

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 536

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

REAPPORTIONMENT/JUDGES: Provides for the election of judges of the first district of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:312(5)(b)(i) and 312.1(E)(2), relative to the Fifth Circuit  
3 Court of Appeal; to provide for the election of judges from the first district of the  
4 Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal; to provide for the redistricting of judges; to provide  
5 for election sections; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to provide for  
6 effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:312(5)(b)(i) and 312.1(E)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted  
9 to read as follows:

10 §312. Courts of appeal; circuits and districts

11 There shall be five court of appeal circuits, which shall be subdivided into  
12 districts as follows:

13 \* \* \*

14 5.

15 \* \* \*

16 (b) Districts of the fifth circuit.

17 (i) The parish of Jefferson shall compose the first district of the fifth circuit.

18 The first district shall be further divided into ~~two~~ three election sections. ~~Election~~  
19 ~~section one shall consist of Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16,~~  
20 ~~17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39,~~

~~40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 152, 155, 157A, 170, 171, 172, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179-A, 182, 183, 184, 185A, 185B, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197A, 197B, 197C, 198, 199, 202, 203, 204, 205, 210, 211, 212A, 212B, 213A, 213B, 213C, 214A, 214B, 215, 216, 217, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 246, 247, 248, 249, 1-G, 2-G, 3-G, 4-G, 5-G, 6-G, 7-G, 8-G, 9-G, 10-G, 11-G, 1-GI, 1-H, 2-H, 3-H, 4-H, 5-H, 6-H, 7-H, 8-H, 9-H, 13-KA, 1-K, 2-K, 3-K, 4-K, 5-K, 6-K, 7-K, 8-K, 9-K, 10-K, 11-K, 12-K, 14-K, 15-K, 16-K, 17-K, 18-K, 19-K, 20-K, 25-K, 27-K, 28-K, 29-K, 30-K, 34-K, 35-K, 1-L, 1-W, 3-W, 4-W, 5-W, 6-W, and 7-W of Jefferson Parish. Election section two shall consist of Precincts 104, 108, 115, 150, 151, 153, 154, 156, 157B, 179B, 180, 181, 187, 188, 200, 201, 13-KB, 21-K, 22-K, 23-K, 24-K, 26-K, 31-K, 33-K, 173 and 2-W.~~

(aa) Election Section One is composed of Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125A, 125B, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 152, 155, 157A, 170, 171, 172, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A, 182, 183, 185A, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193A, 193B, 198, 199, 202, 203, 210, 211, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232A, 232B, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238A, 238B, 246, 247, 248, 1-G, 2-G, 3-G, 4-G, 5-G, 6-G, 7-G, 8-G, 9-G, 10-G, 11-G, 12-G, 13-G, 1-GI, 1-H, 2-H, 3-H, 4-H, 5-H, 6-H, 7-H, 8-H, 9-H, 1-K, 2-K, 3-K, 4-K, 5-K, 6-KA, 6-KB, 7-KA, 7-KB, 8-K, 9-K, 10-K, 11-K, 12-K, 13-KA, 14-K, 15-K, 16-K, 17-K, 18-K, 19-K, 20-K, 25-K, 27-K, 28-K, 29-K, 30-K, 34-K, 35-K, 1-L, 1-W, 3-W, 4-W, 5-W, 6-W, and 7-W of Jefferson Parish.

(bb) Election Section Two is composed of Precincts 104, 108, 115, 150A, 150B, 151, 153, 154, 156, 173, 179B, 180, 181, 187, 188, 200, 201, 13-KB, 21-K, 22-K, 23-K, 24-K, 26-K, 31-K, 33-K, and 2-W of Jefferson Parish.

(cc) Election Section Three is composed of Precincts 184, 185B, 194A, 194B, 195, 196, 197A, 197B, 204, 205, 212, 213A, 213B, 213C, 214A, 214B, 215, 216A, 216B, and 217 of Jefferson Parish.

\* \* \*

§312.1. Circuit court of appeal; domicile; number of judges; election

\* \* \*

E.

\* \* \*

(2)(a) Six judges shall be elected from the first district of the fifth circuit by the qualified electors thereof in the manner provided in this Paragraph.

~~(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph:~~

~~(i)~~ (a) The first vacancy created by the death, resignation, retirement, or removal of a judge of the first district who was elected by the qualified electors of election section one occurring after ~~August 15, 2007,~~ the effective date of the Act that originated as House Bill No. \_\_\_\_ of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature shall be filled by election from election section ~~two~~ three of the first district and such judgeship shall be assigned to election section ~~two~~ three of the first district for election purposes thereafter. However, if no election has occurred or is scheduled to occur to fill a vacancy in such a judgeship from election section ~~two~~ three prior to the opening of qualifying for the regular statewide elections in ~~2012~~ 2030, the regular election to fill the judgeship designated as Division ~~G~~ B of the first district shall be held in election section ~~two~~ three of the first district and such division shall be assigned to election section ~~two~~ three for election purposes thereafter.

~~(ii)~~ (b) At the time a judgeship is assigned to election section ~~two~~ three, ~~the remaining five~~ four judgeships in the first district shall be assigned to election section one for election purposes thereafter.

(c) One judgeship shall be assigned to election section two.

\* \* \*

Section 2.(A) The precincts referenced in this Act are those contained in the file named "2025 Precinct Shapefiles (1-16-2025)" available on the website of the Legislature of Louisiana on the effective date of this Section. The 2025 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon those Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the State of Louisiana as those files have been modified and validated through the data verification program of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through January 16, 2025, to the Legislature of Louisiana by parish governing authorities pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:532 and 532.1.

(B) When a precinct referenced in this Act has been subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:532.1, the enumeration in this Act of the general precinct designation shall include all nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof, however such subdivisions may be designated.

(C) The territorial limits of the districts as provided in this Act shall continue in effect until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 536 Original

2025 Regular Session

Lyons

**Abstract:** Provides for an additional election section in the first district of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Effective upon the signature of the governor for all purposes.

Statistical summaries of proposed law including maps illustrating proposed district boundaries accompany this digest. (*Attached to the bill version on the internet.*)

Present law provides for composition of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Provides that the parishes of Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist shall compose the fifth circuit. Further provides that the parish of Jefferson shall compose the first district of the fifth circuit. The parish of St. James and that portion of St. John the Baptist Parish east of the Mississippi River shall compose the second district of the fifth circuit. The parish of St. Charles and that portion of St. John the Baptist Parish west of the Mississippi River shall compose the third district of the fifth circuit.

Present law provides that the fifth circuit shall be composed of eight judges. Provides that six judges shall be elected from the first district of the fifth circuit by the qualified electors thereof. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides further that the first district of the fifth circuit shall be divided into two election sections and provides that five judges are assigned to election section one and one judge is assigned to election section two.

Proposed law instead provides that the first district shall be divided into three election sections. Further provides that four judges are assigned to election section one, one judge is assigned to election section two, and one judge is assigned to election section three.

Proposed law provides that the first vacancy created by the death, resignation, retirement, or removal of a judge of the first district who was elected by the qualified electors of election section one shall be filled by election from election section three and such judgeship shall be assigned to election section three for election purposes thereafter. However, if no election has occurred or is scheduled to occur to fill a vacancy in such a judgeship from election section three prior to the opening of qualifying for the regular statewide elections in 2030, the regular election to fill the judgeship designated as Division B of the first district shall be held in election section three of the first district and such division shall be assigned to election section three for election purposes thereafter.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts identified as Voting Districts (VTDs) in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the state of La. as validated through the data verification program of the La. legislature. Also specifies that if any such precinct has been subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a nongeographic basis or subdivided by action of the parish governing authority on a geographic basis in accordance with present law, the enumeration of the general precinct designation shall include all nongeographic and all geographic subdivisions thereof. Further provides that the territorial limits of the districts as enacted shall continue in effect without change regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 13:312(5)(b)(i) and 312.1(E)(2))

Plan Statistics

Plan: HLS 25RS-854 (Lyons)

Districts:	# of Members	Actual Population	Ideal Population	Absolute Deviation	Relative Deviation
ElectionSection1	4	354,017	293,852	60,165	20.475%
ElectionSection2	1	41,708	73,463	-31,755	-43.226%
ElectionSection3	1	45,056	73,463	-28,407	-38.668%
Grand Total:	6	440,781	440,778		
Ideal Population Per Member:		73463			
Number of Districts for Plan Type:		3			
Range of District Populations:		41,708	to	354,017	
Absolute Mean Deviation:		30,640			
Absolute Range:		-31,755	to	60,165	
Absolute Overall Range:		91,920			
Relative Mean Deviation:		34.12%			
Relative Range:		-43.23%	to	20.47%	
Relative Overall Range:		63.70%			

<b><i>Ideal - Actual:</i></b>	<b>-3</b>
<b><i>Remainder:</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Unassigned Population:</i></b>	<b>0</b>

Total Population

Plan: HLS 25RS-854 (Lyons)

	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Asian	Total American Indian	Total Other	Total Hispanic	VAP Total	VAP White	VAP Black	VAP Asian	VAP American Indian	VAP Other	VAP Hispanic Total
ElectionSection1	354,017	204,093	71,126	18,517	6,772	53,509	67,159	279,820	170,361	51,792	14,226	5,155	38,286	47,371
	100.000%	57.651%	20.091%	5.231%	1.913%	15.115%	18.971%	100.000%	60.882%	18.509%	5.084%	1.842%	13.682%	16.929%
ElectionSection2	41,708	5,487	30,103	695	418	5,005	6,340	30,802	4,431	22,140	533	299	3,399	4,252
	100.000%	13.156%	72.176%	1.666%	1.002%	12.000%	15.201%	100.000%	14.385%	71.878%	1.730%	0.971%	11.035%	13.804%
ElectionSection3	45,056	11,355	24,988	3,812	496	4,405	5,558	34,032	9,343	18,243	2,933	381	3,132	3,861
	100.000%	25.202%	55.460%	8.461%	1.101%	9.777%	12.336%	100.000%	27.454%	53.605%	8.618%	1.120%	9.203%	11.345%
Grand Total	440,781	220,935	126,217	23,024	7,686	62,919	79,057	344,654	184,135	92,175	17,692	5,835	44,817	55,484
	100.000%	50.124%	28.635%	5.223%	1.744%	14.274%	17.936%	100.000%	53.426%	26.744%	5.133%	1.693%	13.003%	16.098%



# Voter Registration

Plan: HLS 25RS-854 (Lyons)

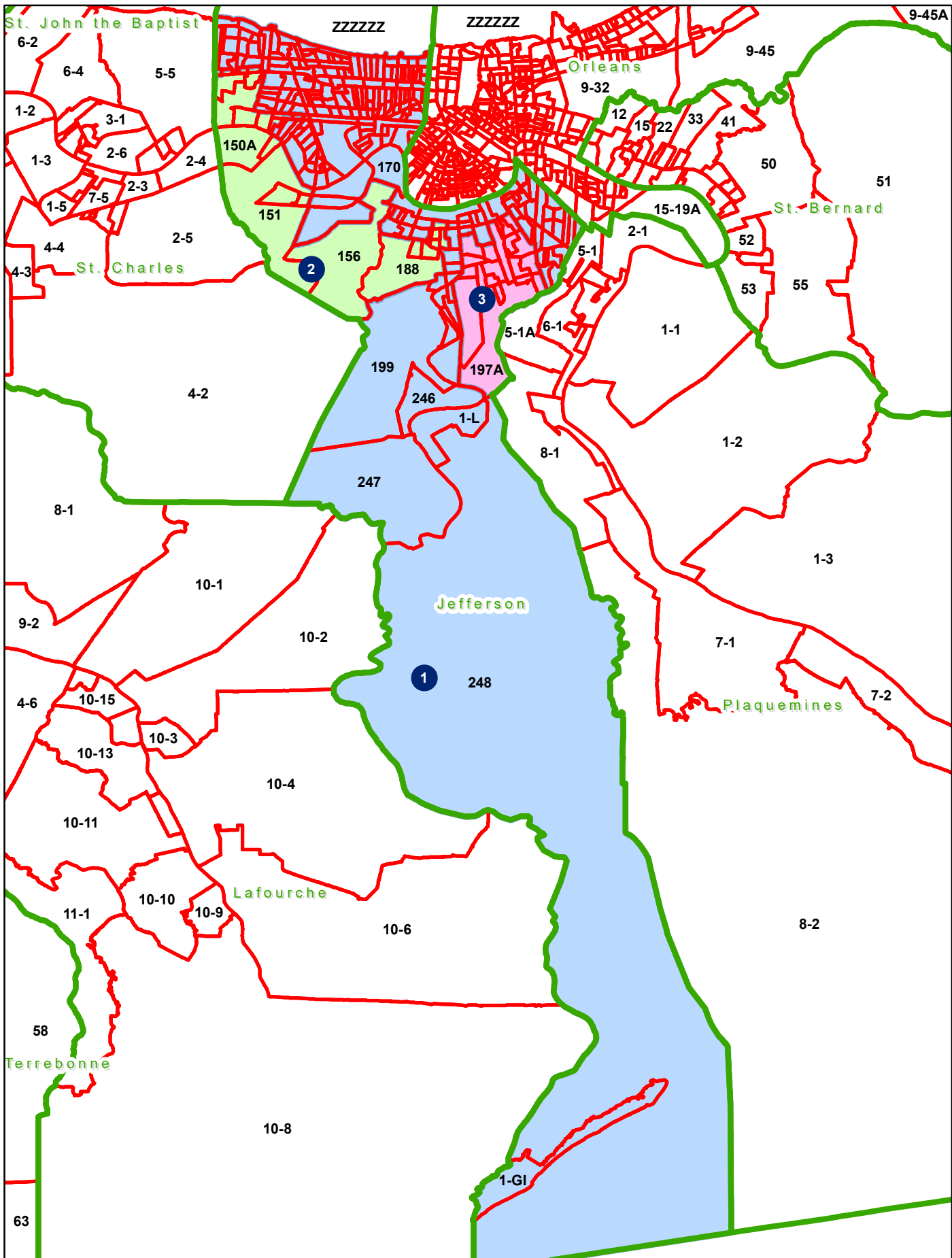
	Reg Total Dec 2024	Reg White Dec 2024	Reg Black Dec 2024	Reg Other Dec 2024	Reg Dem Total Dec 2024	Reg Rep Total Dec 2024	Reg Other Total Dec 2024
ElectionSection1	204,519	141,763	33,130	29,626	62,224	76,647	65,648
	73.089%	69.315%	16.199%	14.486%	30.425%	37.477%	32.099%
ElectionSection2	24,367	2,994	19,299	2,074	16,120	1,805	6,442
	79.108%	12.287%	79.201%	8.512%	66.155%	7.408%	26.437%
ElectionSection3	26,519	7,254	14,992	4,273	14,257	4,495	7,767
	77.924%	27.354%	56.533%	16.113%	53.761%	16.950%	29.288%
Grand Total	255,405	152,011	67,421	35,973	92,601	82,947	79,857

Splits

Plan: HLS 25RS-854 (Lyons)

	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Asian	Total American Indian	Total Other	VAP Total	VAP White	VAP Black	VAP Asian	VAP American Indian	VAP Other	Reg Total Dec 2024	Reg White Dec 2024	Reg Black Dec 2024	Reg Other Dec 2024
ElectionSection1																
*Jefferson	354,017	204,093	71,126	18,517	6,772	53,509	279,820	170,361	51,792	14,226	5,155	38,286	204,519	141,763	33,130	29,626
ElectionSection1	354,017	204,093	71,126	18,517	6,772	53,509	279,820	170,361	51,792	14,226	5,155	38,286	204,519	141,763	33,130	29,626
	100.000%	57.651%	20.091%	5.231%	1.913%	15.115%	100.000%	60.882%	18.509%	5.084%	1.842%	13.682%	73.089%	69.315%	16.199%	14.486%
ElectionSection2																
*Jefferson	41,708	5,487	30,103	695	418	5,005	30,802	4,431	22,140	533	299	3,399	24,367	2,994	19,299	2,074
ElectionSection2	41,708	5,487	30,103	695	418	5,005	30,802	4,431	22,140	533	299	3,399	24,367	2,994	19,299	2,074
	100.000%	13.156%	72.176%	1.666%	1.002%	12.000%	100.000%	14.385%	71.878%	1.730%	0.971%	11.035%	79.108%	12.287%	79.201%	8.512%
ElectionSection3																
*Jefferson	45,056	11,355	24,988	3,812	496	4,405	34,032	9,343	18,243	2,933	381	3,132	26,519	7,254	14,992	4,273
ElectionSection3	45,056	11,355	24,988	3,812	496	4,405	34,032	9,343	18,243	2,933	381	3,132	26,519	7,254	14,992	4,273
	100.000%	25.202%	55.460%	8.461%	1.101%	9.777%	100.000%	27.454%	53.605%	8.618%	1.120%	9.203%	77.924%	27.354%	56.533%	16.113%

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal HLS 25RS-854 (Lyons)



Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal HLS 25RS-854 (Lyons)

