

Received from Secretary Ardoin  
During Meeting of: Feb. 25  
at 9am.

## Lafayette City Council Issues

### Jurisdiction:

- The jurisdiction in some of the City Council seats is incorrect and certain voters in the City of Lafayette will not have representation on the City Council with the current jurisdiction.
- Jurisdiction/precincts of the City Council are provided in the Home Rule Charter.

### Home Rule Charter:

- The Home Rule Charter will have to be amended to correct the jurisdiction/precincts for the City Council.
- Amending the Home Rule Charter requires the approval of the voters in Lafayette Parish.
- The request for the election to approve the amendment to the charter requires State Bond Commission approval. (Article 6, Section 22 of the Louisiana Constitution.)
- The Secretary of State's deadline to put the proposition for the proposed charter amendment on the ballot for the May 4, 2019 election is March 11, 2019. (R.S. 18:1300(C)(1))

### Denial of the Right to Vote:

- If the Home Rule Charter is not amended prior to the opening of qualifying on August 6, 2019, certain voters in the City of Lafayette would be denied the right to vote.

### Qualifying:

- The elections for the City Council and the Parish Council are set for the October 12, 2019 and November 16, 2019.
- Qualifying cannot be opened on August 6, 2019 if the jurisdiction for the City Council is not corrected.
- Candidates would not know the correct City Council seat they should be qualifying for and some residents would be denied the right to run for office.
- Incorrect jurisdiction could potentially cause objections to candidacy to be filed.

### Election Contests:

- Incorrect jurisdiction could potentially cause election contests to be filed.

Remedy:

•Current state law does not appear to provide for an election of this type on a date that is not set forth in R.S. 18:402.

Possible Solution:

•Legislation? Perhaps the legislature could pass an act to have a special election date in June or July to allow the proposition for the proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter to be presented to the voters in Lafayette Parish.