

**THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

**Fifty-First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature
Under the Adoption of the
Constitution of 1974**

Senate Chamber
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Monday, January 15, 2024

The Senate was called to order at 4:06 o'clock P.M. by Hon. J. Cameron Henry, Jr., President of the Senate.

Morning Hour

CONVENING ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mr. President	Fesi	Miller
Abraham	Fields	Mizell
Allain	Foil	Morris
Barrow	Harris	Owen
Bass	Hensgens	Pressly
Bouie	Hodges	Price
Carter	Jackson	Reese
Cathey	Jenkins	Seabaugh
Cloud	Kleinpeter	Stine
Connick	Lambert	Talbot
Coussan	Luneau	Wheat
Duplessis	McMath	Womack
Edmonds	Miguez	
Total - 38		

ABSENT

Boudreaux
Total - 1

The President of the Senate announced there were 38 Senators present and a quorum.

Prayer

The prayer was offered by Senator Regina Barrow, following which the Senate joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Reading of the Journal

On motion of Senator Miller, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with and the Journal of January 8, 2024, was adopted.

Messages from the Governor

The following messages from the Governor were received and read as follows:

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Proclamation Number 01 JML 2024

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Louisiana Constitution Article III, Section 2(B), I, Jeff Landry, Governor of the State of

Louisiana, HEREBY CALL AND CONVENE THE LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA INTO EXTRAORDINARY SESSION to convene at the State Capital, in the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, during eight calendar days, beginning at 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the 15th day of January, 2024, and ending no later than 6:00 o'clock p.m. on the 23rd day of January 2024. The power to legislate at this session shall be limited, under penalty of nullity, to the consideration of the following enumerated objects:

- ITEM NO. 1: To legislate relative to the redistricting of Congressional districts of Louisiana;
- ITEM NO. 2: To legislate relative to amendments to the election code needed for implementation of the redistricting of the Congressional districts of Louisiana;
- ITEM NO. 3: To legislate relative to the redistricting and elections of the Supreme Court;
- ITEM NO. 4: To legislate relative to amendments to the Constitution relative to the Supreme Court:
a) composition;
b) number of justices;
c) number of districts;
d) method of electing justices to the Supreme Court; and
e) method of selecting the chief justice;
- ITEM NO. 5: To legislate relative to amendments to the election code needed for implementation of the redistricting of the Supreme Court;
- ITEM NO. 6: To legislate to provide funding, including the use of excess state general fund dollars, for the implementation of changes made to the Supreme Court;
- ITEM NO. 7: To legislate relative to the creation of a party primary system for elections;
- ITEM NO. 8: To legislate relative to campaign finance laws;
- ITEM NO. 9: To legislate relative to campaign qualifying fees for Presidential and Congressional elections;
- ITEM NO. 10: To legislate relative to amendments to the election code needed for the implementation of elections;
- ITEM NO. 11: To legislate to provide funding, including the use of excess state general fund dollars, for the implementation of the party primary system for elections and corresponding changes to the election laws;
- ITEM NO. 12: To legislate relative to amendments to the Constitution relative to the implementation of elections;
- ITEM NO. 13: To legislate relative to calling a special statewide election for the purpose of allowing all voters, registered and qualified, to vote on Constitutional amendments; and
- ITEM NO. 14: To legislate to provide funding, including the use of excess state general fund dollars, for purposes of calling and holding a special election on the Constitutional amendments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 8th day of January, 2024.

JEFF LANDRY
Governor of Louisiana

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
NANCY LANDRY
Secretary of State

**Petitions, Memorials and
Communications**

The following petitions, memorials, and communications were received and read:

**OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

2024-2028 Standing Committee Appointments

Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture & Rural Development

Chair – Stewart Cathey (R-Monroe)
Robert Allain (R-Franklin)
Adam Bass (R-Bossier City)
Mike Fesi (R-Houma)
Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe)
Bill Wheat (R-Ponchatoula)
Glen Womack (R-Harrisonburg)

Commerce, Consumer Protection & International Affairs

Chair – Beth Mizell (R-Franklinton)
Mark Abraham (R-Lake Charles)
Joseph Bouie (D-New Orleans)
Stewart Cathey (R-Monroe)
Patrick Connick (R-Marrero)
Jean Paul Coussan (R-Lafayette)
Jimmy Harris (D-New Orleans)
Jay Morris (R-West Monroe)
Edward Price (D-Gonzales)

Education

Chair – Rick Edmonds (R-Baton Rouge)
Jimmy Harris (D-New Orleans)
Valarie Hodges (R-Denham Springs)
Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe)
Blake Miguez (R-New Iberia)
Beth Mizell (R-Franklinton)
Bob Owen (R-Slidell)

Environmental Quality

Chair- Eddie Lambert (R-Gonzales)
Patrick Connick (R-Marrero)
Bob Hensgens (R-Abbeville)
Bob Owen (R-Slidell)
Thomas Pressly (R-Shreveport)
Edward Price (D-Gonzales)
Jeremy Stine (R-Lake Charles)

Finance

Chair – Glen Womack (R-Harrisonburg)
Gerald Boudreaux (D-Lafayette)
Heather Cloud (R-Turkey Creek)
Rick Edmonds (R-Baton Rouge)
Mike Fesi (R-Houma)
Cleo Fields (D-Baton Rouge)
Jimmy Harris (D-New Orleans)
Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe)
Blake Miguez (R-New Iberia)
Thomas Pressly (R-Shreveport)
Jeremy Stine (R-Lake Charles)

Health & Welfare

Chair – Patrick McMath (R-Covington)
Gerald Boudreaux (D-Lafayette)
Heather Cloud (R-Turkey Creek)
Bob Hensgens (R-Abbeville)
Valarie Hodges (R-Denham Springs)

Katrina Jackson (D-Monroe)
Jay Luneau (D-Pineville)
Bob Owen (R-Slidell)
Thomas Pressly (R-Shreveport)

Insurance

Chair – Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge)
Robert Allain (R-Franklin)
Regina Barrow (D-Baton Rouge)
Adam Bass (R-Bossier City)
Royce Duplessis (D-New Orleans)
Rick Edmonds (R-Baton Rouge)
Franklin Foil (R-Baton Rouge)
Alan Seabaugh (R-Shreveport)
Bill Wheat (R-Ponchatoula)

Judiciary A

Chair – Greg Miller (R-Norco)
Gary Carter (D-New Orleans)
Rick Edmonds (R-Baton Rouge)
Sam Jenkins (D-Shreveport)
Jay Luneau (D-Pineville)
Beth Mizell (R-Franklinton)
Alan Seabaugh (R-Shreveport)

Judiciary B

Chair – Mike Reese (R-DeRidder)
Joseph Bouie (D-New Orleans)
Jean Paul Coussan (R-Lafayette)
Royce Duplessis (D-New Orleans)
Jimmy Harris (D-New Orleans)
Patrick McMath (R-Covington)
Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge)

Judiciary C

Chair – Jay Morris (R-West Monroe)
Mark Abraham (R-Lake Charles)
Regina Barrow (D-Baton Rouge)
Heather Cloud (R-Turkey Creek)
Valarie Hodges (R-Denham Springs)
Caleb Kleinpeter (R-Port Allen)
Blake Miguez (R-New Iberia)

Labor & Industrial Relations

Chair – Alan Seabaugh (R-Shreveport)
Regina Barrow (D-Baton Rouge)
Jean Paul Coussan (R-Lafayette)
Cleo Fields (D-Baton Rouge)
Jay Morris (R-West Monroe)
Thomas Pressly (R-Shreveport)
Jeremy Stine (R-Lake Charles)

Local & Municipal Affairs

Chair – Joseph Bouie (D-New Orleans)
Adam Bass (R-Bossier City)
Gerald Boudreaux (D-Lafayette)
Stewart Cathey (R-Shreveport)
Franklin Foil (R-Baton Rouge)
Greg Miller (R-Norco)
Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge)

Natural Resources

Chair – Bob Hensgens (R-Abbeville)
Robert Allain (R-Franklin)
Royce Duplessis (D-New Orleans)
Mike Fesi (R-Houma)
Sam Jenkins (D-Shreveport)
Caleb Kleinpeter (R-Port Allen)
Eddie Lambert (R-Gonzales)

Retirement

Chair – Edward Price (D-Gonzales)
Gary Carter (D-New Orleans)

Bob Hensgens (R-Abbeville)
 Valarie Hodges (R-Denham Springs)
 Caleb Kleinpeter (R-Port Allen)
 Bob Owen (R-Slidell)
 Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge)

Revenue & Fiscal Affairs

Chair – Franklin Foil (R-Baton Rouge)
 Adam Bass (R-Bossier City)
 Joseph Bouie (D-New Orleans)
 Patrick Connick (R-Marrero)
 Sam Jenkins (D-Shreveport)
 Eddie Lambert (R-Gonzales)
 Jay Luneau (D-Pineville)
 Beth Mizell (R-Franklinton)
 Jay Morris (R-West Monroe)
 Mike Reese (R-DeRidder)
 Bill Wheat (R-Ponchatoula)

Senate & Governmental Affairs

Chair – Cleo Fields (D-Baton Rouge)
 Gary Carter (D-New Orleans)
 Mike Fesi (R-Houma)
 Sam Jenkins (D-Shreveport)
 Caleb Kleinpeter (R-Port Allen)
 Blake Miguez (R-New Iberia)
 Greg Miller (R-Norco)
 Mike Reese (R-DeRidder)
 Glen Womack (R-Harrisonburg)

Transportation, Highways & Public Works

Chair – Patrick Connick (R-Marrero)
 Mark Abraham (R-Lake Charles)
 Gary Carter (D-New Orleans)
 Heather Cloud (R-Turkey Creek)
 Patrick McMath (R-Covington)
 Edward Price (D-Gonzales)
 Bill Wheat (R-Ponchatoula)

Rules Suspended

Senator Barrow asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules for the purpose of taking up at this time.

Introduction of Senate Resolutions

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Louisiana that a Committee of five be appointed to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate is now duly convened and organized and prepared to transact such business as may be brought before it.

On motion of Senator Barrow, the resolution was read by title and adopted.

In compliance with the resolution the President of the Senate appointed the following Committee:

Senators Coussan,
 Edmonds,
 Hodges,
 Miller, and
 Seabaugh.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Louisiana that a Committee of six be appointed to act with such a Committee as the House of Representatives may appoint to notify the

Governor that the Legislature is now duly convened and organized and prepared to receive such communication as he may desire to lay before it.

On motion of Senator Barrow, the resolution was read by title and adopted.

In compliance with the resolution the President of the Senate appointed the following Committee:

Senators Harris,
 Jenkins,
 Owen,
 Pressly, and
 Talbot.

Reports of Committees

The Committee appointed to notify the Governor that the Senate had convened and was prepared to transact business reported it had performed that duty. The President of the Senate thanked the Committee and discharged it.

The Committee appointed to notify the House of Representatives that the Senate had convened and was prepared to transact business reported it had performed that duty. The President of the Senate thanked the Committee and discharged it.

Committee from the House of Representatives

A Committee from the House of Representatives appeared before the Bar of the Senate and informed the Senate that the House of Representatives was organized and ready to proceed with business.

Rules Suspended

Senator Barrow asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to take up at this time:

Introduction of Senate Concurrent Resolutions

Senator Barrow asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to read Senate Concurrent Resolutions a first and second time.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—

BY SENATOR BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To invite the Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor of Louisiana, to address a joint session of the legislature.

The concurrent resolution was read by title. Senator Barrow moved to adopt the Senate Concurrent Resolution.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. President	Fesi	Miller
Abraham	Fields	Mizell
Allain	Foil	Morris
Barrow	Harris	Owen
Bass	Hensgens	Pressly
Bouie	Hodges	Price
Carter	Jackson	Reese
Cathey	Jenkins	Seabaugh
Cloud	Kleinpeter	Stine
Connick	Lambert	Talbot

Coussan Duplessis Edmonds Total - 38	Luneau McMath Miguez	Wheat Womack
---	----------------------------	-----------------

NAYS

Total - 0

ABSENT

Boudreaux
Total - 1

The Chair declared the Senate adopted the Senate Concurrent Resolution and ordered it sent to the House.

Motion

Senator Barrow moved that the Senate proceed to the House of Representatives to meet in Joint Session.

Joint Session of the Legislature

The joint session of the legislature was called to order at 4:37 P.M. by the Honorable J. Cameron Henry Jr., President of the Senate.

On motion of Senator Barrow, the calling of the roll on the part of the Senate was dispensed with.

On motion of Speaker Pro-Tempore Michael Johnson, the calling of the roll on the part of the House was dispensed with.

The President of the Senate appointed the following special committee to escort the Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor of the State of Louisiana, to the joint session.

On the part of the Senate: Senators Harris, Jenkins, Owen, Pressly, and Talbot.

On the part of the House: Representatives Bayham, Emerson, LaFleur, Moore, and Owen.

Prayer

Prayer was offered by Representative Hughes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Cameron Henry, President of the Senate, led the joint session in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The President of the Senate introduced the Honorable Jeff Landry, who addressed the joint session of the legislature.

On motion of Senator Barrow, the Senate retired to its own chamber.

After Joint Session

The Senate was called to order by the President of the Senate with the following Senators present:

PRESENT

Mr. President Abraham Allain Barrow Bass Bouie Carter Cathey	Fesi Fields Foil Harris Hensgens Hodges Jenkins Kleinpeter	Miller Mizell Morris Owen Pressly Price Reese Seabaugh
---	---	---

Cloud Coussan Duplessis Total - 33	Lambert Luneau McMath	Talbot Wheat Womack
---	-----------------------------	---------------------------

ABSENT

Boudreaux Connick Total - 6	Edmonds Jackson	Miguez Stine
-----------------------------------	--------------------	-----------------

The President of the Senate announced there were 33 Senators present and a quorum.

Senate Business Resumed After Joint Session

Message from the House

CONCURRING IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

January 15, 2024

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate:

I am directed to inform your honorable body that the House of Representatives has finally concurred in the following Senate Concurrent Resolutions:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—

BY SENATOR BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To invite the Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor of Louisiana, to address a joint session of the legislature.

Reported without amendments.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHELLE D. FONTENOT
Clerk of the House of Representatives

Rules Suspended

Senator Harris asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to revert to:

Prefiled Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions to be Introduced and Referred

Senator Harris asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to introduce and read prefiled Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions a first and second time and refer them to committee.

SENATE BILL NO. 1—

BY SENATORS PRESSLY AND CONNICK
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 2—BY SENATORS PRESSLY AND CONNICK
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 3—

BY SENATOR MIGUEZ

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana and to repeal Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the supreme court; to provide for statewide election of justices; to repeal supreme court district configurations; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 4—BY SENATORS PRICE AND DUPLESSIS
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1276.1 and to repeal R.S. 18:1276, relative to congressional districts; to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts; to provide with respect to positions and offices, other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts; to provide for the effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 5—

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the supreme court; to provide for residency requirements; to provide for statewide election of justices; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 6—

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court; to provide for two additional justices to the court; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

Introduction of Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions

Senator Jenkins asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to introduce and read Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions a first and second time and refer them to committee.

SENATE BILL NO. 7—

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 8—

BY SENATOR WOMACK

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1276.1 and to repeal R.S. 18:1276, relative to congressional districts; to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts; to provide with respect to positions and offices, other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts; to provide for the effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 9—

BY SENATOR MIGUEZ

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1400.7 and to enact R.S. 18:2(6.1) and 405, relative to elections; to define ranked-choice voting and instant runoff voting; to prohibit for certain elections; to provide for election expenses; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE BILL NO. 10—

BY SENATOR CARTER

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1276.1 and to repeal R.S. 18:1276, relative to congressional districts; to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts; to provide with respect to positions and offices, other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts; to provide for the effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title and referred by the President to the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mr. President	Fesi	Miller
Abraham	Fields	Mizell
Allain	Foil	Morris
Barrow	Harris	Owen
Bass	Hensgens	Pressly
Bouie	Hodges	Price
Carter	Jackson	Reese
Cathey	Jenkins	Seabaugh
Cloud	Kleinpeter	Stine
Connick	Lambert	Talbot
Coussan	Luneau	Wheat
Duplessis	McMath	Womack
Edmonds	Miguez	
Total - 38		

ABSENT

Boudreaux
Total - 1

Leaves of Absence

The following leaves of absence were asked for and granted:

Boudreaux 1 Day

Announcements

The following committee meetings for January 16, 2024, were announced:

Senate and Gov't Affairs 10:00 A.M. Room A

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Talbot, at 5:18 o'clock P.M. the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 3:00 o'clock P.M.

The President of the Senate declared the Senate adjourned.

YOLANDA J. DIXON
Secretary of the Senate

FRANCINE K. OGNIBENE
Journal Clerk