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# DAILY WORLD

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## Votes on LA U.S. House elections can be cast, but not counted

**Greg Hilburn**  
 Shreveport Times  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana voters remain able to cast a ballot in their U.S. House races during early voting, but those votes won't be counted because the elections were canceled.

Republican Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry canceled the U.S. House elections April 30 after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on April 29 that the state's congressional map was unconstitutional

because the Black-majority 2nd District boundaries are a racial gerrymander.

"Allowing elections to proceed under an unconstitutional map would undermine the integrity of our system and violate the rights of our voters," Landry said in a statement.

Early voting began May 2 for the May 16 election that still includes active statewide elections for U.S. senator and five proposed amendments to the Louisiana Constitution as well as local races.

But Secretary of State Nancy Landry, the state's chief elections officer, said

the timing of the decision to suspend the U.S. House races prevented them from being removed from the ballot in both early voting booths and mail-in ballots that had been sent to voters before the Supreme Court decision.

"While the U.S. House races will remain on voters' ballots, any votes cast in those races will not be counted," the secretary of state said in a statement.

Early voters are greeted with signs notifying them of the change with the

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## Firearm safety bill rejected

**Veronica Camenzuli**  
 LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE — A bill holding adults legally responsible if children gain access to a loaded firearm was rejected 6-3 by a House committee this week.

House Bill 586, by Rep. Vincent Cox III, R-Gretna, would have criminalized leaving a loaded firearm where children could access it, potentially harming themselves or others, failed in the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee

"I believe that HB 586 is common sense and responsibility without restricting Second Amendment rights," Cox said.

Ashlyn Carraway, whose 13-year-old son Noah died due to his friend accidentally shooting him at a sleepover in 2011, spoke in support of the bill's goals of child safety.

"We try our absolute best to keep them safe in every other way that we can," Carraway said. "Why would this be any different?"

Even though her son learned gun safety, Carraway said his knowledge did not save him, and there was no law in place to hold the friend's parents accountable for the death. Noah's friend

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## Bill aims to protect shrimpers, fishermen



An assortment of fresh shrimp and shellfish is displayed on ice at a seafood market.  
 WILLIAM WARBY / UNSPLASH / VIA THE CENTER SQUARE

**Nolan Mckendry**  
 The Center Square

The 2026 Farm Bill passed by the U.S. House includes new seafood provisions aimed at giving commercial fishermen and shrimpers greater access to federal agriculture programs.

The bill, which now moves to the U.S. Senate, includes an amendment by U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., to codify the newly established Office of Seafood within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA announced the office earlier this month, saying it would help seafood producers, processors and cultivators better navigate federal programs, grants, loans and market-development resources.

"American shrimpers and seafood producers have not received federal agency support for marketing and their operations that have been historically made available to farmers and ranchers," the Southern Shrimp Alliance wrote in a statement. "The Office of Sea-

food's sole responsibility is to better integrate seafood into USDA programs and align seafood policy across agencies, permanently supporting American fishermen, 'the farmers of the sea.'"

The House-passed bill also includes a shrimp trade provision requiring the U.S. Government Accountability Office to report to Congress within 180 days of enactment on policy options available to the agriculture secretary to boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and domestic markets.

The report would have to analyze USDA's authority over shrimp and other seafood products, domestic seafood producers' access to financial-support programs, and ways to improve coordination among federal agencies on tariffs, market-access policies and other trade barriers. It would also require GAO to identify legal or trade barriers affecting U.S. shrimp and seafood production that could be challenged through the World Trade Organization or under bilateral or multilateral trade agreements.

The provisions come as shrimpers and other seafood producers have argued they face unfair foreign competition while being left out of many federal supports available to land-based agriculture.

Mace said in an April 27 statement that the amendments are intended to give South Carolina's commercial shrimping and fishing industries "long-overdue federal support." Her office said the package would extend USDA loan and grant programs to fishermen and fish processors, establish the seafood office in law, expand market access for wild-caught American seafood and block U.S. taxpayer dollars from supporting foreign shrimp operations through international financial institutions.

"Washington has ignored the hard-working men and women who keep South Carolina's coastal economy alive for far too long," Mace said. "The

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## Activists react to map rejection

**Ian Robinson**  
 Shreveport Times  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Civil rights leaders and groups responded to the U.S. Supreme Court's Wednesday ruling to strike down Louisiana's congressional map, saying the decision dismantles the state's second majority-Black district and weakens Black voting power across the state.

In a statement to the Times, All Streets All People (ASAP), a Shreveport-based community organizing and grassroots organization, said the Callais decision is a reminder of something everyday people across North Louisiana already know — the systems that govern our lives are not neutral — and they do not move unless we move them.

The organization said for far too long, decisions that shape their communities — schools, resources, political power — have been made without us, or in ways that dilute our voice when we do show up. They said the decision does not exist in isolation. It sits inside a larger pattern where power is protected, access is managed, and the people most impacted are expected to accept less.

"This is exactly the gap we are organizing to close," said Omari Ho-Sang, executive director of All Streets All People. "You cannot ask people to defend a democracy they don't feel while

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