









# JURORS: Police juror wants continuity on board

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hearn has served on the board of commissioners for 15 years.

“After some conversations with all five board members, they asked that we re-appoint Mike on there and give them time to consider other appointees in the near future,” Robinson said. “At this point in time, that’s my motion to re-appoint Mr. Mulhearn.”

Last month, Robinson said he would not consider Mulhearn’s reappointment because he believed board

members should be limited in how long they serve. Some officials expressed concern that Robinson’s decision was motivated by Mulhearn’s contributions to the late Luke Letlow, who—like Robinson—was a candidate in last year’s 5th District congressional race. Before his fatal bout with COVID-19, Letlow secured election to the Congress, a month after a primary election in which Robinson failed to make the run-off.

On Monday, Robinson

said he still wanted term limits for board members and denied any political motivations behind his earlier rejection of Mulhearn as an appointee.

“I reminded them the terms are six years and not forever,” Robinson said. “In light of our conversations, that has not changed.”

Robinson said one of the current board members is willing to step down once a replacement is found.

“I expect that to happen in the next several months,”

Robinson said.

Mulhearn was unavailable for comment.

Police Juror Michael Thompson Sr. voiced concern that the hospital service district’s board members might rely too much on Mulhearn’s experience on the board. Mulhearn and Pat Spencer have each served on the board for 15 years or more.

“Is there a way we can possibly get with them to speak the same language?” Thompson said. “Instead of

one person having knowledge of everything, that each of them would have an opportunity to know.”

Hospital service district board members have disputed remarks similar to Thompson’s — that they could not carry out the business of the board without Mulhearn or Spencer.

Robinson characterized some board members’ objections as “foot stomping and huffing and puffing.”

“Mike Mulhearn and Pat Spencer have been there a

long time and know what they’re doing,” Robinson said.

“The other three are not as confident without Mike and Pat Spencer still being there. That’s some of the discussion.”

Assistant District Attorney Jay Mitchell, who serves as the Police Jury’s legal counsel, said he would review the “non-interference clause” in Police Jury’s agreement with the board of commissioners.

# REDISTRICTING: Legislative elections in 2023

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especially to protect those who are in poverty.”

“Bastrop and Bogalusa, for example, have a lot of similarities, with economic conditions and challenges,” Echols added.

A shift to one northern congressional district also could shake up the political make-up of Louisiana’s congressional delegation, if one of northern Louisiana’s predominantly Republican districts is lost to a Democratic-leaning area down south.

Meanwhile, legislators

held their first redistricting meeting last week during a Joint Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on Sept. 17.

During the hearing, lawmakers learned the “ideal” population for a district in the state House of Representatives is 44,000 voters while an “ideal” Senate district contains 119,000 voters.

The committee also presented maps showing “malapportioned” districts, or districts with population

apportioned deviating from the ideal numbers.

Of northeastern Louisiana’s legislative delegation, Echols and state Rep. Foy Gadberry were the only lawmakers whose districts gained population. Echols’ District 14 grew by 10 to 35 percent while Gadberry’s District 15’s population increased by 5 to 10 percent.

“As we redistrict, we’ll probably grow some of the rural districts in land mass, and we may lose some population,” Echols said. “We

want to find what’s appropriate for our areas.”

State Sen. Katrina Jackson’s District 34 lost the most in population with a loss of 10 to 19 percent.

Legislators whose districts lost 5 to 10 percent in population included Cathey (Senate District 33); Sen. Glen Womack (District 32); Rep. Pat Moore (House District 17); Rep. Jack McFarland (House District 13); and House District 16 (vacant).

“I think it’s pretty obvious

we’re all going to have to grow,” Cathey said. “I can’t move north. I can only go east, west or south.”

Legislative districts losing less than 5 percent in population included Morris (Senate District 35) and Rep. Neil Riser, R-Columbia (House District 20).

One legislator declined to elaborate on their position about the specific shape of the congressional districts because of concern the Legislature’s redistricting could become the subject of litigation.

The Legislature is expected to convene a special legislative session in February 2022 to iron out its redistricting plan. The U.S. Department of Justice is expected to scrutinize all redistricting plans to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

A hearing seeking public input about redistricting is scheduled to occur Wednesday, Oct. 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

# MONROE: A research outfit expected to announce partnership

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ity project. Ellis and BRIP’s board members have not

indicated how much money might be committed from

the Tower-Armand district’s coffers.

“Obviously, the park is in development right now,” said Sue Nicholson, a BRIP board member. “We know what property we have. We have an idea of the building size. As you know, that takes funding. We have some in hand. Those are funds that are left over from other projects that have been built.”

BRIP is planning to build one 60,000-square foot building, including laboratories, office space and research spaces. BRIP claims that, in its initial stages, it could create some 60 jobs with an average salary of \$60,000. The number of jobs at the research park could rise to 100, according to BRIP.

“Louisiana Economic Development encouraged us to look at a capital outlay request,” Nicholson said. “We’re going to do that.

We’re also considering some grants.”

The AG’s opinion found no legal barriers to the signing of a cooperative endeavor agreement between BRIP and the Tower-Armand district, especially in light of ULM’s involvement in the research park.

“Hence, utilizing District funds to purchase land and construct buildings to be used by ULM and private companies that will generate economic activity falls within the District’s purpose,” stated the AG’s Aug. 24 letter.

Assistant Attorney General Craig Cassagne Jr. signed the AG’s letter.

Monroe developer Joe Holyfield, who serves on BRIP’s board of directors, said the research park could possibly use funds from the Tower-Armand district as matching funds for grants, for construction, or public

infrastructure improvements.

“With that comes economic development and jobs to our community,” Holyfield said.

As long as city officials found BRIP’s proposal convincing, the Tower-Armand District’s public funds would not be at risk, according to the AG’s office.

“The District will receive the benefit of more jobs, which will presumably generate more economic activity, followed by more tax revenue,” stated the AG’s letter. “Here, as long as the District reasonably believes it will receive some benefit for its expenditure of public funds, the transaction does not appear gratuitous when taken as a whole.”

The Monroe City Council is expected to consider any recommendation made by Ellis pertaining to the expenditure of the Tower-Ar-

mand district’s funds.

“There are more conversations that my team and I still need to have before I make an official recommendation,” Ellis said.

According to BRIP board member Ray Armstrong, the research park’s long-term plan includes the construction of several buildings, in phases, as needed by ULM and private companies engaged in research projects.

Armstrong said an organization was interested in occupying two floors. He declined to name the outfit, though he said an announcement was expected soon.

“I was excited to see it because it is an aspirational project,” Nicholson said. “Instead of looking at what we can do now for the sake of something new, this project focuses our attention on what we can do now for the sake of the future.”

## PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF OUACHITA  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

BE IT KNOWN that on this 27th day of AUGUST, 2021, pursuant to an order of the Court dated July 22, 2021, we the undersigned members of the Jury Commission in and for the said Parish and State, namely,

SARAH CALHOUN ALLBRITTON, SYDNEY CAMERON, PAMELA HIGGINS SAULSBERRY, SAM O. HENRY, IV

Duly and legally appointed and sworn to law, a quorum being present, assembled at the Clerk’s Office in the Courthouse, at Monroe, Louisiana, together with Dana Benson, Clerk of Court and a member of said Commission, and did then and there perform the duties prescribed by law in the following manner to-wit: The Court ordered the drawing of 50 jurors to serve as Petit Jurors for the term of Court beginning MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021;

The names having been drawn by a computer indiscriminately and by lot as provided for by C.Cr.P.Art.416.1, are as follows (PART 1 of 4):

- Averitte, Roy Nicholas
- Becton, Dustin Lee Horn
- Blankenship, Karan
- Bordelon, Ashley Monica
- Brown, Kevin D
- Brown, Shelia McGee
- Carter, William R
- Clacks, Freddie Lee
- Foux, Allyson M
- Garlington, Aubrey Ryan
- George, Jay Kent
- Haase, Richard Eugene
- Hatten, Michael W
- Hilliard, James Clayton Jr
- Hudson, Ryan W
- Hughes, Angel Renell
- Hutchinson, Lori Ann
- Jackson, Mitchell Terry
- Jackson, Ora Jean L
- Jeslink, Alexandria Storm
- Jones, Rebecca J
- Knox, Nellie Arrant
- Lampkins, Gwendolyn H
- Lewis, Michael Wayne
- Marshall, Russell L
- McClung, Sandra G
- McCready, Rebecca Lynne Brew
- Mills, Paul D
- Morgan, Rosemary James
- Morris, Bobby E
- Moy, Kenyatta Rena
- Murry, Kerry Scott
- Myers, Myisha Senarvia
- Newsotn, Patricia Lynette
- Perry, David Lee
- Phenix, Johnny E
- Phillips, Jennifer M
- Poindexter, Dianna L
- Rainwater, Julien Laborde
- Ramsey, Heather Marie
- Rogers, Katelynn
- Sams, Holly Michelle
- Sanderson, Richard D
- Smart, Vincent G
- Smith, Milton Leon IV
- Stell, Wesley Sherman
- Swann, Tiewana T
- Watt, Vester L
- Williams, Thomas E
- Wimberly, Wanda F

The slips containing the names of persons listed were then placed in a separate envelope, which was sealed and the words “ONE” written thereon and placed in said box labeled “JURY BOX.” The Jury Box and General Venire Box were then locked and sealed and delivered to the custody of the Clerk of said Court, subject to the orders of Court.

In testimony all of which we hereunto subscribe our names on this the 27th day of AUGUST, 2021, at Monroe, Louisiana. SARAH CALHOUN ALLBRITTON, SYDNEY CAMERON, PAMELA HIGGINS SAULSBERRY, SAM O. HENRY IV

I, Dana Benson, Clerk of Court, hereby certify that all of the members of the Jury Commission were duly summoned to attend this meeting as will appear from the Sheriff’s returns on said summons, as on file in my office.

Dana Benson, Clerk of Court  
9/23



## Ouachita Parish

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