

May 29, 2026

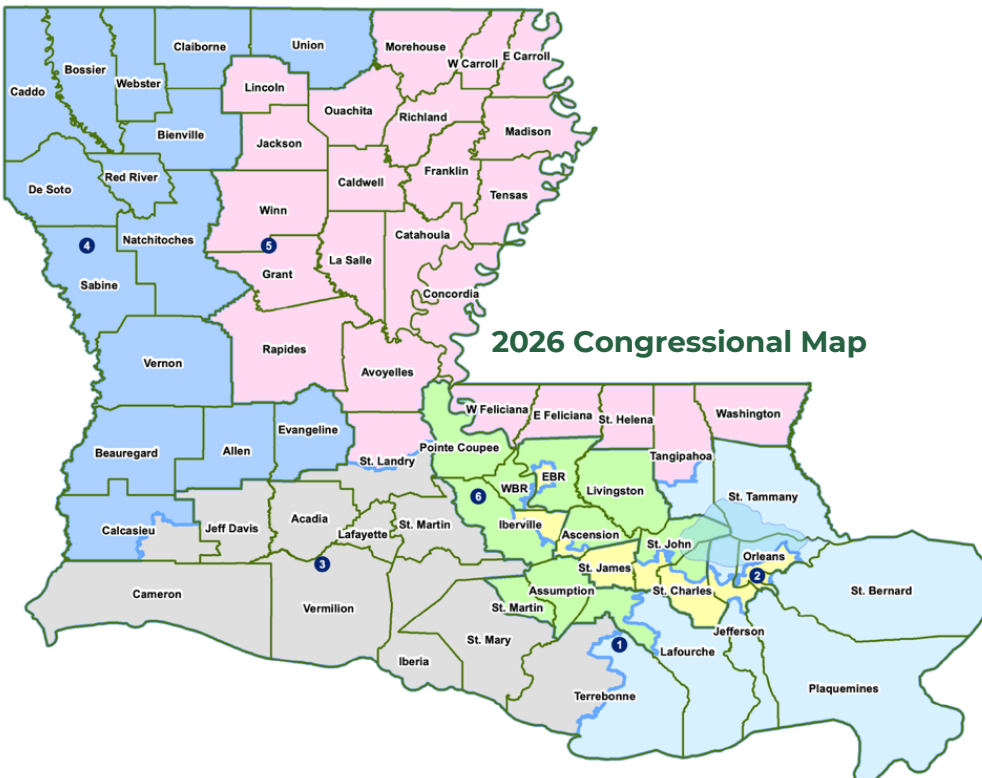
Mapping the Future: Another Congressional Map

Republican lawmakers rework Louisiana's congressional districts after U.S. Supreme Court ruling

Louisiana will use a new congressional map for the fall elections, drawn by lawmakers after the U.S. Supreme Court declared the previous district configuration unconstitutional in a contentious, years-long redistricting battle.

The redesign of the six districts looks similar to the U.S. House map lawmakers approved in 2022 before litigation began. The plan replaces the congressional map adopted in 2024 and eliminates a majority-Black district stretching from Baton Rouge to Shreveport held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Cleo Fields.

The bill that received final legislative passage Friday and heads to Gov. Jeff Landry's desk will return Louisiana to a design that favors Republican candidates in five districts and favors Democratic candidates in the majority-Black 2nd District. The 2nd District will remain based in New Orleans and include portions of parishes along the Mississippi River between New Orleans and into a slice of Baton Rouge.



The House voted 66-35 for the redrawn districts and the Senate gave it final passage with a 28-10 vote. The map largely passed along partisan lines, with most Republicans supporting the design and nearly every Democrat opposed.

The election for U.S. House seats [is scheduled for Nov. 3](#), with candidates able to sign up for the six races from Aug. 5-7.

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana knows passage of this map likely will provoke another round of lawsuits over the U.S.

House districts. But the fall elections are expected to use this map – and state officials owe it to the state’s voters to do everything possible to educate and inform them about the district line changes so they can understand the races they’ll face on the November ballot.

Fights over the shape of the congressional districts have raged since lawmakers began their redistricting work five years ago, with the district lines debated across five sessions after the release of updated U.S. Census data.

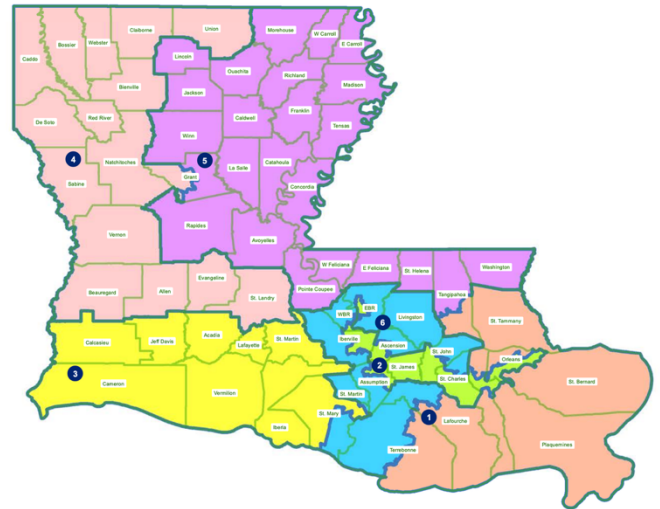
Arguments centered on interpretations of the federal Voting Rights Act and disagreements over whether Louisiana needed two majority-Black districts since one-third of the state’s residents are Black.

The House and Senate [passed a map in 2022](#), which maintained the five majority-Republican districts and one majority-Black, majority-Democrat district based in New Orleans that had existed across the prior decade, with adjustments for population changes. They [overrode a veto](#) from then-Gov. John Bel Edwards to enact the map.

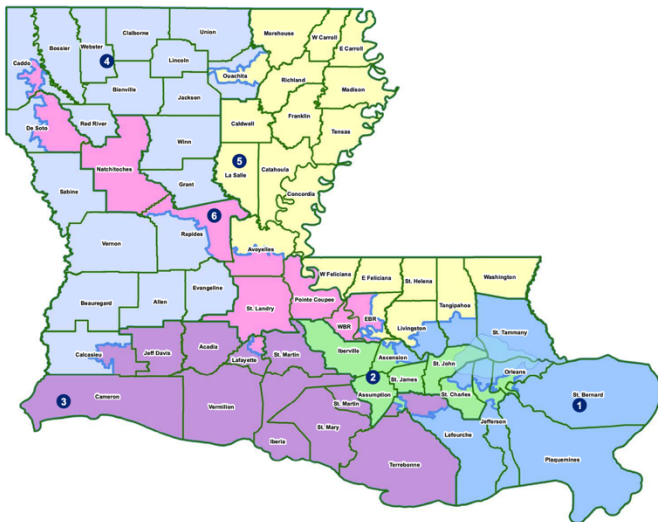
A few months later, a federal judge reviewing a challenge of the configuration ruled the map a violation of the Voting Rights Act, requiring the creation of a second majority-Black district among the six districts.

When he took office in 2024, Landry called a special session to redraw the map to comply with the judge’s ruling. The House and Senate [agreed to create the second majority-Black district](#), heavily reworking the 6th District seat held by then-U.S. Rep. Garret Graves, a Republican who chose not to run under the reconfigured map.

2022 Congressional Map



2024 Congressional Map



Another lawsuit was filed, and the U.S. Supreme Court in April ruled that the map with two majority-Black districts was an unconstitutional racial gerrymander in a decision that neutered the Voting Rights Act.

Landry quickly suspended ongoing closed party primary elections for the U.S. House seats, after absentee ballots already had been cast and early voting was about to begin, so lawmakers could rework the six districts. The House and Senate then passed legislation to reset the postponed election for the fall.

Hundreds of people showed up across three days of public hearings this legislative session to testify about redrawing the congressional map, with nearly all the testimony in opposition to designs similar to the map that reached final passage. Participants packed the state Capitol halls. Testimony lasted hours and stretched overnight for one of the hearings.

Republican legislative leaders who presented the map that won final passage said they worked to maximize the GOP's political advantage in district seats, protect most of Louisiana's congressional incumbents and comply with the latest U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Democrats who opposed the district configuration said it doesn't reflect Louisiana's racial makeup, ignored hours of public testimony and refused to acknowledge that Democrats and no-party voters account for nearly two-thirds of the state's registered voters.

Candidates for the six seats will run under Louisiana's traditional open primary system, where all contenders face off on the same ballot regardless of party, rather than under a planned closed party primary system. If no candidate reaches more than 50% of the vote, the top two vote-getters will face each other in a Dec. 12 runoff election.