



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 15, 2005**  
<http://lrld.louisiana.gov>

**CONTACT: Senator Tom Schedler**  
**Representative Jim Tucker**  
**225.342.6287**

## **Republican Lawmakers Want April Elections**

**BATON ROUGE** – The Republican Legislative Delegation wholeheartedly supports Representative Steve Scalise's plea to Governor Blanco to immediately call for local elections in New Orleans to take place no later than April of 2006.

Representative Scalise (R-Metairie), on behalf of the Delegation, details his appeal based upon the necessity for the local citizenry to exercise their constitutional right to vote in a letter addressed to Governor Blanco on December 13, 2005, copy attached.

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**Attachment**



# LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Labor and Industrial Relations  
Appropriations  
Insurance  
Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget

**STEVE SCALISE**  
State Representative - District 82

December 13, 2005

Governor Kathleen Blanco  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Blanco,

I am urging you to allow the local government elections in New Orleans to be held no later than April of 2006. I was sorry to see your Executive Order (KBB 2005-96) delaying the February 4<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006 elections in New Orleans. While the Secretary of State has questioned the ability to hold elections in Orleans on their regularly-scheduled time in February, I feel very strongly as do many of my New Orleans constituents that they be allowed to select the leadership who will direct the rebuilding of this great City.

Whether the voters of New Orleans decide to keep the current leaders or choose new ones, this fundamental right should not be delayed beyond next summer's hurricane season. The April 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> dates are available as sufficient alternate dates if your Executive Order delaying the February election stands. That would also allow the spirit of the City of New Orleans' Home Rule Charter to be maintained since it calls for the elected leadership to be installed by the first Monday in May.

It has become more evident that the ability exists to hold an election in New Orleans no later than April of 2006. One of tools we have given elections officials is Act 40 of the 2005 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session. It addresses many of the concerns expressed by Secretary of State Ater. I would also like to point out that successful elections were recently held in Calcasieu Parish despite the devastation they endured by Hurricane Rita. And the most compelling evidence that an election can and should be held in New Orleans is the Executive Order you issued last week, KBB 2005-72, which calls for a special election to be held in St. Bernard Parish on April 1, 2006 with a runoff on April 29<sup>th</sup>. If any parish in the state experienced as much if not more damage from Hurricane Katrina than New Orleans, it is St. Bernard Parish. If they can hold elections in April, there is no doubt we can have elections in New Orleans no later than April of 2006 as well. I cannot emphasize enough how important this is to so many of the people of New Orleans, whether they are living back home or temporarily displaced throughout the country. I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve".

Steve Scalise