

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: 3.20.11

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LOUISIANA SENATE BEGINS WORK OF 2011 1ST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

OFFICIALLY SEATS THREE NEW MEMBERS

The Louisiana Senate began the work of the 2011 1st Extraordinary Session at 5:00 pm Sunday, March 20th. The special session, called by the Louisiana State Legislature, is dedicated to the drawing of new district lines for the U.S. Congress, the State Legislature, the Public Service Commission, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as well as other matters relating to the 2010 U.S. Census numbers. The redistricting effort is required by the State Constitution.

To begin the session, the Louisiana Senate officially seated three new members - District 2 State Senator Cynthia Willard-Lewis (D-New Orleans), District 22 State Senator Fred Mills, Jr. (R-St. Martinville) and District 26 State Senator Jonathan "JP" Perry (R-Kaplan). With family members of the new Senators standing by, Senate Secretary Glenn Koepp administered the oath of office.



Sen. Willard-Lewis takes her place in the Senate after winning a special election for District 2 in October. The district includes the historic Lower 9th Ward and eastern New Orleans most of which was devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and is recovering with determination and vision. Sen. Willard-Lewis previously served in the House of Representatives from 1993 to 2000 where she was recognized as an advocate for children and the elderly. She also represented District E of the New Orleans City Council for over a decade, authorizing important legislation including the Disaster Planning Process and the Lot Next Door.

Sen. Mills comes to the Senate after winning a special election in January for the District 22 seat which includes most of St. Martin and Iberia parishes. He was previously a member of the House of Representatives where he was serving his first term in the Legislature. When not conducting legislative business, Sen. Mills takes on his responsibilities as the owner of Cashway Pharmacy in Parks and President/CEO of Farmers Merchants Bank in Breaux Bridge.

Sen. Perry is the newest member of the Senate having won a special election in late February to represent District 26 which includes portions of Acadia, western Lafayette and souther St. Landry parishes as well as all of Vermillion Parish. He comes to the Senate from the House of Representatives and after years of hard work as an attorney, small businessman and comedian.

The Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs will begin consideration of Senate redistricting proposals Tuesday, March 22nd at 9:30 am in the John J. Hainkel Briefing Room in the basement of the State Capitol. Citizens may review the proposed redistricting plan on the legislative website at www.legis.state.la.us .

The special legislative session regarding redistricting must end no later than 6:00 pm Wednesday April 13th.

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