

Political newcomer challenges Marionneaux in his bid to return to Senate

WESTSIDE BUREAU

Rob Marionneaux is seeking a third term as state senator from District 17. If elected, it would be his final Senate term under term limits.

He is opposed by Martha Manuel, who has experience in working with governmental bodies, but who is seeking her first elective office.

Marionneaux said that adequate health services and access to coverage should be guaranteed to all citizens. He favors a public-private partnership — like the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corp. — and said the state's charity hospital system should be kept until a health-care partnership is created and charity health care can be reviewed.

Manuel said she supports the right of every citizen "to obtain affordable insurance," but said no one should be required to have it. She said such insurance should be private.

Manuel said she favors keeping the charity hospital system unless it can be demonstrated that private hospitals can handle the additional case load and that private care can bring cost savings.

Manuel said public education in the state needs repair, as demonstrated by low standardized test scores and dropout rates. She said cooperation among school administrators, teachers, parents and public interest groups can bring improvement.

She said she favors keeping teacher pay "at least at the



MARTHA MANUEL
Democrat,
Ventress
58, retired
EDUCATION:
Attended LSU;
professional

certifications
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:
Governmental staffs



ROBERT 'ROB' MARIONNEAUX
Democrat,
Grosse Tete
38, state
senator, farmer
EDUCATION:
B.S., LSU; J.D.,

Southern University Law
Center
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: State
senator

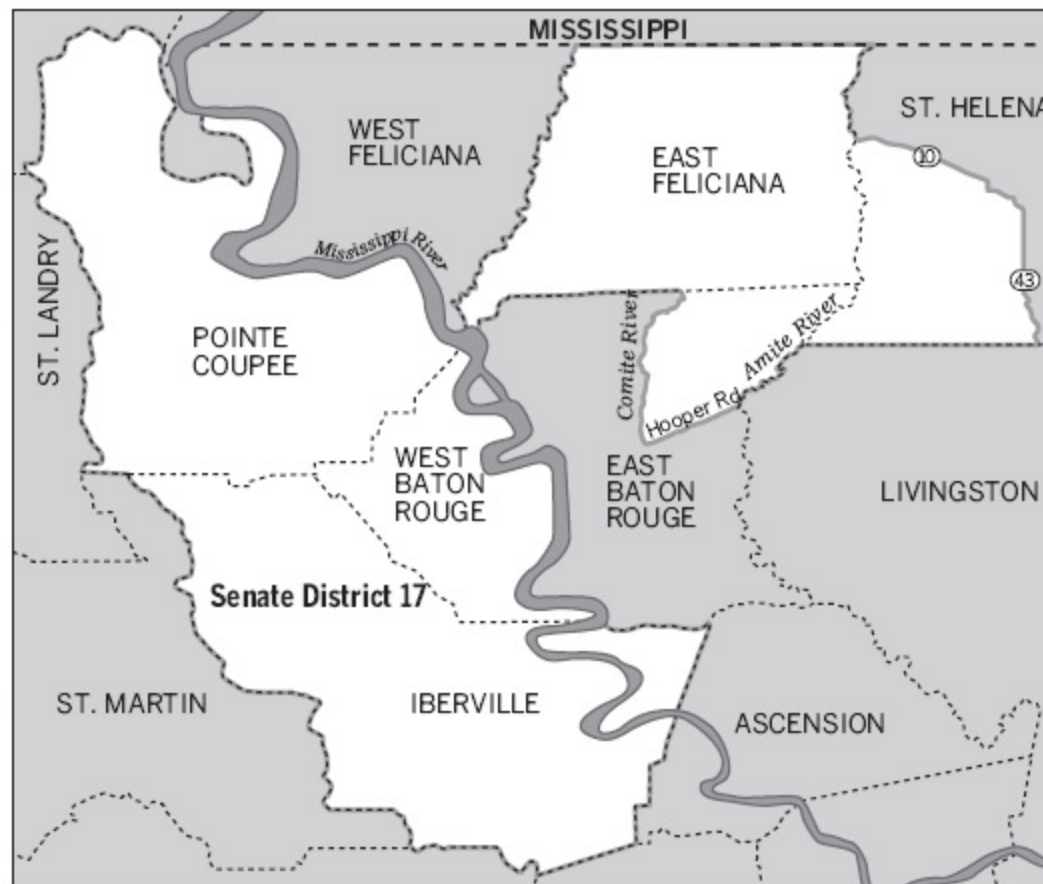
Southern average, but perhaps not the national average," and added that good pay will let teachers know they are valued.

Manuel said she favors "limited tax relief" for parents who send children to private schools."

Marionneaux said no one "should be satisfied with the quality of the product currently being offered by the public education setting."

He said having raised teachers to the Southern wage average, the state should now "strive to achieve the national average."

Marionneaux sponsored a bill to provide tax benefits to par-



Advocate map by JOHN GIPSON

ents of private school students that was vetoed, and said he "would certainly support" such relief in the future.

Marionneaux said the importance of programs proposed for cuts must be weighed against the value of tax cuts or credits.

He said he supports the 10-year industrial tax exemption, but said he feels it should not apply to taxes that support

school districts.

Manuel said decisions on cutting programs versus tax cuts or credits "depends on the situation."

Manuel said she favors public disclosure of personal finances of local officials and legislators, "to help restore trust in our government officials" and support governmental ethics.

She said such disclosure

should be in 10 or 12 "ranges" of financial information, "like is required by many states and the federal government."

Marionneaux said he supports "full disclosure by all elected officials," and favors the 10 or 12 categories plan. He said he has introduced "stringent ethics reform" bills and a bill to require elected officials to make their tax returns public.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Registered Voters: 79,738
White: 49,393
Black: 28,897
Other: 1,448
Democrats: 53,060
Republicans: 13,901
Other: 12,777

PRECINCTS

- East Baton Rouge Parish
Ward 2
Pct. 6 Northeast Elementary School
Pct. 7 Gas Utility District 1
Pct. 8 Gas Utility District 1
- Ward 3**
Pct. 1 Central Worship Center
Pct. 2 Cornerstone Fellowship
Pct. 6 Central Middle School
Pct. 37 Cornerstone Fellowship

East Feliciana Parish
All precincts.

Iberville Parish
All precincts.

Pointe Coupee Parish
All precincts.

St. Helena Parish
Ward 1
Pct. 2 North Helena Fire Station
Ward 2
Pct. 1 Old Greensburg Land Office Bldg.

Ward 3
Pct. 1 District 4 Fire Station
Pct. 2 La. 16 Voting Booth
Ward 4
Pct. 1 La. 16 Voting Booth
Pct. 2 Montpelier Fire Station

West Baton Rouge Parish
All precincts.