

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1097

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

JUDGES/DISTRICT: Provides for the election of judges to the 19th Judicial District Court

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:477(19) and 621.19, relative to the Nineteenth Judicial
3 District Court; to provide for the election sections from which judges are elected; to
4 provide for three election sections; to provide for the assignment of judges to
5 election sections; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:477(19) and 621.19 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §477. Judicial districts

10 There shall be forty-one judicial districts in the state and each district shall
11 be composed as follows:

12 * * *

13 (19) The parish of East Baton Rouge shall compose the Nineteenth District.

14 The Nineteenth District shall consist of ~~two~~ three election sections. Election section
15 one shall consist of Precincts ~~1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-13,~~
16 ~~1-14, 1-15, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-19, 1-20, 1-21, 1-22, 1-23, 1-24, 1-25, 1-26, 1-27,~~
17 ~~1-28, 1-29, 1-30, 1-31, 1-32, 1-36, 1-37, 1-38, 1-44, 1-45, 1-46, 1-50, 1-51, 1-52,~~
18 ~~1-53, 1-54, 1-55, 1-58, 1-60, 1-61, 1-62, 1-63, 1-67, 1-68, 1-70, 1-71, 1-72, 1-76,~~
19 ~~1-77, 1-78, 1-81, 1-82, 1-83, 1-84, 1-85, 1-86, 1-87, 1-88, 1-91, 1-92, 1-93, 1-94,~~
20 ~~1-95, 1-96, 1-97, 1-100, 1-101, 1-102, 1-104, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11,~~

1 ~~2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25,~~
 2 ~~2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 3-8, 3-11, 3-24,~~
 3 ~~3-27, 3-28, 3-32, 3-42, 3-54, and 3-72~~ 1-1, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-10, 1-11
 4 (Part) Tract 003400 - Blocks 2006, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019,
 5 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032,
 6 2033, 2034, 3000, 3001, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 4000, 4001,
 7 4002, 4003, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4009, 4010, and 4011; 1-13, 1-14, 1-15,
 8 1-16, 1-18, 1-19, 1-21, 1-22, 1-23, 1-24, 1-25, 1-26, 1-27, 1-28, 1-29, 1-30, 1-31,
 9 1-32, 1-37, 1-38, 1-40, 1-44, 1-45, 1-46, 1-50, 1-51, 1-58, 1-61, 1-62, 1-63, 1-67,
 10 1-76 (Part) Tract 002802 - Blocks 1011, 1012, and 1013; Tract 004013 - Blocks
 11 3000 and 3005; Tract 004023 - Blocks 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, and 3005;
 12 Tract 004800 - Blocks 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, and 1013; 1-77, 1-84, 1-85,
 13 1-86, 1-91 (Part) Tract 003104 - Blocks 1000, 1001, 6000, 6001, 6005, 6006, 6007,
 14 6008, 6009, 6010, 6011, 6012, 6013, 6014, 6016, 6017, 6018, 6019, 7000, 7001,
 15 7002, 7003, 7004, 7005, 7006, 7007, 7008, 7009, 7010, 7011, 7012, 7013, 7014,
 16 7017, 7018, 7019, 7020, 7021, 7022, 7023, 7024, 7025, 7029, 7030, 7031, and 7037;
 17 Tract 003201 - Blocks 3013; Tract 003300 - Blocks 1001; Tract 980000 - Blocks
 18 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013; 1-92, 1-93 (Part) Tract
 19 003505 - Blocks 4008; 1-94, 1-95 (Part) Tract 003000 - Blocks 1000, 1001, 1002,
 20 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015,
 21 1016, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014,
 22 2016, 2017, 2018, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034,
 23 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, and 2042; 1-100, 1-101 (Part) Tract 003000 -
 24 Blocks 2015, 2023, and 2024; Tract 003104 - Blocks 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004,
 25 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 3000, 3001,
 26 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 7015, 7016, 7026, and 7027; Tract
 27 004203 - Blocks 3022, 3031; 2-1 (Part) Tract 003505 - Blocks 2010, 2011, 3005, and
 28 3006; 2-11 (Part) Tract 003201 - Blocks 3014 and 3015; Tract 003400 - Blocks
 29 2036, 2037; 2-16, 2-23, and 2-30 of East Baton Rouge Parish. Election section two

1 shall consist of Precincts ~~1-8, 1-12, 1-33, 1-34, 1-35, 1-39, 1-40, 1-41, 1-42, 1-43,~~
2 ~~1-47, 1-48, 1-49, 1-56, 1-57, 1-59, 1-64, 1-65, 1-66, 1-69, 1-73, 1-74, 1-75, 1-79,~~
3 ~~1-80, 1-89, 1-90, 1-98, 1-99, 1-103, 1-105, 1-106, 1-107, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-33, 3-1, 3-2,~~
4 ~~3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-9, 3-10, 3-12, 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-18, 3-19, 3-20,~~
5 ~~3-21, 3-22, 3-23, 3-25, 3-26, 3-29, 3-30, 3-31, 3-33, 3-34, 3-35, 3-36, 3-37, 3-38,~~
6 ~~3-39, 3-40, 3-41, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 3-46, 3-47, 3-48, 3-49, 3-50, 3-51, 3-52, 3-53,~~
7 ~~3-55, 3-56, 3-57, 3-58, 3-59, 3-60, 3-61, 3-62, 3-63, 3-64, 3-65, 3-66, 3-67, 3-68,~~
8 ~~3-69, 3-70, 3-71, 3-73, 3-74, 3-75, and 3-76~~ 1-9, 1-11 (Part) Tract 003400 - Blocks
9 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2035; 1-20, 1-52, 1-53, 1-54, 1-55, 1-60, 1-70, 1-71,
10 1-72, 1-78, 1-81, 1-82, 1-83, 1-87, 1-88, 1-91 (Part) Tract 003104 - Blocks 7036;
11 Tract 004201 - Blocks 6009, 6010, 6011, and 6012; Tract 980000 - Blocks 1000,
12 1001, and 1002; 1-93 (Part) Tract 003505 - Blocks 4003, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4009,
13 4010, and 4011; 1-95 (Part) Tract 003000 - Blocks 2005, 2021, and 2022; 1-96, 1-97,
14 1-101 (Part) Tract 004203 - Blocks 3023 and 3024; 2-1 (Part) Tract 003505 - Blocks
15 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 2000, 2001, 2002,
16 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3007,
17 3008, 3009, 3010, 4000, 4001, 4002, and 4004; 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9,
18 2-10, 2-11 (Part) Tract 003201 - Blocks 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006,
19 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3016, and 3017; 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-17,
20 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33,
21 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 3-1, 3-2, 3-6, 3-8, 3-9, 3-12, 3-14, 3-24, 3-25, 3-26,
22 3-28, 3-30, 3-32, 3-37, 3-42, 3-46, 3-54, 3-58, 3-61, and 3-72 of East Baton Rouge
23 Parish. Election section three shall consist of Precincts 1-2, 1-12, 1-33, 1-34, 1-35,
24 1-36, 1-39, 1-41, 1-42, 1-43, 1-47, 1-48, 1-49, 1-56, 1-57, 1-59, 1-64, 1-65, 1-66,
25 1-69, 1-73, 1-74, 1-75, 1-76 (Part) Tract 004013 - Blocks 1000 and 2000; Tract
26 004023 - Blocks 1000, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 3006; Tract 004800 - Blocks 1019,
27 1020, 1021, and 1022; 1-79, 1-80, 1-89, 1-90, 1-98, 1-99, 1-102, 1-103, 1-104,
28 1-105, 1-106, 1-107, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-7, 3-10, 3-11, 3-13, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-18, 3-19,
29 3-20, 3-21, 3-22, 3-23, 3-27, 3-29, 3-31, 3-33, 3-34, 3-35, 3-36, 3-38, 3-39, 3-40,

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

4 Section 3. 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 1097 Original

2026 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Reapportions election sections for the 19th Judicial District Court, provides for three election sections, five judges elected from each election section.

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

Present law provides that the 19th Judicial District Court is comprised of East Baton Rouge Parish. Provides that the 19th Judicial District Court has 15 judges.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the court shall consist of two election sections, each election section electing seven judges, and one judge elected at large.

Proposed law provides that the 19th Judicial District Court consists of three election sections, each election section electing five judges.

Present law provides that each judgeship be designated as a division and assigns each division to one election section as follows:

- (1) Election Section 1: Divisions A, D, J, K, L, M, and O
- (2) Election Section 2: Divisions C, E, F, G, H, I, and N

Present law further provides that the judgeship designated as Division B shall be elected at large.

Proposed law instead provides that the divisions be assigned to election sections as follows:

- (1) Election Section 1: Divisions B, D, J, K, and O
- (2) Election Section 2: Divisions A, G, L, M, and N

(3) Election Section 3: Divisions C, E, F, H, and I

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 on those 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 the 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.

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 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 Louisiana. Population data, statistical information, and maps are supplied for purposes of information and analysis and comprise no part of proposed law.

Population data in the summaries accompanying the enrolled bill available on the internet 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 new law.

Effective upon signature of governor.

(Amends R.S. 13:477(19) and 621.19)

Plan Statistics

Plan: HLS 26RS-1301 (Marcelle)

<u>Districts:</u>	<u># of Members</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Ideal Population</u>	<u>Absolute Deviation</u>	<u>Relative Deviation</u>
ElecSec 1	5	95,818	152,260	-56,442	-37.069%
ElecSec 2	5	153,978	152,260	1,718	1.128%
ElecSec 3	5	206,985	152,260	54,725	35.942%
Grand Total:	15	456,781	456,780		

Ideal Population Per Member:	30452		
Number of Districts for Plan Type:	3		
Range of District Populations:	95,818	to	206,985
Absolute Mean Deviation:	37,056		
Absolute Range:	-56,442	to	54,725
Absolute Overall Range:	111,167		
Relative Mean Deviation:	24.71%		
Relative Range:	-37.07%	to	35.94%
Relative Overall Range:	73.01%		

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

Total Population

Plan: HLS 26RS-1301 (Marcelle)

	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
ElecSec 1	95,818	17,353	74,822	1,386	437	1,820	2,739	76,053	16,393	56,548	1,251	369	1,492	2,255
	100.000%	18.110%	78.088%	1.446%	0.456%	1.899%	2.859%	100.000%	21.555%	74.353%	1.645%	0.485%	1.962%	2.965%
ElecSec 2	153,978	59,099	79,842	4,463	1,689	8,885	9,912	115,400	47,541	57,142	3,342	1,321	6,054	6,685
	100.000%	38.381%	51.853%	2.898%	1.097%	5.770%	6.437%	100.000%	41.197%	49.516%	2.896%	1.145%	5.246%	5.793%
ElecSec 3	206,985	119,617	58,734	10,576	2,601	15,457	17,900	164,159	99,947	43,100	8,006	2,057	11,049	12,599
	100.000%	57.790%	28.376%	5.110%	1.257%	7.468%	8.648%	100.000%	60.884%	26.255%	4.877%	1.253%	6.731%	7.675%
Grand Total	456,781	196,069	213,398	16,425	4,727	26,162	30,551	355,612	163,881	156,790	12,599	3,747	18,595	21,539
	100.000%	42.924%	46.718%	3.596%	1.035%	5.727%	6.688%	100.000%	46.084%	44.090%	3.543%	1.054%	5.229%	6.057%

Voter Registration

Plan: HLS 26RS-1301 (Marcelle)

	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
ElecSec 1	41,022	5,012	34,423	1,585	29,191	2,046	9,781
	53.939%	12.218%	83.914%	3.864%	71.159%	4.988%	23.843%
ElecSec 2	84,738	36,995	43,177	4,566	40,946	23,454	20,341
	73.430%	43.658%	50.954%	5.388%	48.321%	27.678%	24.005%
ElecSec 3	111,488	77,747	24,765	8,978	34,126	44,796	32,567
	67.915%	69.736%	22.213%	8.053%	30.610%	40.180%	29.211%
Grand Total	237,248	119,754	102,365	15,129	104,263	70,296	62,689

Splits

Plan: HLS 26RS-1301 (Marcelle)

	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
ElecSec 1																
*East Baton Rouge	95,818	17,353	74,822	1,386	437	1,820	76,053	16,393	56,548	1,251	369	1,492	41,022	5,012	34,423	1,585
ElecSec 1	95,818	17,353	74,822	1,386	437	1,820	76,053	16,393	56,548	1,251	369	1,492	41,022	5,012	34,423	1,585
	100.000%	18.110%	78.088%	1.446%	0.456%	1.899%	100.000%	21.555%	74.353%	1.645%	0.485%	1.962%	53.939%	12.218%	83.914%	3.864%
ElecSec 2																
*East Baton Rouge	153,978	59,099	79,842	4,463	1,689	8,885	115,400	47,541	57,142	3,342	1,321	6,054	84,738	36,995	43,177	4,566
ElecSec 2	153,978	59,099	79,842	4,463	1,689	8,885	115,400	47,541	57,142	3,342	1,321	6,054	84,738	36,995	43,177	4,566
	100.000%	38.381%	51.853%	2.898%	1.097%	5.770%	100.000%	41.197%	49.516%	2.896%	1.145%	5.246%	73.430%	43.658%	50.954%	5.388%
ElecSec 3																
*East Baton Rouge	206,985	119,617	58,734	10,576	2,601	15,457	164,159	99,947	43,100	8,006	2,057	11,049	111,488	77,747	24,765	8,978
ElecSec 3	206,985	119,617	58,734	10,576	2,601	15,457	164,159	99,947	43,100	8,006	2,057	11,049	111,488	77,747	24,765	8,978
	100.000%	57.790%	28.376%	5.110%	1.257%	7.468%	100.000%	60.884%	26.255%	4.877%	1.253%	6.731%	67.915%	69.736%	22.213%	8.053%

19th Judicial District Court - HLS 26RS-1301 (Marcelle)

