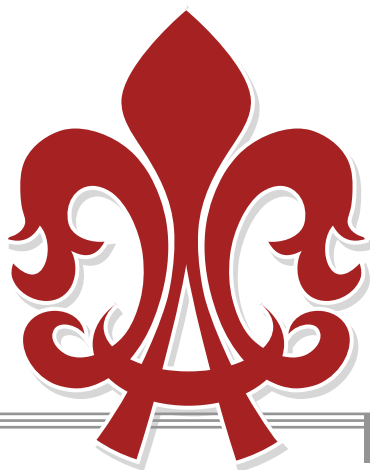




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Democrat calls Johnson 'Antichrist' in qualifying



Speaker Mike Johnson qualified by proxy as he travels across the country campaigning and raising money for Republicans as he works to try to maintain the GOP's razor thin majority in the House. HENRIETTA WILDSMITH/THE TIMES

Greg Hilburn

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson of Shreveport qualified for reelection Aug. 5 against a Democrat who described him as the "Antichrist."

Johnson qualified by proxy as he travels across the country campaigning and raising money for Republicans as he works to try to maintain the GOP's razor thin majority in the House.

"It is the greatest honor to serve the



Cable

people of Louisiana's 4th District as Congressman and the 56th Speaker of the House, and I am grateful to qualify for reelection and continue fighting for our region in Congress," Johnson said in a statement to USA Today Network. "Working together with President Donald Trump, we have delivered a stronger economy, American energy dominance, peace through strength, and working families tax cuts that will save families in our District nearly \$1,300 in tax hikes.

However, there is much more to do.

"As a husband, dad, constitutional law attorney, and son of a Shreveport firefighter, I will never stop fighting for the principles that have made Louisiana and America great and made our region the greatest place to live, work and raise a family."

While Johnson is a heavy favorite for reelection, Democrat Conrad Cable blasted the speaker as destroying the American Dream for families that he says face an affordability crisis.

Cable, a vegetable farmer from

See **JOHNSON**, Page 2A

Edmonds qualifies to run for U.S. CD 6

Unclear if Miguez still has Trump endorsement

Greg Hilburn

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK



Edmonds

Louisiana's biggest mystery during election qualifying for the state's six U.S. House seats this week is whether or not Republican state Sen. Blake Miguez will run for Congress and whether his previous endorsement by President Trump remains in play.

State Sen. Rick Edmonds qualified to run for the open 6th Congressional District seat Aug. 5 and insisted Miguez's previous Trump endorsement is void.

"By declining to endorse Sen. Miguez, President Trump has sent a clear message; his support must be earned," Edmonds said after qualifying.

Trump had previously endorsed Miguez for the 5th Congressional District, but those spring closed party primary elections were canceled after Louisiana redrew its congressional map.

The new 6th Congressional District boundaries are now based in Baton Rouge, where Miguez moved to run in 5th when it took in the capital region.

Now it's unclear whether Miguez will run in the 5th District, the 6th District, or at all. He hasn't returned phone calls from media, including USA Today Network, for weeks and his social media platforms also offer no clue on his plans.

USA Today Network texted Miguez again Wednesday seeking comment.

Qualifying continues through Aug. 7 for the Nov. 3 elections.

Edmonds, meanwhile, is campaigning against Miguez as if he will qualify in

See **EDMONDS**, Page 2A

Legislators seek Trump endorsement in CD 5 race

Greg Hilburn

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A crowded field of candidates, including three Republican state legislators all seeking the endorsement of President Trump, qualified for Louisiana's 5th Congressional District race Aug. 5.

Louisiana's 5th District seat opened after incumbent Republican Rep. Julia Letlow decided to run for the Senate instead. Letlow will face Democrat Jamie Davis in the Nov. 3 general election.

State Reps. Michael Echols of Monroe and Gabe Firment of Grant Parish and state Sen. Stewart Cathey of Mon-

roe all said they have been in contact with the White House seeking the president's endorsement, which has been almost unbeatable during this election cycle.

Trump had previously endorsed state Sen. Blake Miguez of New Iberia for the 5th District, but that was before Louisiana redrew its congressional map. Now it's unclear whether Miguez will run in the 5th, the 6th, or at all, leaving the door open for those seeking the president's approval.

"The president is a builder, someone who wants to see action; our backgrounds are similar," said Echols, a

See **TRUMP**, Page 2A

Incumbents Higgins, Carter to defend seats

Greg Hilburn

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Incumbent Louisiana Congressmen Clay Higgins, a MAGA firebrand, and Troy Carter, who represents New Orleans in the state's only remaining majority Democratic district, both qualified for reelection Aug. 5.

Higgins represents the 3rd Congressional District with Lafayette and Lake Charles as the population hubs. Carter, who will likely be Louisiana's only Black representative if he wins reelection to the next Congress, represents the 2nd Congressional District. Both qualified by proxy.



Higgins



Carter

Higgins, a President Trump loyalist, is chairman of the House Oversight Panel's Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement.

He is also a member of the House

See **INCUMBENTS**, Page 2A

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