

# **LOUISIANA SENATE**

## ***COMMITTEE ON SENATE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS***

### **COMMITTEE RULES FOR REDISTRICTING**

*February 16, 2011*

To promote the development of a constitutionally acceptable redistricting plan, the committee adopts the following rules for itself, declaring the same to constitute minimally acceptable criteria for consideration of any plan redistricting the Senate, the House of Representatives, Congress, the Public Service Commission, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal.

#### ***I. CRITERIA***

- A. Except in the case of redistricting plans for the Courts of Appeal, all redistricting plans shall provide for single-member districts.
- B. All redistricting plans for the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Public Service Commission, and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall provide for districts that are substantially equal in population among the various districts. Under no circumstances shall any redistricting plan for the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Public Service Commission, and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, be considered if the redistricting plan has an absolute deviation of population which exceeds plus or minus five percent of the ideal district population.
- C. All redistricting plans for Congress shall provide that each congressional district shall have a population as nearly equal to the ideal district population as practicable.
- D. All redistricting plans shall comply with the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and all other applicable federal and state law.
- E. All redistricting plans shall provide that each district is composed of contiguous geography.
- F. All redistricting plans shall respect the recognized political boundaries and natural geography of this state, to the extent practicable.

- G. Due consideration shall be given to existing district alignments.
- H. Except in the case of redistricting plans for the Courts of Appeal, the committee shall not consider a plan that is not a whole plan which assigns all of the geography of the state.

## ***II. POPULATION DATA***

The P. L. 94-171 data released by the United States Bureau of the Census, as validated through the data verification program of the designated staff of the Senate and House, shall be the population data used for evaluation of proposed redistricting plans.

## ***III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION***

The committee seeks active and informed public participation in all of its activities. The committee intends to provide for the widest range of public information about its deliberations and full opportunity for citizens to make suggestions and recommendations to the committee, all in accordance with the policies of the Senate and the provisions of law relative to open meetings and public records.

## ***IV. HEARING PROCEDURE***

- A. All speakers shall conduct themselves in a decorous manner.
- B. Persons speaking are encouraged to limit their presentations to three minutes each, unless other time limitations are set by the chairman and in such case, persons speaking shall adhere to such limitations.
- C. It is within the discretion of the chairman to entertain motions while testimony is pending.
- D. These rules shall supplement the applicable Rules of Order of the Senate.