

## VEST LA 2020

**State:** Louisiana

**Organization:** Voting and Election Science Team (VEST)

**Summary of Races included:** Presidential, U.S. Senate. [General]

**Date File Updated:** \*\*\*

**Date Report Updated:** 03/16/2022

**RDH Validation Code (Github):** <https://github.com/nonpartisan-redistricting-datahub/pdv-la>

| RDH Criteria                                  | Explanation  |
|---|--|
| <p>Is all raw data available?</p> <p>Yes</p>  | <p><b>Accessible files:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VEST LA 20 data file               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed 03/16/2022, Source: VEST</li> <li>○ <a href="https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4773526&amp;version=21.0">https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4773526&amp;version=21.0</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● VEST LA 20 documentation file               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed: 03/16/2022, Source: VEST</li> <li>○ <a href="https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=5206372&amp;version=21.0">https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=5206372&amp;version=21.0</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● LA Precinct-Level Election Results               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed: 10/21/21, Source: LA Secretary of State</li> <li>○ <a href="https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/static/2020-11-03">https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/static/2020-11-03</a></li> <li>○ Note: Downloaded Complete Results</li> </ul> </li> <li>● LA Voting Precincts 2020 Shapefile               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessed: 10/27/21, Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phase 2 release</li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/pvs/partnership19v2/st22_la.html">https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/pvs/partnership19v2/st22_la.html</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p>Processing steps available?</p> <p>Yes</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The full processing steps can be accessed at the link above and were accessed on 10/11/21. Part of the documentation is copied below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Election results from LA Secretary of State (<a href="https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/static/">https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/static/</a>)</li> <li>○ Precinct shapefiles from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phase 2 release.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early votes were reported at the parish level. These were distributed by candidate to precincts based on their share of the precinct-level reported vote.</li> <li>○ Election results from the following parishes include "alpha" precincts in which voters within the same geographic boundaries are assigned to separate precincts by the first letter of their surname: Ascension, Assumption, Bossier, East Baton Rouge, Caddo, Lafourche, Rapides, St. Charles, St. Landry, Terrebonne</li> <li>○ The following precincts were modified to reflect alterations enacted prior to the 2020 election: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Avoyelles: Merge 2-5B/6-1A</li> <li>■ East Baton Rouge: Split 3-16/3-71, 3-32/3-72</li> <li>■ Plaquemines: Merge 2-1/2-2, 4-1/4-2, 5-1/5-2</li> <li>■ St. Charles: Merge 2-6/2-7, 3-1/3-6, 3-3/3-4, 6-2/6-3, 6-4/6-5</li> <li>■ Vermilion: Split 49B-1/49B-2</li> <li>■ Webster: Merge 7/11</li> <li>■ West Baton Rouge: Split 2-A/2-B; 11-A/11-B</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Information not in their processing steps:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List of precinct name changes</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Able to replicate joining election data and shapefiles?</b></p> <p><b>No</b></p> | <p>Given the documentation VEST provided we were not able to follow all of their steps to complete the shapefile join. However, we were able to join 3740 precincts with 8 precinct shapefiles unjoined and 7 election result precincts unjoined. We made the following modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We made a number of name changes to complete the election results join.</li> <li>● We merged 5 precincts in the VEST file to check total areas of splits VEST made that we were unable to replicate.</li> <li>● We conducted the following merges according to VEST documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoyelles: Merge 2-5B/6-1A</li> <li>○ Plaquemines: Merge 2-1/2-2, 4-1/4-2, 5-1/5-2</li> <li>○ St. Charles: Merge 2-6/2-7, 3-1/3-6, 3-3/3-4, 6-2/6-3, 6-4/6-5</li> <li>○ Webster: Merge 7/11</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Able to replicate joining demographic data to block-level</b></p>                | <p>There is no demographic data on the file.</p>   |

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| <p>shapefiles?</p> <p>N/A</p>                              |   |
| <p>Able to replicate joining boundary data?</p> <p>N/A</p> | <p>There is no boundary data on the file.</p>   |
| <p>Successfully ran validation?</p> <p>No</p>              | <p><b><u>Election results:</u> Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We validated election results at three different levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Statewide candidate vote totals</li> <li>○ Countywide candidate vote totals</li> <li>○ Precinct-level candidate votes</li> </ul> </li> <li>● At the statewide total level, the election results matched VEST's. The totals also matched Louisiana's Secretary of State's official results summary. (<a href="https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/static/2020-11-03/resultsRace/Statewide">https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/static/2020-11-03/resultsRace/Statewide</a>)</li> <li>● At the countywide total level, the election results matched VEST's.</li> <li>● At the precinct-level of the 3747 precincts, 2472 matched exactly. All other vote differences were 1 or 2 votes and were most likely due to a difference in the allocation of Absentee votes.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Geographies:</u> No</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We not able to fully validate 5 splits VEST conducted as we did not have the files used to make the splits.</li> <li>● Out of 3748 total precincts, we were able to validate 3738 precincts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3734 precincts w/ a difference of 0 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ 3 precincts w/ a difference between 0 and 0.1 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ 0 precincts w/ a difference between 0.1 and 0.5 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ 1 precinct w/ a difference between 0.5 and 1 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ 0 precincts w/ a difference between 1 and 2 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ 0 precincts w/ a difference between 2 and 5 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ 0 precincts w/ a difference greater than 5 km<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |