



LOUISIANA SENATE

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SENATOR MORRELL AND NOLA DELEGATION SUPPORT AT-LARGE ORDINANCE

URGE APPROVAL OF MEASURE TO CREATE TWO DISTINCT AT-LARGE POSITIONS

District 3 State Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell (D- New Orleans) and the New Orleans Delegation of the State Legislature support the proposed City Charter amendment to create two distinct at-large seats that are voted independently of each other. Under the current system, individuals run in the same city-wide race for two positions. The two candidates receiving the largest percent of the votes, as long as it's above 25%, are elected.

Sen. Morrell and the delegation agree that the present system is confusing and outdated and is prone to manipulation by politicians.

"Our city has experienced many beneficial reforms," said Sen. Morrell. "It is time that we continue our quest to promote best practices and move to a modern voting system that exhibits a logical and fair approach to choosing the leaders of our community."

District 4 State Senator Ed Murray (D-New Orleans) added, "The current process is archaic and misrepresents the idea of an At-Large position in that a single candidate can be elected by only a quarter of the city's population. This measure would simplify the process and ensure that members are elected by a true majority of voters."

The New Orleans Delegation of the State Legislature expressed their concerns in a letter addressed to the Members of the City Council. The letter urges the council to approve the ordinance, which it will consider at its April 19 meeting. The ordinance could be placed on the Nov. 6 presidential election ballot and, if passed, would take effect for the 2014 council elections.

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-A COPY OF THE REFERENCED LETTER IS ATTACHED-