Congressmen to monitor remap action

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WASHINGTON — Several Louisiana U.S. House members or their top aides will be in Baton Rouge next week to monitor the Legislature's reapportionment of Congressional districts.

The only two Louisiana congressmen not planning to be in Baton Rouge are Buddy Roemer, D-Bossier City, and Jerry Huckaby, D-Ringgold. They're the two incumbents whose district lines are virtually untouched by any proposed remap plan.

Rep. John Breaux, D-Crowley, might not attend or send an aide to Baton Rouge. But, as "dean" of Louisiana's U.S. House delegation and a former staff aide to incoming governor Edwin Edwards, Breaux has been an active middleman in reporting the incumbents' reapportionment preferences to Edwards.

Breaux will go to Baton Rouge if called, said an aide, but he'd normally keep himself informed anyway by telephone to either Edwards or to his close friend, Rep. Billy Tauzin, D-Thibodaux.

Tauzin will be around the Legislature for reapportionment, probably arriving on Wednesday, an aide said.

Also there will be Jan Schoonmaker, representing Rep. Lindy Boggs, D-New Orleans, and Carson Killen, representing

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Livingston wants and gave greater influence in "his" district to Jefferson Parish areas that include Democrats supposedly eager to run against Livingston.

While minimizing damage to Livingston and to incumbents around the state, the delegation-preferred option — as reported privately to Edwards — creates a majority-black 2nd District, according to Breaux.

Numerous delegation offices this week told the Advocate that they're still fairly confident Edwards will be willing to endorse a delegation-supported option as long as it meets the court mandate.

Reflecting that confidence is an apparent lack of reapportionment activity in the offices here. Unlike the Legislature's first reapportionment effort when Congressional incumbents met privately, wrote plans and variations of plans and had innumerable staff and personal telephone chats, "there's none of that going on now. At least not yet," said a staff aide this week.

However, there's still the unknown factor of how Jefferson Parish Democrats — anxious to strengthen their parish's influence — have reacted to the incumbents' initiatives to Treen and Edwards.

If the congressional offices know of any strong countermoves out of Jefferson, they're not talking about them.