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## **SPECIAL SESSION TO TAKE UP CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING APPEARS SET FOR OCTOBER 8TH**

Federal law requires all states to redistrict their congressional and state legislative districts after each national census. This task must be completed in time for the congressional elections held two (2) years after the census is taken. This means that as a result of the 2000 Census, states must complete their redistricting in time for the 2002 elections.

Governor Foster apparently has decided to take redistricting up in a special session of the Louisiana Legislature which will convene on October 8, 2001. Currently, it appears that redistricting will be the only item on the Governor's call for the special session although this may change. However, both the Governor and the leaders of the Legislature are committed to limiting the session to redistricting if at all possible because of the sensitive nature of the redistricting process.

Act 800 passed during the 2001 Regular Session, allows candidates for state and local offices to accept substantially more campaign contributions from political action committees (PAC's) during each election cycle. In the case of "major" offices, which include all the statewide offices, members of the Public Service Commissions and members of the Louisiana Supreme Court, the total amount of combined contributions (for both the primary and general elections) has increased to \$80,000.00 from the current \$50,000.00 limit. In the case of "district" offices, which include state legislative seats, all offices elected parish wide or from more than one parish and any office in an election district with a population of more than 35,000 the limit increased to \$60,000.00 from \$48,000.00.

Remember that these legal principles may change and vary widely in their application to specific factual circumstances. You should consult with counsel about your individual circumstances. For further information regarding these issues, contact:

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