



Manship School of  
Mass Communication  
Reilly Center For  
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## **LSU Reilly Center and Fair Districts Louisiana Announce Bipartisan Redistricting Summit**

Today, Fair Districts Louisiana and the LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs announced the Louisiana Redistricting Summit, a bipartisan conference to explore the state's redistricting policies and ideas for reform. The daylong event is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2018, at the Manship School of Mass Communication's Holliday Forum in the Journalism Building.

"Redistricting is arguably the most important issue to our democracy today," said State Senator Norby Chabert, a Republican from Houma. "Partisan gerrymandering has contributed to deep divisions in our politics and made compromise an endangered species. This summit represents a conversation that is long overdue."

The summit will bring together experts, concerned citizens, and a bipartisan group of current and former elected officials to address the process of redistricting and the challenges presented by gerrymandering, the practice of manipulating electoral districts for partisan advantage.

"Gerrymandering is one of the most corrosive trends in politics, and it has eroded the trust Americans and Louisianans have in the democratic system," said Stephen Kearny, the summit's chair and a co-founder of Fair Districts Louisiana. "It is vital that we reform the system before the 2020 census and the next redistricting cycle in 2021."

Experts from the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan law and policy institute that works on redistricting nationwide, will speak at the summit. Other confirmed attendees include representatives from the League of Women Voters of Louisiana and the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL) and legislators Julie Stokes (HD-79) and Ted James (HD-101).

"Part of the Center's mission is to foster conversation on important topics among scholars, policymakers, and citizens," said Reilly Center director Jenee Slocum. "Redistricting reform is relevant and timely given Louisiana's history on the matter and recent Supreme Court review. We are proud to partner on this summit."

The summit is sponsored by the [Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs](#), an integral part of the [Manship School of Mass Communication](#). The Reilly Center's mission is to generate thoughtful programs, dialogue, and research about mass communication and its many faceted relationships with social, economic, and political issues.

Details, including an agenda and additional confirmed participants, will be shared as they are finalized. Information, including social media and RSVP links, is online at [www.fairdistrictsla.org](http://www.fairdistrictsla.org).

*Fair Districts Louisiana is a grassroots, bipartisan alliance of organizations and citizens who support redistricting reform. We are motivated by the belief that ensuring fair and competitive elections is a desire shared by all citizens who value a vibrant democracy, and is not the domain of a particular ideology or party.*