



Geographic Planning & Demographic Services

Reapportionments / Census / Economic Analysis / Geocoding

Applicable State Laws Controlling School Board Redistricting and the Approval Process

Listed below are the primary state statutes we must follow as a guide when developing a new election plan for the E. Baton Rouge Parish School Board. These requirements are in addition to what is required at the Federal Level as provided for in Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Board Counsel would be the appropriate person to seek any formal legal advice regarding the applicability of these and other statutes.

Guiding State Law for School Board Redistricting: RS 17:71.1 et. al.

- 1) Use latest federal decennial census as the basis for redistricting. [P.L. 940171 data file] (§71.3 A.)
- 2) Whole precincts shall be used (§71.3 E.(1) unless:
 - a) If cannot create a plan that is within the +/-5% deviation using whole precincts, then:
 - i) Cannot split more than three precincts per school board district (§71.3 E.(2)(a))
 - ii) A precinct cannot be split between three or more board districts.
 - b) Potential Issue: Parish governing authority controls precincts and therefore can control the school board's plan if the requirements of §71.3 E.(2)(a) cannot be met.
 - i) Remedy: Work together in devising a plan that meets the legal criteria, serves the people, and meets the needs of the parish and school board.
- 3) Timeline: Must be submitted to the Louisiana Secretary of State no later than 30 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the election. Here the last day to submit would be June 20, 2022 with qualifying beginning on July 20, 2022. Recommend a schedule that adopts a plan between March and May, 2022; well in advance of the statutory deadline.
- 4) Change in Membership: The Board may choose to change the number of members to no less than 5 nor no more than 15. May submit the proposition to a vote of the people or by resolution. (§71.2 A.)

APPROVAL PROCESS

- The Board approves their preferred plan by Resolution.
- The districts in the plan resolution are described using whole precincts and metes and bounds descriptions for the split precincts.
- Adoption is by simple majority.
- Follows the same procedure as any other resolution.
- Recommend a formal public hearing on the preferred plan prior to the Board meeting where the resolution is on the agenda for consideration.