Lafayette to get new state House seat

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State Editor

Baton Rouge — As Louisiana's population shifted in the last 10 years, it set off a wave that will result in Lafayette Parish receiving a new seat in the House of Representatives.

Reapportionment starts by dividing the state's population by 144 House seats and getting a new, ideal number of residents in each district. Some adjustments are made to accommodate natural boundaries, so districts can fall within 5 percent, plus or minus, of the norm, about 42,500 voters.

"It becomes like a jigsaw puzzle after that," said Rep. Jerry LeBlanc, D-Lafayette, whose District 45 is sure to be altered by reapportionment.

Census figures indicate a growth of 23,000 new residents of Lafayette Parish, primarily in the Vermilion School Road area along the Vermilion River. Elsewhere, population dropped in Central Louisiana and in Orleans Parish, but climbed dramatically along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

Those shifts set off a reshuffling of districts for the state's House of Representatives. Please see SEAT on Page 9A