



## Indictment of Cleo Fields' Leadership in Senate District 14 & Why It Matters in the LA-06 Congressional Race

The people of the 6th District deserve a representative who truly lives among them, understands their struggles, and will fight tirelessly to bring the necessary resources and opportunities to improve their lives - and that's not Cleo Fields.

For over three decades, Cleo Fields has represented Louisiana State Senate District 14, and the results are both concerning and telling. His tenure, which began in 1988, has coincided with a troubling decline in various metrics that speak to the well-being of the district's residents.

Fields, a staple in Baton Rouge's political landscape, continues to claim experience as his greatest strength. Yet, a closer examination of District 14's reality raises an important question: Why should voters in the newly-configured 6th Congressional District expect different results?

### Disturbing Trends Under Cleo Fields' Leadership\*:

- **Economic Disparities:** Senate District 14 continues to face significant economic challenges, with 31% of its households living below the poverty line. The median household income is about \$15,000 less than the already low-median income of other parts of Louisiana. Under Fields' decades-long tenure, poverty has persisted at alarmingly high levels.
- **Lagging Educational Outcomes:** Despite his years in office, Senate District 14 continues to rank low in educational attainment, with more than 15% of adults lacking a high school diploma and only 34% having a college degree. Public schools in the district have struggled with inadequate resources, reflecting Fields' lack of advocacy for meaningful educational reforms.
- **Unemployment and Job Creation:** Fields touts his experience, but unemployment rates - particularly among young people - in his district remain high. The lack of sustainable job growth during his time in office speaks volumes about his inability to generate economic opportunities for his constituents.

### Fields' Residency Scandal

It's also worth noting that despite his long-standing claim to represent the district, Cleo Fields has been notorious for not actually residing in Senate District 14. He uses a loophole to claim homestead exemption on a property he does not live in, while residing in a mansion on the other side of

town. This disconnection from his constituents is symbolic of the larger disconnect between his representation and the actual needs of the people in his district.

## **Why This Matters for LA-06**

As Fields now seeks to represent Louisiana's 6th Congressional District, voters must ask themselves: Why should we expect anything different? His track record in the state legislature has left District 14 mired in economic inequality, struggling schools, and deteriorating infrastructure. His "experience" amounts to years of inaction and ineffective leadership, and the newly redrawn 6th District, which offers an opportunity for fresh leadership, cannot afford more of the same.

Voters in the 6th District deserve representation that is engaged, accountable, and focused on delivering real results—not a continuation of the failed leadership that has long plagued Senate District 14.

\*Data sourced from <https://statisticalatlas.com/state-upper-legislative-district/Louisiana/State-Senate-District-14/>