

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 518

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

REAPPORTIONMENT/JUDGES: Establishes election sections for the election of judges to the City Court of Lake Charles

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:1952(13), relative to the City Court of Lake Charles; to
3 provide for election sections for the election of judges to the court; to provide for the
4 assignment of judgeships for election purposes; to provide for an effective date; and
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:1952(13) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1952. Courts created by special legislative Act

9 The following city courts, heretofore created and established by special
10 legislative Act, are hereby recognized and continued in existence and, except as
11 otherwise provided in this Section, their territorial jurisdiction shall extend through
12 the city and ward or wards wherein the city in which they are domiciled is located,
13 as extended from time to time:

14 * * *

15 (13)(a) The City Court of Lake Charles, domiciled in the city of Lake
16 Charles, parish of Calcasieu, having two city judges and a city marshal;

17 (b) For the purpose of electing judges, the court shall be divided into two
18 election sections.

19 (i) Election section one is composed of Precincts 300, 301, 302, 303, 304,
20 305, 307, 308, 309E, 309W, 310, 311, 312, 313E, 313W, 315E, 316E, 317, 318,

1 Section 3. Any election to elect a judge to the City Court of Lake Charles occurring
2 after the effective date of this Act shall be conducted within the appropriate election section
3 established by the provisions of Section 1 of this Act.

4 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
8 effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

HB 518 Original

2026 Regular Session

Wilford Carter

Abstract: Provides for the composition of two election sections in the City Court of Lake Charles and provides for the assignment of judgeships to those election sections for election purposes.

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

Present law provides that the City Court of Lake Charles is domiciled in the city of Lake Charles and that the territorial jurisdiction of the court extends through the city and ward or wards wherein the city is located, as extended from time to time. Provides that the court has two city judges and one city marshal. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law creates two election sections in the City Court of Lake Charles. Provides that one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of election section one, and one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of election section two. Provides that the judgeship designated as Division A of the City Court of Lake Charles is assigned to election section two for election purposes. Provides that the judgeship designated as Division B of the City Court of Lake Charles is assigned to election section one for election purposes. Specifies that any election to elect a judge to the court occurring after the effective date of proposed law shall be conducted within the appropriate election section established by proposed law.

Proposed law specifies that precincts referenced in district descriptions are those precincts contained in the file named "2026 Precinct Shapefiles (01-27-2026)" available on the legislature's website. The 2026 Precinct Shapefiles are based upon Voting Districts (VTDs) contained in the 2020 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for the State of La. as those files have been modified and validated through data verification program of the La. House of Representatives and the La. Senate to represent precinct changes submitted through Jan. 27, 2026, to the Legislature of La. by parish governing authorities.

Proposed law additionally 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 until changed by law regardless of any subsequent change made to the precincts by the parish governing authority.

Population data in the summaries accompanying this digest are derived from 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171), Summary File for La. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 13:1952(13))

Plan Statistics

Plan: HLS 26RS-438 (W.Carter)

<u>Districts:</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Ideal Population</u>	<u>Absolute Deviation</u>	<u>Relative Deviation</u>
District 1	1	55,372	56,025	-653	-1.166%
District 2	1	56,679	56,025	654	1.167%
Grand Total:	2	112,051	112,050		

Ideal Population Per Member:	56025	
Number of Districts for Plan Type:	2	
Range of District Populations:	55,372	to 56,679
Absolute Mean Deviation:	654	
Absolute Range:	-653	to 654
Absolute Overall Range:	1,307	
Relative Mean Deviation:	1.17%	
Relative Range:	-1.17%	to 1.17%
Relative Overall Range:	2.34%	

<i>Ideal - Actual:</i>	-1
<i>Remainder:</i>	1
<i>Unassigned Population:</i>	0

Precinct 360 is split in two places by the ward line. In the first instance, the easternmost ward line is a straight vertical line extension from Pujol Rd. (Hwy. 397) to the river. In the second instance, the northernmost boundary is a straight horizontal line from Goos Ferry Rd. Ext. to the river. The 2020 census blocks do not align with the ward line. In the first instance, there are 2 census blocks split by the ward line with 37 people in those blocks. In the second instance there are 4 census blocks split by the ward line with 118 people in those blocks. This report is the closest approximation of the population of District 1 using the nearest 2020 census tabulation boundaries.

Total Population

Plan: HLS 26RS-438 (W.Carter)

	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
District 1	55,372	13,247	38,604	800	483	2,238	2,668	41,772	11,314	27,864	609	369	1,616	1,806
	100.000%	23.924%	69.718%	1.445%	0.872%	4.042%	4.818%	100.000%	27.085%	66.705%	1.458%	0.883%	3.869%	4.323%
District 2	56,679	40,882	9,208	2,576	944	3,069	3,681	43,798	32,693	6,340	1,854	740	2,171	2,537
	100.000%	72.129%	16.246%	4.545%	1.666%	5.415%	6.494%	100.000%	74.645%	14.476%	4.233%	1.690%	4.957%	5.793%
Grand Total	112,051	54,129	47,812	3,376	1,427	5,307	6,349	85,570	44,007	34,204	2,463	1,109	3,787	4,343
	100.000%	48.307%	42.670%	3.013%	1.274%	4.736%	5.666%	100.000%	51.428%	39.972%	2.878%	1.296%	4.426%	5.075%

Precinct 360 is split in two places by the ward line. In the first instance, the easternmost ward line is a straight vertical line extension from Pujol Rd. (Hwy. 397) to the river. In the second instance, the northernmost boundary is a straight horizontal line from Goos Ferry Rd. Ext. to the river. The 2020 census blocks do not align with the ward line. In the first instance, there are 2 census blocks split by the ward line with 37 people in those blocks. In the second instance there are 4 census blocks split by the ward line with 118 people in those blocks. This report is the closest approximation of the population of District 1 using the nearest 2020 census tabulation boundaries.

District Summary



DB: LA 2026 01

Plan: HLS 26RS-438 (W.Carter)

Plan Type: Lake Charles City Court (Ward 3)

	Total Population	Total White	Total Black	Total Asian	Total American Indian	Total Other	Total Hispanic
District 1							
Calcasieu	55,372	13,247	38,604	800	483	2,238	2,668
District 1	55,372	13,247	38,604	800	483	2,238	2,668
	100.000%	23.924%	69.718%	1.445%	0.872%	4.042%	4.818%
District 2							
Calcasieu	56,679	40,882	9,208	2,576	944	3,069	3,681
District 2	56,679	40,882	9,208	2,576	944	3,069	3,681
	100.000%	72.129%	16.246%	4.545%	1.666%	5.415%	6.494%
Grand Total	112,051	54,129	47,812	3,376	1,427	5,307	6,349
	100.000%	48.307%	42.670%	3.013%	1.274%	4.736%	5.666%

Precinct 360 is split in two places by the ward line. In the first instance, the easternmost ward line is a straight vertical line extension from Pujol Rd. (Hwy. 397) to the river. In the second instance, the northernmost boundary is a straight horizontal line from Goos Ferry Rd. Ext. to the river. The 2020 census blocks do not align with the ward line. In the first instance, there are 2 census blocks split by the ward line with 37 people in those blocks. In the second instance there are 4 census blocks split by the ward line with 118 people in those blocks. This report is the closest approximation of the population of District 1 using the nearest 2020 census tabulation boundaries.

Voter Registration

Plan: HLS 26RS-438 (W.Carter)

	Reg Total Dec 2025	Reg White Dec 2025	Reg Black Dec 2025	Reg Other Dec 2025	Reg Dem Total Dec 2025	Reg Rep Total Dec 2025	Reg Other Total Dec 2025
District 1	21,635	5,165	15,376	1,094	13,357	2,833	5,447
	51.793%	23.873%	71.070%	5.057%	61.738%	13.095%	25.177%
District 2	27,439	22,672	3,130	1,637	6,181	13,466	7,792
	62.649%	82.627%	11.407%	5.966%	22.526%	49.076%	28.398%
Grand Total	49,074	27,837	18,506	2,731	19,538	16,299	13,239

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Splits

Plan: HLS 26RS-438 (W.Carter)

	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 2025	Reg White Dec 2025	Reg Black Dec 2025	Reg Other Dec 2025
District 1																
*Calcasieu	55,372	13,247	38,604	800	483	2,238	41,772	11,314	27,864	609	369	1,616	21,635	5,165	15,376	1,094
District 1	55,372	13,247	38,604	800	483	2,238	41,772	11,314	27,864	609	369	1,616	21,635	5,165	15,376	1,094
	100.000%	23.924%	69.718%	1.445%	0.872%	4.042%	100.000%	27.085%	66.705%	1.458%	0.883%	3.869%	51.793%	23.873%	71.070%	5.057%
District 2																
*Calcasieu	56,679	40,882	9,208	2,576	944	3,069	43,798	32,693	6,340	1,854	740	2,171	27,439	22,672	3,130	1,637
District 2	56,679	40,882	9,208	2,576	944	3,069	43,798	32,693	6,340	1,854	740	2,171	27,439	22,672	3,130	1,637
	100.000%	72.129%	16.246%	4.545%	1.666%	5.415%	100.000%	74.645%	14.476%	4.233%	1.690%	4.957%	62.649%	82.627%	11.407%	5.966%

Precinct 360 is split in two places by the ward line. In the first instance, the easternmost ward line is a straight vertical line extension from Pujol Rd. (Hwy. 397) to the river. In the second instance, the northernmost boundary is a straight horizontal line from Goos Ferry Rd. Ext. to the river. The 2020 census blocks do not align with the ward line. In the first instance, there are 2 census blocks split by the ward line with 37 people in those blocks. In the second instance there are 4 census blocks split by the ward line with 118 people in those blocks. This report is the closest approximation of the population of District 1 using the nearest 2020 census tabulation boundaries.

HLS 26RS-438 (W.Carter) Lake Charles City Court (Ward 3) (Precinct 360)

