the state Legislature and parish governing authorities redrew district lines to insure equal representation of all voters in the legislative process. The U.S. Department of Justice must approve these new districts in accordance with Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and issue a notice of preclearance by the Aug. 29, 2011 deadline in order for qualifying to begin on Sept. 6, 2011.

The Secretary of State's Office, who oversees voter registration and elections for the state, works closely with each parish registrar of voters to complete the steps necessary to implement both state and parish redistricting plans into the statewide computer database. Precleared changes to districts, precincts and polling locations for Louisiana's 2.9 million registered voters have been completed.

Secretary Schedler urges voters to visit www.GeauxVote.com for current registration and elections related information. Any change to a voter's polling location, precinct or voting district can be found at www.GeauxVote.com, as well as current registration statistics.