



# Louisiana SECRETARY OF STATE NANCY LANDRY



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Welcome to GeauxVote! This page is a clearinghouse for all elections-related information, from elections and voter registration information to statistics and educational materials. Our goal is to increase voter participation throughout Louisiana, so get informed and GeauxVote!

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[CLICK HERE TO SEE HOW WE KEEP LOUISIANA'S ELECTIONS SAFE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN ABOUT NEW ABSENTEE VOTING LAWS THAT TOOK EFFECT AUG. 1, 2024](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR GUIDANCE REGARDING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES, EFFECTIVE AUG. 1, 2024](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR ELECTION QUICK FACTS FOR THE NOV. 5, 2024 ELECTION](#)

### ARE YOU A VOTER?

Visit our Voter Portal to find important information about voter registration, voting and elections.

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### ARE YOU A CANDIDATE?

Visit [Become a Candidate](#) for information about qualifying, campaign finance, running for office or contact information for candidates and officeholders throughout the state.

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## REGISTER TO VOTE

To register to vote you must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be 17 years old (16 years old if registering in person at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles), but must be 18 years old to vote;
- not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony or, if under such an order not have been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years and not be under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction for election fraud or any other election offense pursuant to [La. R.S. 18:1461.2](#);
- not be under a judgment of full interdiction for mental incompetence or partial interdiction with suspension of voting rights;
- reside in the state and parish in which you seek to register; and
- must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering [in person or by mail](#) to be eligible to vote in that particular election. If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.

[View special provisions for military and overseas voters.](#)

All voter registration information and applications of persons who are 16 or 17 years of age are confidential. For all other registered voters, the following information is confidential:

- driver's license number;
- social security number;
- day and month of voter's birth;
- mother's maiden name;
- email address;
- text message service; and
- if voter is entitled to assistance in voting.

### Register Online

Registering to vote or changing your registration is easy using the [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#).

For security reasons, this application will time out if you remain idle for more than five minutes. All data will be cleared, and you will have to start the application over from the beginning.

Once you have completed the application, you will be allowed to either print and mail your application or submit your application electronically. **If you plan to submit electronically, you must have your Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card in hand when you begin the process. There is an audit code on the card that you must enter. The audit code is a four digit number labeled AUDIT on the front of the license.**

NOTE: A Louisiana mobility impaired card is not an acceptable form of identification since it does not contain a signature.

The Office of Motor Vehicles performs system maintenance from 1-4 a.m. daily. During this time, you may not be able to complete processing electronically, but the print and mail functions will remain available.

Please note that if you fill out an online application, but print and mail it to the ROV, it must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.

### Register in Person

Apply in person to register to vote at any [Registrar of Voters Office](#).

You may also register in person at any of the following locations:



- Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles;
- Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services;
- WIC offices;
- food stamp offices;
- Medicaid offices;
- offices serving persons with disabilities such as the Deaf Action Centers and Independent Living Offices; or
- Armed Forces recruitment offices.

If registering in person at a parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#), you are required to prove age, residency and identity. You



must submit your current Louisiana driver's license, if you have one, or your birth certificate or other documentation which reasonably and sufficiently establishes your identity, age and residency.

If you have no driver's license, special Louisiana ID or social security number, you may provide a picture ID, a utility bill, payroll check or government document

that includes your name and address.

If registering at a mandated site, no further proof of identification is required other than whatever proof is required for services received that you have applied for at the public agency.

### Register by Mail

Apply by mail by downloading the [Louisiana Voter Registration Application](#), completing it and mailing it to your local [Registrar of Voters Office](#). Please note that the list of offices for registrars of voters is also included on the form.

You may also register by using a [National Mail Voter Registration Form](#).

Printing or photocopying blank registration forms for others may make you subject to the requirements of a voter registration drive. Please visit [Organize a Registration Drive](#) for more information.

**Faxed voter registration forms are not accepted.** The voter registration form should be addressed and mailed or hand-delivered to the appropriate registrar of voters in the parish in which you are registering. Deadlines requiring receipt in the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) may be missed if you do not mail directly to the registrar of voters in your parish. You must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering [in person or by mail](#) to be eligible to vote in that particular election. **(If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.)**

The [registrar of voters](#) mails a verification mailing card to verify the address you have provided when registering by mail. If you do not receive a mailing from the registrar of voters within two weeks of registering, please contact their office.

### Registration Facts

In order to be eligible to vote in Louisiana for a particular election, you must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering [in person or by mail](#). **(If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.)**

No cost is associated with registering to vote. It is a right afforded to you as a United States citizen by the U.S. Constitution.

You must qualify to register with a residence address in the parish with a street or rural route address. Post office box addresses and mail center boxes do not qualify. The [registrar of voters](#) must know where you live so you are assigned to the proper voting precinct for Election Day. If you have multiple residences and claim a homestead exemption, you must register to vote using your homestead exemption address; however, if you do not claim homestead exemption and reside at more than one place in the state with an intention to reside there indefinitely, you may choose to register only at one of the places at which you reside. However, there is an exception in the law for a person who resides in a nursing home or in

a veterans' home. They may register and vote at the address where the nursing home or veterans' home is located, even though they have a homestead exemption on their residence.

**Displaced voters:** If you were involuntarily displaced to a new parish or state due to a gubernatorially declared emergency, but want to remain registered to vote at your pre-emergency address, you may remain registered there if you have not changed your registration address or filed a homestead exemption on a different residence. You should provide a mailing address, if different from your pre-emergency residence address, to your [registrar of voters](#) to remain an active voter.

**Moved:** If you have changed residence inside your parish after registering to vote, you should notify the [registrar of voters](#) in your parish of any changes to your registration or make changes [online](#).

If you have changed residence outside your parish after registering to vote, you are only eligible to remain registered and to vote in that parish for three months prior to an election. You must register in your new parish.

Once you are registered in your parish, you will remain registered as an active voter. If you move and your residence address is not able to be verified through the U.S. Postal Service during the annual canvass or you do not return the address confirmation card issued during the annual canvass to all voters who have moved or whose address cannot be verified, you will be placed on inactive status. You can activate your status by verifying your residence address [online](#) with a change of address or in person either on Election Day before voting or at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) by completing an address confirmation card. If you do not verify your address and do not vote in two federal general elections, you may be canceled. You may also be suspended or canceled if you lose your civil rights or register to vote in another state. Your registration cannot be canceled between primary and general elections unless the registration was fraudulently placed on the registration records or if you are canceled pursuant to the annual canvas conducted by the [registrar of voters](#). A person whose registration has been canceled is not permitted to vote until they submit a new registration to the registrar of voters.

A change of name can be made online or in person by a voter registration application stating the name under which the person desires to be registered. A person who changes their name by virtue of a judgment of court shall file with the registrar of voters a certified copy of the judgment.

### Voter Registration Drive Best Practices

Review [Voter Registration Drive Best Practices](#) for more information on how to conduct a successful voter registration drive.

### Cancel Voter Registration

To cancel your voter registration, complete a [Cancel Voter Registration Form](#) and submit it to the [registrar of voters](#) in your parish.

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### BROWSER REQUIREMENTS

This site was designed for Microsoft [Edge](#), Google [Chrome](#), Mozilla [Firefox](#), and Apple [Safari](#) web browsers with a screen resolution of 1024x768 (or higher). The current version of each is supported, and we design our site to work with the previous version; however, versions older than one previous version may not display content or function properly. Other unsupported web browsers and screen resolutions may work fine; however, some pages may not display or function properly. Browsers that do not support JavaScript and JScript will generate errors.

You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0 or later to print registration documents. Get a [free download of Adobe](#) if you do not already have one.

You must enable JavaScript and Cookies.

To report problems with the online application process, send an [email](#) with a detailed description of the problem encountered.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR CHANGE YOUR REGISTRATION](#)

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## MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

In 2009, Congress passed the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act to provide new procedures for absentee voting by the military and overseas citizens of our country. The Louisiana Legislature passed [Act 624](#) to implement the MOVE Act for Louisiana's military and overseas voters. The law was amended by [Act 195](#) to allow for greater flexibility for military and overseas voters to register to vote and cast a ballot.

### Register to Vote

You may register to vote or change your registration [online](#) or print an [application to register to vote](#) and return it by mail or fax to your parish [registrar of voters](#). Email a request for a registration application to the [registrar of voters](#) of the parish where you last resided prior to military service or going overseas. Return it by mail or fax it to your parish [registrar of voters](#).

Louisiana statute requires you to be registered 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that particular election; or you may register up to 20 days prior to an election if you register through our [GeauxVote Online Voter Registration System](#). To check the status of your voter registration in Louisiana, log in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#).

### Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail, Fax, or Email

Registered voters may submit a request for an absentee ballot electronically by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) and do the following:

- click the "Search By Voter" button;
- fill out the requested information and click "Submit" button;
- click the "Request Absentee Ballot" link found in the right hand column of the Quick Links.

You must be logged in to the voter portal as the voter for whom the absentee ballot request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

Or, print an [application for absentee ballot for military and overseas citizens](#), complete it and mail, fax or email it to your parish [registrar of voters](#).

Military and overseas citizen's requests for absentee ballots must be received by the parish [registrar of voters](#) no later than 4:30 p.m. CST one day prior to the scheduled election date.

If you elect to receive your ballot electronically, you will be required to submit your email address. Louisiana's law provides for the protection from disclosure of your electronic mail address, along with your social security number, driver's license number, day and month of date of birth and mother's maiden name.

### Use the Federal Post Card Application ("FPCA") to Register to Vote and Request an Absentee Ballot at the Same Time

The Federal Post Card Application ("FPCA") is another option which allows you to register to vote and request an absentee ballot that will remain valid for at least one year, and will include at least one (1) federal general election cycle. Federal elections occur every even year in November and they include a primary election in November and a run-off election in December. The November election is referred to as the "General" election around the country.

Each state has its own laws about who may register and vote. All states require that you be a United States citizen by birth or naturalization, and Louisiana also requires that you were domiciled in the state prior to departure from the U.S.

You may complete the [Louisiana FPCA Application](#) online. You must have a valid Louisiana driver's license number or Louisiana special ID card and an address in Louisiana where you last resided to submit electronically. If a Louisiana driver's license number or Louisiana Special ID Card number has not been issued, you may complete the online form, print the form and send by mail to the parish [registrar of voters](#).

You may also view the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) website to complete the FPCA form and send by mail to the parish [registrar of voters](#).

Another option in voting is to use the [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot \("FWAB"\)](#) from the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) website. To use the FWAB you must be registered to vote and have requested your absentee ballot from your parish registrar of voters. Louisiana allows you to use the FWAB to vote in any election for federal office. To vote in state and local elections, you must use Louisiana's absentee ballot. On an FWAB, you may only write in candidates who are on the federal general election ballot in Louisiana.

To track your request for an absentee ballot or the status of returned ballots, log in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) and click the 'Ballot Information' tab.

The deadline for returning voted ballots to the registrar of voters office for an election are as follows:

- by 8 p.m. on election day for military personnel;
- by 8 p.m. on election day for U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.; or
- by 4:30 p.m. on the day before election day for all others.

The state of Louisiana's designated means of electronic communication as required by the MOVE Act is the Louisiana Secretary of State's [website](#).

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# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### How do I register to vote?

Apply [online](#) to register to vote or make changes to your registration.

Apply in person to register to vote at any [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at any of the following locations:

- Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles;
- Public assistance offices and agencies that administer or provide services under the food stamp program, Medicaid program, the Supplemental Food for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) and the Child Case Assistance Program (CCAP);
- offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities;
- armed forces recruitment offices; and
- other offices dedicated by rule, which may include public libraries, public schools and local government offices.

Apply by mail by downloading the [Louisiana Voter Registration Application](#), completing it and returning it to your local registrar of voters office. Please note that the list of offices for registrars is included on the form. You may also get the mailing address from this list of [Registrar of Voters Office](#).

**Faxed voter registration forms are not accepted.** The voter registration form should be addressed and mailed or hand-delivered to the appropriate [registrar of voters](#) in the parish in which you are registering. You must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days **prior** to an election if registering in person or by mail to be eligible to vote in that particular election. Do not mail or otherwise send voter registration forms to the secretary of state elections division. Deadlines requiring receipt in the registrar of voters office may be missed. **(If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.)**

You must re-register when you move to a new parish and if you move out of state, you must cancel your voter registration before registering in your new state by writing or calling your registrar of voters in Louisiana.

See [La R.S. 18:114](#), [La R.S. 18:116\(a-c\)](#) and [La R.S. 18:135](#) to learn more about voter registration.

#### Cancel Voter Registration?

To cancel your voter registration, complete a [Cancel Voter Registration Form](#) and submit it to the [registrar of voters](#) in your parish.

#### How do I qualify to register to vote?

You must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be 17 years old (16 years old if registering in person at the registrar of voters office or at the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles), but must be 18 years old to vote;
- not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony;
- not be under a judgment of full interdiction for mental incompetence or partial interdiction with suspension of voting rights;



- reside in the state and parish in which you seek to register;
- must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering [in person or by mail](#) to be eligible to vote in that particular election. **(If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.)**

See the [XIV Amendment of the U.S. Constitution](#) , the [XXVI Amendment of the U.S. Constitution](#) , [La R.S. 18:101](#) and [La R.S. 18:102](#) for more information about voter registration qualifications.

Voter registration information on 16 and 17 year olds is confidential and not open to public inspection.

### How much does it cost to register?

Nothing, registering to vote is a right afforded to you as a United States citizen by the Constitution of the United States.

### Voter information card, how to get a replacement?

You may print your own voter information card by accessing the secretary of state's [voter portal](#). Once the portal is open, select, "Search by Voter" option and then click the "Print Voter Registration Card" link located in the second column of the Quick Links.

You may also contact your parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#) to request a duplicate voter information card.

### Do I have to be a resident of the state to register?

Yes, you must qualify to register with a residence address in the parish with a street or rural route address. Post office box addresses and mail center boxes do not qualify. We must know where you live so you are assigned to the proper voting precinct for Election Day.

**Displaced voters:** If you were involuntarily displaced to a new parish or state due to a gubernatorially declared emergency, but want to remain registered to vote at your pre-emergency address, you may remain registered there if you have not changed your registration address or filed a homestead exemption on a different residence. You should provide a mailing address, if different from your pre-emergency residence address, to your [registrar of voters](#) to remain an active voter. Also, please see 'If I have more than one address, can I choose which address to use for registering?' for more information regarding homestead exemptions.

See [La R.S. 18:101\(B\)](#) to learn more about residency requirements.

### If I have multiple addresses, can I choose which address to use for voter registration?

Yes, unless you claim a homestead exemption on one of the residences. If you claim a homestead exemption then you must use your homestead exemption address: however, if you do not claim homestead exemption and reside at more than one place in the state with an intention to reside there indefinitely, you may register only at one of the places at which you reside. There is a homestead exception in the law for persons who reside in a nursing home, as defined in [La R.S. 40:2009.2](#), or in a veterans' home operated by the state or federal government. They may register and vote at the address where the nursing home or veterans' home is located, even though they have a homestead exemption on their residence.

See [La R.S. 18:101\(B\)](#) to learn more about homestead exemptions and requirements.

### Changes in voter registration?

Complete a voter registration application and check to "update voter registration" to change your name, party or address.

If your name is changed by a judgement of court you are required to file a copy with the registrar of voters.

If you have moved inside of your parish, notify your parish [registrar of voters](#) of any changes to your registration. Failure to update your residential address may result in an inactive registration status. Inactive voters must verify their residential addresses prior to voting, which may be done on Election Day at the precinct, in person at the registrar's office, [online](#) or by mail through a [voter registration application](#).

If you have moved outside of your parish, you are no longer eligible to remain registered in that parish. You must register in your new parish.

**Displaced voters:** If you were involuntarily displaced to a new parish or state due to a gubernatorially declared emergency, but want to remain registered to vote at your pre-emergency address, you may remain registered there if you have not changed your registration address or filed a homestead exemption on a different residence. You should provide a mailing address, if different from your pre-emergency residence address, to your [registrar of voters](#) or online to remain an active voter.

See [La R.S. 18:101\(F\)](#), [La R.S. 18:109](#), [La R.S. 18:110](#) and [La R.S. 18:111](#) to read more about voter registration changes.

### Register to vote, what documents are needed?

If registering in person at a parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#), you are required to prove age, residency and identity. You must submit your current Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special identification card, if you have one, or your social security card, birth certificate or other documentation which reasonably and sufficiently establishes your identity, age and residency.

If you do not have any of these, you may bring a copy of a current and valid photo identification, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or government document that includes your name and address.

If registering at a mandated site, no further proof of identification is required other than whatever proof is required for services received that you have applied for at the public agency. Louisiana mails a verification mailing card to verify the address you have provided when registering by mail.

See [La R.S. 18:101](#), [La R.S. 18:101.1](#), [La R.S. 18:105](#), [La R.S. 18:115\(b\)\(1\)](#) and [La R.S. 18:116\(B\)](#) to learn more about what is needed to register to vote.

### Do I have to register prior to each election?

No, once you are registered in your parish, you will remain registered as an active voter in your parish unless you move. If you move, update your address with your registrar of voters [online](#), by mail or in person.

Annually the registrar conducts a canvass by submitting your residence address to the U.S. Postal Service for verification. If your residence address has changed, you will be mailed an Address Confirmation Card. If you do not return the address confirmation card, you will be placed on inactive status. You can activate your status by updating your residence address [online](#), by mail or in person either on Election Day before voting or at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#).

If you do not update your address and do not vote for a two year period which includes two federal general elections, you may be canceled.

See [La R.S. 18:102](#), [La R.S. 18:193](#) and [La R.S. 18:196](#) for more information on registration prior to elections and voting.

### Moved to another parish in Louisiana, do I have to register again?

Yes, voter registration is not transferable unless you receive an Address Confirmation Card from your registrar of voters during the annual canvass and you complete and return it with your signature requesting to transfer your registration to your new parish.

Louisiana law allows you to vote in your old parish for 3 months or until you register in your new parish, whichever occurs first. You can register [online](#), [in person](#) or [by mail](#).

See [La R.S. 18:193](#), [La R.S. 18:196](#) and [La R.S. 18:199](#) for more information on moving between parishes.

### **Moved out of state, how to cancel my Louisiana voter registration?**

You may not be registered in more than one state and therefore need to cancel your voter registration in Louisiana when you move to another state. It is not canceled automatically when you register in your new state. To cancel your voter registration, complete a [Cancel Voter Registration Form](#) and submit it to your parish [registrar of voters](#) to have your voter registration canceled.

See [La R.S. 18:101\(A\)](#) for more information on moving out of state.

### **College students, where to register to vote?**

Students may use their home residence address within the state or their school address for voter registration purposes. Out of state students are allowed to use their school address in Louisiana if they want to be a voter in this state. If they register to vote by mail, they may vote absentee by mail by including a copy of their fee bill or student identification card with their application to vote absentee by mail.

See [La R.S. 18:101\(C\)](#) and [La R.S. 18:1303\(B\)\(2\)](#) to learn about voter registration options for full time students.

### **Deadline to register to vote before an election?**

Louisiana statute requires you to be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering [in person or by mail](#) to be eligible to vote in that particular election. However, if the deadline falls on a legal holiday, the registrar will close the registration records on the first day after such holiday which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. **(If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.)**

See [La R.S. 18:135\(A\)\(1\)](#) to read more about registration deadlines prior to an election.

### **Residential address, is it important?**

Yes, in order for you to vote on the correct ballot for an election, your registration must have your residential address. Your special districts and elected representatives are determined by your residential address.

See [La R.S. 18:101\(B\)](#) to learn more about state residential requirements.

### **Felons, how to reinstate suspended voter registration?**

To reinstate your voter registration that was suspended for a felony conviction, you must appear in person at the registrar of voters office and provide documentation from the appropriate correction official showing that you are no longer under an order of imprisonment or, if under such order of imprisonment, that you have not been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years and that you are not under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction for election fraud or any other election offense.

The personal appearance requirement does not apply to a person approved as eligible for the Special Program for Handicapped Voters prior to January 1, 2010, or a person who has submitted to the registrar a current proof of disability from a physician as described in [La R.S. 18:177\(A\)\(2\)\(6\)](#).

### **How do I become a Louisiana resident?**

While this question sounds complicated, it is really very simple. If you live in Louisiana and intend for this to be your legal residence, you are a Louisiana resident.

## Recognized political parties in the State of Louisiana?

Louisiana has five (5) recognized [political parties](#):

- Democratic;
- Green;
- Independent;
- Libertarian; and
- Republican.

The Green, Independent, and Libertarian parties have fulfilled all the requirements in [La R.S. 18:441](#) and are now recognized political parties.

Your party affiliation can be changed by completing another [voter registration application](#). You may make changes [online](#). All changes made at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering [in person or by mail](#) are effective for that election, otherwise the change cannot become effective until the next election. **(If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek the change.)**

See [La R.S. 18:101\(B\)](#) and [La R.S. 18:135\(C\)](#) for more information on changing party status on your registration.

## Email address, is it public information on my voter registration?

No, your email address is protected from disclosure along with your social security number, driver's license number, day and month of your date of birth, and mother's maiden name.

See [La R.S. 18:154\(C\)](#) to read about a voter's protected information.



# Louisiana SECRETARY OF STATE NANCY LANDRY



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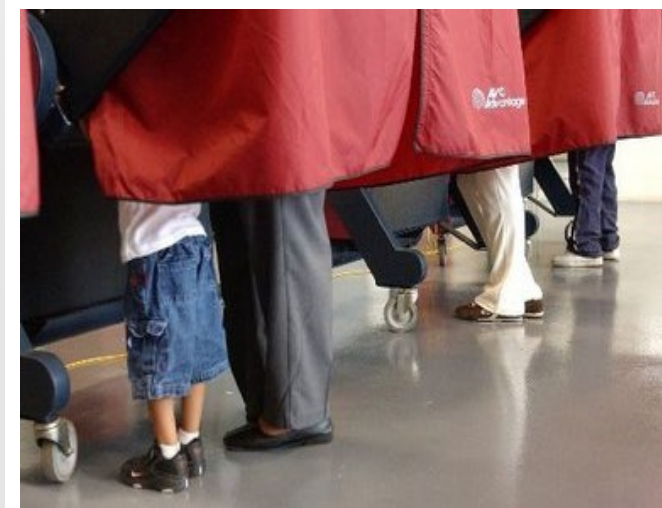
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## VOTE

All registered voters in Louisiana have the right to vote in elections for candidates and propositions on the ballot where they reside. The only closed election in Louisiana is the Presidential Preference Primary held every four years in the spring before the presidential election. View information on [how to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary](#). Voters who are unable to read or who are [disabled](#), including physical disability or visual impairment, are able to vote with assistance.



### Polls Open

Polls open at 7 a.m. for SATURDAY elections and at 6 a.m. for TUESDAY elections. Polls close at 8 p.m. All voters in line at 8 p.m. have the right to vote.

### Get Prepared and Geaux Vote!

Be prepared to show a photo identification card with your photo and signature or a United States military identification card that contains your name and picture when voting. If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free Louisiana special identification card by presenting your voter registration information card to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) or you may vote by affidavit after correctly answering identifying information before voting.

When voting, never wear, hand out, or display anything advocating for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election. All polling places have a 600 foot campaign free zone.

View [early voting locations](#) to know where to vote early and find your [voting precinct](#) to know where to vote on Election Day. Download the free [GeauxVote app](#) to have this information easily accessible, to view your sample ballot two weeks prior to each election, to see upcoming election dates and to sign up for electronic notifications.

[Update your voter registration information online](#) or contact your parish [registrar of voters](#) of any changes to your residential address to keep your voting status active. [Inactive voters](#) must verify their residential address before voting, either [online](#), in person at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or in person on Election Day.

- Vote Early**
- Vote by Mail**
- Vote on Election Day**

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## PROGRAMS FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES, SENIOR CITIZENS AND NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

View the [Programs for Voters with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Nursing Home Residents](#) for comprehensive information on voting programs for the physically disabled, senior citizens and residents of a nursing or veterans home.

### Automatic Absentee Ballot Program for Voters with Disabilities

A voter who is physically disabled or who cannot appear in person to vote, either early or on election day because they are homebound, is eligible to apply for the Automatic Absentee Ballot Program. Proof of disability is required.



### Proof of Disability

To enroll in the program, a voter must apply by submitting a Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot and submit proof of disability to your parish registrar of voters. Proof of disability may include one of the following:

- a letter from a physician, optometrist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certifying the disability;
- a copy of a current mobility impaired identification card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles; or
- a copy of a current documentation showing eligibility for disability benefits from either social security, veterans, paratransit services, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

If submitting proof of disability by mail, the voter must include a photo ID such as a La. driver's license, La. Special ID or other photo ID, with the voter's name and signature. If no photo ID is available, a letter listing the names and addresses of two persons residing in the precinct who could swear to the fact that the voter is physically disabled may be submitted.

The voter may choose whether to receive an absentee ballot only for one election or for all future elections. The application must be received by the registrar of voters by 4:30 p.m. on the 4th day before the election.

### Automatic Absentee Ballot Program for Senior Citizens

Senior Citizens (voters 65 years of age or older) may apply for the program by completing the General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot and checking that they are a senior citizen. They have the option of choosing to receive an absentee ballot only for one election or for all future elections.

The deadline to submit this application is 4:30 p.m. on the 4th day before the election.

### Nursing Home Program

If you reside in a nursing home, veterans' home or a hospital for an extended stay for a physical disability and are unable to vote in person during early voting or at the polls on election day, you may apply with [this application](#) and enroll in the nursing home early voting program. Once accepted by the registrar of voters, the registrar or a deputy registrar will go to your home facility during a period of two weeks prior to the beginning of early voting through the last day of early voting. The registrar of voters will bring either a paper ballot or a portable voting machine and guide you through the process of casting your vote.

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## INACTIVE VOTERS

Search the [inactive voter list](#). If your name appears on the list, your voter registration status is inactive because your registration address was not able to be verified by your parish registrar of voters during the annual canvass or correspondence sent to the address on file has been returned undeliverable. If your residential address or the address where you receive mail has changed from the address used when you registered to vote or last changed your voter registration record, please update your residential address on your voter registration record [online](#). You may also change it by mail or in person at your parish [registrar of voters](#).

If you have not changed your address, you are currently eligible to vote but will be required to confirm your address when voting. If you do not confirm your address and you do not vote in any election between the time your name was added to the list and the day after the second regularly scheduled general election for federal office held after such date, your name may be removed from the voter registration list.

Information found on this page is at least one day old. Please contact your [registrar of voters](#) if you have questions or concerns.

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VOTE ABSENTEE

CLICK HERE TO LEARN ABOUT NEW ABSENTEE VOTING LAWS THAT TOOK EFFECT AUG. 1, 2024.

In Louisiana, you must have a reason to be eligible to absentee vote, unless you are a military or overseas voter. There are specific reasons listed below that qualify you to absentee vote. You can submit an application requesting an absentee ballot through our online system, or you may print and mail an application directly to your registrar of voters.

Please be aware of standard mail delivery times and the ballot return deadline when applying for an absentee ballot to ensure your voted ballot is received by the registrar of voters before the deadline. It is recommended that if you are going to request an absentee ballot, that you apply as soon as possible, as there is no start date to apply.

Disabled voters, military voters and overseas voters may be eligible to receive their absentee ballot electronically. You may use the application forms below. If you need assistance in voting or additional information, contact your registrar of voters.

For information on the Nursing Home Early Voting Program, click here.

Online Application: You may request an absentee ballot or enroll in the Nursing Home Early Voting Program by logging in to the Louisiana Voter Portal and following these steps:

- 1. Click the "Search By Voter" button.
2. Type in your First Name, Last Name, Zip Code and Birth Month and Year and then click the "Submit" button;
3. Click the "Request Absentee Ballot" link found under the Quick Links heading; and
4. Complete requested information and submit.

Note: You must be logged in to the Voter Portal as the voter for whom the request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

Print and Mail Application: You may also print an application to request an absentee ballot which you can complete and deliver to your parish registrar of voters. Delivery may be by U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, hand delivery or fax. If hand delivered or faxed, the application can only be for you or your immediate family member. Select the application that applies to you:

- General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot (see reasons to apply)
Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot (see reasons to apply)
Military or Overseas Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot
Nursing Home Early Voting Program

View upcoming election dates. You will need to list the election dates on your application.

GENERAL APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS (REASONS TO APPLY)

Senior Citizen: If you are 65 years of age or older you may apply through a General Application and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote. You may request a ballot for one (1) election only, or you may choose to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections. Once you have opted in to automatically receive absentee ballots, you may choose to opt out at any time by submitting an Absentee Program Opt-Out Form or your own written request to your parish registrar of voters. You will be removed from the Absentee Program automatically if any ballot mailed to you is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

Temporarily Absent: If you are temporarily outside of Louisiana or your parish during the early voting period and

on election day, or expect to be, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote. Any person who requests an absentee ballot be mailed to an address within the parish must indicate on the application the dates that they will be outside the territorial limits of the state or absent from the parish.

**Offshore:** If you work or expect to be offshore working during the early voting period and on election day, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

**Higher Education:** If you are a student, instructor or professor located and living outside of your parish of registration, or the spouse/dependent thereof, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

**Clergy:** If you are minister, priest, rabbi, or other member of the clergy assigned outside of your parish of registration, or a spouse/dependent, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

**Moved Out of Parish:** If you moved more than 100 miles from the parish seat of your former residence after the voter registration books closed (30 days prior to an election), you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

**Involuntary Confinement:** If you are involuntarily confined in an institution for mental treatment outside your parish of registration and you are not interdicted and not judicially declared incompetent, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

**Hospitalized:** If you expect to be hospitalized on election day and did not have knowledge of the hospitalization until after the time for early voting had expired; or you were hospitalized during the time for early voting and you expect to be hospitalized on election day; or you were either hospitalized or restricted to bed by your physician during early voting and on election day, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

- Applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before the election, unless you submit physician or hospital documentation with your application, in which case, the deadline is 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before the election.
- A voter who feels they will not have time to vote timely by mail may request that the registrar transmit electronically a ballot along with a certificate and waiver of the right to a secret ballot, and the registrar shall do so. Alternatively, an immediate family member of the voter may pick up the necessary instructions, certificate, ballot, and envelope at the registrar's office.

**Incarcerated:** If you are incarcerated or expect to be incarcerated in an institution inside or outside of your parish of registration and you are not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

**Address Confidentiality Program:** If you are a program participant in the secretary of state's Address Confidentiality Program, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

**Juror:** If you will be sequestered on the day of the election, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, absentee vote.

## DISABLED APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS (REASONS TO APPLY)

**Physical Disability:** If you are physically disabled, you may apply through the [Disabled Application](#) and, if not enrolled, enroll in the [programs for voters with disabilities, senior citizens and nursing home residents](#). Once accepted by the registrar of voters, you may request a ballot for one (1) election only, or you may choose to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections. You may also choose to receive your ballot electronically (by email). Once you have opted in to automatically receive absentee ballots, you may choose to opt out at any time by submitting an [Absentee Program Opt-Out Form](#) or your own written request to your parish [registrar of voters](#). You will be removed from the Absentee Program automatically if any ballot mailed to you is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

If you have not previously provided proof of disability to your parish registrar of voters, one of the following must be submitted along with your application:

- a copy of a mobility impaired identification card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles;
- a copy of social security disability benefits, veteran's disability benefits, paratransit services, benefits from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services; or
- a letter from a physician, optometrist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certifying your disability.

**In addition to any disability documentation listed above,** any voter enrolling in the disability program must also enclose a copy of a photo ID (Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana special ID card or other photo ID with name and signature) or a [letter of oath](#) where you have listed the names and addresses of two persons residing in your precinct who could make oath, if required, to the fact that you are physically disabled.

**Homebound:** If you are homebound and cannot vote without assistance, you may apply through the [Disabled](#)

[Application](#) and, if not enrolled, enroll in the [programs for voters with disabilities, senior citizens and nursing home residents](#). If you are disabled and homebound and are voting for the first time, your proof of disability must be a **physician's letter** certifying that you are homebound to exempt you from law that requires that you either register or vote for the first time in person. If you have previously voted, you may provide proof of disability through any of the documents listed above.

## OPTING OUT OF THE ABSENTEE PROGRAMS

If you qualified for absentee voting as a senior citizen or disabled voter, and you previously opted in to receive your absentee ballots automatically for each election, you may opt out at any time. To do so, simply submit an [Over 65 and Disability Absentee Program Opt-Out Form](#) or your own written request to your parish [registrar of voters](#). You will be removed from the Absentee Program automatically if any ballot mailed to you is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

If you are currently enrolled in the military or overseas absentee ballot program and receive an absentee ballot for every eligible election in Louisiana, you may cancel your enrollment in this program early by using [Military or Overseas Absentee Ballot Program Opt-Out Form](#). You can mail or hand deliver your signed form to your parish Registrar of Voters Office (contact information is available by phone or online at [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com)). Please note that the Military and Overseas Absentee Ballot Program is valid for at least a one year period, including one regularly scheduled federal general election, from the date of the application.

## TIMELINE TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

**General and Disabled Applications:** Applicants must request a ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before election day.

**Military, Overseas or Hospitalized Applications:** Military personnel and/or their dependents; U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.; or voters that are hospitalized must request their ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before election day.

## METHODS FOR RETURNING YOUR VOTED BALLOTS

- By Mail (includes commercial carrier).
- By Fax: Upon request submitted to the registrar of voter.
- By Hand Delivery: A voter or immediate family member of the voter may deliver the ballot to the registrar of voters (a signed statement must be completed upon delivery by anyone other than the voter, certifying their relationship to the voter)(no person except the immediate family of the voter shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar of voters).
- Emergency Provisions: There are emergency provisions in place for Military, Overseas and hospitalized voters. Please contact the [registrar of voters](#) for additional information.

## DEADLINES FOR RETURNING YOUR VOTED BALLOTS

**General and Disabled Voters:** Voted ballots must be received by your parish [registrar of voters](#) by 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before election day.

**Military, Overseas or Hospitalized Voters:** Voted ballots by military personnel and/or their dependents, U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S., or voters that are hospitalized must be received by your parish registrar of voters by 8 p.m. CST on election day. If you feel that you will not be able to return your ballot timely, you may contact your [registrar of voters](#) for alternate methods to return your ballot.

## REQUESTING AND RETURNING A FAXED BALLOT

If you requested an absentee ballot but do not feel like you will have time to return your ballot by mail, you may request that the registrar of voters send you by fax a certificate, a waiver of right to a secret ballot, and a ballot (if you have not already received your absentee ballot). You may then complete the certificate and waiver of right to a secret ballot and either transmit by fax or by mail your voted ballot, the certificate, and the waiver to your parish registrar of voters. Faxed ballots are subject to the request and return deadlines listed above.

## REPLACEMENT BALLOT

If you spoil your ballot, you may request a replacement ballot from your [registrar of voters](#) prior to submitting a voted ballot.

## OPPORTUNITY TO CURE DEFICIENCIES

Each [registrar of voters](#) will review the absentee ballot envelope flaps when they are received for the following ballot

envelope flap deficiencies:

1. missing voter signature;
2. missing witness signature; and
3. incomplete affidavit information, including but not limited to missing election date and voter information.

If upon receipt of an absentee ballot envelope flap, with one or more of the above identified deficiencies, the [registrar of voters](#) will immediately mail a written notice of the ballot envelope flap deficiency to the voter to give them an opportunity to cure the deficiency. If there is a telephone number or email address available in the voter's registration record, the [registrar of voters](#) will also attempt to contact the voter by telephone or email.

If you are contacted by the [registrar of voters](#) about a deficiency with your absentee ballot envelope flap, you must appear in person at their [registrar of voters](#) office by no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before the election to cure the ballot envelope flap deficiency.

## STATUS OF YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

You can track the status of your absentee ballot [here](#).

## NURSING HOME EARLY VOTING PROGRAM

If you reside in a nursing home, veterans' home or a hospital for an extended stay for a physical disability and are unable to vote in person during early voting or at the polls on election day, you may apply with [this application](#) and enroll in the nursing home early voting program. Once accepted by the registrar of voters, the registrar or a deputy registrar will go to your home facility during a period of two weeks prior to the beginning of early voting through the last day of early voting. The registrar of voters will bring either a paper ballot or a portable voting machine and guide you through the process of casting your vote.

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# Louisiana SECRETARY OF STATE

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## EARLY VOTING

You do not need a reason to vote early! All voters may vote early, just like they are voting on election day. Voters who want to vote early for any election may do so in person at [designated locations](#) in their parish from 14 to seven days prior to any scheduled election. When one or more state holidays fall within an early voting period, the first day for early voting will begin 15 days prior to the election.

For presidential elections, the early voting period is from 18 to seven days before the election (except Sundays and legal holidays). When one or more state holidays fall within that early voting period, the first day for early voting will begin 19 days prior to the election.

Refer to the schedule below for early voting time periods for upcoming elections and refer to the [schedule of elections](#) for future time periods.

For a detailed list of early voting locations in your parish, login to the [voter portal](#). For a complete list of early voting locations for the entire state, please refer to [early voting locations](#).

The registrars of voters will open their offices from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for each day of early voting. When you go to cast your vote early, you will be asked to identify yourself with either a photo ID or signature on a voter affidavit. You may use a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card, a United States military identification card that contains your name and picture or other generally recognized picture identification card that has your name and signature. You may wish to contact your local [Registrar of Voters Office](#) for specific locations, dates and times.

See [La. R.S. 18:1303](#) for more information about voting early.

### November 5, 2024

#### Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election

Early voting is October 18 through October 29 (excluding Sunday, October 20 and Sunday, October 27) from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### December 7, 2024

#### Congressional General Election

Early voting is November 22 through November 30 (excluding Sunday, November 24, Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29) from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Assistance to Voters

A visibly disabled voter and the person assisting them in voting shall go to the front of the line when voting early at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at designated locations for early voting.

A voter is entitled to receive assistance while voting if they are unable to read or unable to vote without assistance because of a physical disability, including being visually impaired. A voter may choose to use the audio ballot instead of receiving assistance.

A voter must either file a statement with the registrar in person or by mail before the election if they need assistance in voting or complete an affidavit and/or provide specific disability documentation to the registrar or commissioner during early voting.



Acceptable disability documentation includes letters from a medical doctor, optometrist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certifying to the disability, or a copy of current documentation showing eligibility for disability benefits from either social security, veteran's, paratransit services, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

Any Election Day accessibility issues should be reported to the ADA Compliance Officer at [ada@sos.la.gov](mailto:ada@sos.la.gov) or 225.362.5113.

Persons prohibited from assisting voters are as follows:

- candidate in the election cannot assist a voter;
- employer or employer's agent cannot assist an employee;
- union agent cannot assist a union member; and
- staff for a state residential facility cannot assist residents of their facility in voting.

### Requirements of a Person Assisting a Voter

A voter who is entitled to assistance in voting may receive the assistance of any person of their choice including the registrar, a deputy registrar or an early voting commissioner, except those prohibited.

Before a voter receives assistance during early voting, the registrar, deputy registrar or early voting commissioner must print the voter's name and the assistant's name (including a registrar, a deputy registrar or an early voting commissioner providing assistance) behind the tab for assistance to voters in the back of the precinct register and check the box if the voter is not marked on the statewide voter registration system as eligible for assistance in voting. Then the assistant (including a registrar, a deputy registrar or an early voting commissioner providing assistance) must sign their name next to their printed name before being allowed to assist the voter.

In the event that a paper ballot must be used during early voting, the person assisting the voter to vote a paper ballot must explain to the voter that a signature or mark made by the voter constitutes certification that all statements in the certificate are true and correct and that any person who knowingly provides false or incorrect statements is subject to a fine or imprisonment, or both.

The person assisting the voter to vote a paper ballot must sign the acknowledgment on the paper ballot envelope flap, verifying that the person providing the assistance has marked the ballot in the manner dictated by the voter.

If a voter is assigned to a polling place that is not accessible, the voter may cast their vote at the nearest polling place with the same ballot, or at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#).

### ImageCast X Voting Systems for Early Voting



For early voting beginning in the fall of 2019, all Louisiana voters will use the ImageCast<sup>®</sup> X (or "ICX") voting system leased from Dominion Voting Systems. Early voting is held 14 to seven days prior to any scheduled election at each [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at designated locations in the parish.

For presidential elections, the early voting period is from 18 to seven days before the election (except Sundays and legal holidays).

On this small and easy to operate touchscreen system, the voter will scroll through their entire ballot to vote. The election results are easily printed and stored on a cartridge that is delivered to the Parish Board of Election Supervisors for tabulation on Election Day.





The ICX unit was designed as a voting solution for all and offers several options for voters with accessibility needs to vote in a private and independent manner. The ICX offers the

following user interfaces:

- Visual mode: The voter navigates their ballot using one of the available accessibility tools and the visual display.
- Audio mode: The visual display can be disabled, and the voter uses headphones to navigate an audio ballot using one of the available accessibility tools.
- Visual and audio mode: The voter navigates their ballot using one of the available accessibility tools, the visual display and the audio ballot.

In addition to the touchscreen functionality, the ICX is compatible with a range of accessibility tools that voters can use to navigate through the ballot and make their selections. The system is compatible with accessibility devices such as the Audio Tactile Interface (ATI) handheld controller, a four-way joystick, a sip and puff device or a paddle device. The ATI has raised keys that are identifiable tactilely without activation (e.g., raised buttons of different shapes and colors, large or Braille numbers and letters), can be operated with one hand and includes a 3.5 mm headphone jack. The images below include what a voter selecting an accessible voting device will see on the machine and what the ATI looks like.

Please select your preferred accessible voting device Privacy mask

-  ATI →
-  Paddles →
-  Sip & Puff →
-  Audio/Visual mode →

*The ImageCast X is compatible with a range of accessibility tools and can present the ballot in audio only, visual only or both audio/visual mode.*



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## VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

View upcoming [election dates](#).

When you go to the polls to cast your vote in an election, be sure to take one of the following:

- a driver's license;
- a Louisiana Special ID;
- LA Wallet digital driver's license;
- a United States military identification card that contains your name and picture; or
- some other generally recognized picture ID that contains your name and signature.

If you do not have a driver's license, Louisiana Special ID, a United States military identification card that contains your name and picture or some other generally recognized picture ID that contains your name and signature, you may still cast your vote by signature on a voter affidavit.

You may get a free Louisiana Special ID at the Office of Motor Vehicles by showing your voter information card. If you have misplaced your voter information card, contact your [registrar of voters](#) for a new one or print your own by logging into the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) through the "Search by Voter" option. Click the "Print Voter Registration Card" link located in the second column of the Quick Links.

Should any problems or questions arise, the principal office of the [registrar of voters](#) in each parish will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on all Saturday elections and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on all Tuesday elections.

Election day voting hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on all Saturday elections and 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on all Tuesday elections. Don't forget to bring your picture ID to the polls!

### Where to Vote

Use the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) to find where you vote on election day, or call your parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#). Your voter information card received by mail lists your polling place. Please pay special attention to make sure you go to the correct polling place.

### Assistance to Voters

A visibly disabled voter and the person assisting them in voting shall go to the front of the line at their polling place.

A voter is entitled to receive assistance while voting if they are unable to read or unable to vote without assistance because of a physical disability, including being visually impaired. A voter may choose to use the audio ballot instead of receiving assistance.

A voter must either file a statement with the registrar in person or by mail before the election if they need assistance in voting or complete an affidavit and/or provide specific documentation to the commissioner on election day.

Acceptable disability documentation includes letters from a medical doctor, optometrist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certifying to the disability, or a copy of current documentation showing eligibility for disability benefits from either social security, veteran's, paratransit services, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

Any Election Day accessibility issues should be reported to the ADA Compliance Officer at [ada@sos.la.gov](mailto:ada@sos.la.gov) or 225.362.5113.

Persons prohibited from assisting voters are as follows:

- candidate in the election cannot assist a voter;
- employer or employer's agent cannot assist an employee;
- union agent cannot assist a union member
- commissioner-in-charge; and
- staff for a state residential facility cannot assist residents of their facility in voting.

**Requirements of Person Assisting A Voter**

A voter who is entitled to assistance in voting may receive the assistance of any person of their choice including a commissioner, except those prohibited by law.

Before a voter receives assistance on election day, the commissioner must print the voter's name and the assistant's name (including a commissioner providing assistance) behind the tab for Assistance to Voters in the back of the precinct register and check the box if the voter is not marked in the statewide voter registration system as eligible for assistance in voting. Then the assistant (including a commissioner providing assistance) must sign their name next to their printed name before being allowed to assist the voter.

In the event that a paper ballot must be used on election day, the person assisting the voter to vote a paper ballot must explain to the voter that a signature or mark made by the voter constitutes certification that all statements in the certificate are true and correct and that any person who knowingly provides false or incorrect statements is subject to a fine or imprisonment, or both.

The person assisting the voter to vote a paper ballot must sign the acknowledgment on the paper ballot envelope flap, verifying that the person providing the assistance has marked the ballot in the manner dictated by the voter.

If a voter is assigned to a polling place that is not accessible, the voter may cast his vote at the nearest polling place with the same ballot, or at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#).

**AVC Advantage Voting System for Election Day Voting**

As of the Fall of 2006, all of Louisiana's voters began using the AVC Advantage voting systems for election day voting. On this direct recording electronic voting system, the entire ballot for the voter will appear on the screen.



Over a period of 15 years, the state began procuring these voting systems for 12 parishes in Louisiana. Since 2005, federal funds which were awarded through the Help America Vote Act of 2002 were used to procure voting systems for the remainder of the state.

The voting systems are smaller, lighter, and easier to operate than the old lever-operated machines. They receive rave reviews from the poll workers throughout the state. The ballot is easy to read, since the type is larger. The AVC Advantage voting systems are wheelchair accessible and every voting machine is capable of using an audio voting keypad, available for voters with disabilities. The election results are easily printed and stored on a cartridge which is delivered to the clerk of court after the polls are closed for tabulation.

[View](#) a demonstration of the AVC Advantage voting system.

**AVC Audio Voting Keypad**

As of the Fall of 2006, all of Louisiana's voters have had access to using the AVC Audio Voting Keypad on either the AVC Advantage voting system or the AVC Edge voting system. The AVC Audio Voting Keypad will make both of these voting systems accessible to individuals who are visually impaired, physically disabled, struggle with the written word, unable to read the written word, or unable to read English.



There are no requirements for a voter to use the AVC Audio Voting Keypad.

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## VOTE PROVISIONALLY

Provisional voting provides a fail-safe procedure for voting in federal elections when any person appears to vote and is not listed as an eligible voter. You must certify in writing on the ballot that you are a registered voter in the parish and are eligible to vote in the election for federal office before voting.

Provisional voting is not convenience voting, whereby you may appear anywhere in the state and vote and have your vote count.

You must be a registered voter in the parish where you vote and eligible to vote in the election for federal office for the provisional ballot to be counted. Therefore, it is recommended that you vote in the precinct and parish where you are registered to vote.

If you are in the parish where you are registered to vote and you are voting at the wrong precinct, you may vote a paper provisional ballot for federal offices only after certifying in writing on the ballot that you are eligible to vote. You will not be permitted to vote on the voting machine for state, local or municipal offices; propositions; or state constitutional amendments and therefore, it is recommended that you go to your precinct so that you may vote on all candidates and questions.

If you are in a precinct that is not in the parish where you are registered to vote, you may vote a paper provisional ballot for federal offices only after certifying in writing on the ballot that you are eligible to vote. You will not be permitted to vote on the voting machine for state, local or municipal offices; propositions; or constitutional amendments and therefore it is recommended that you go to your precinct in your parish so that you may vote on all candidates and questions.

If you are not registered to vote in Louisiana, and you enter a precinct to vote, you may vote a paper provisional ballot for federal offices only after certifying in writing on the ballot that you are eligible to vote. You will not be permitted to vote on the voting machine for state, local or municipal offices; propositions; or state constitutional amendments.

If you cast a paper provisional ballot for federal offices only, your provisional ballot may or may not be counted. You must be a registered voter in the parish where you vote and eligible to vote in the election for federal office for your vote to be counted. If you cast a provisional ballot for a U.S. representative, you must be a registered voter in that congressional district.

### Provisional Ballot Status

Any voter who casts a provisional ballot in an election, within the past 27 months, can check if it was counted by accessing the [provisional voter search](#). Voters should wait at least seven days after an election to determine the status of their provisional ballot. For prior federal election or if you cannot find your name in the provisional voter search, contact the Louisiana Secretary of State's Elections Division at 800.883.2805. When calling, please have available the provisional ballot number provided at the polling place.

### About the Law

On Oct. 29, 2002, the [Help America Vote Act of 2002 \(HAVA\)](#) was signed into law. The legislation aims to improve the administration of elections in the U.S., and part of the law deals with provisional voting. Legislation was passed in the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature to place Louisiana in compliance with the provisional voting requirements of HAVA. Act 423 of 2003 Regular Legislative Session implements provisional voting in Louisiana only in elections for federal office. Read more about HAVA and other [federal laws](#).

### Provisional Ballot Statistics

- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - Nov. 8, 2022](#)
- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - April 24, 2021](#)
- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - March 20, 2021](#)
- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - Dec. 5, 2020](#)
- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - Nov. 3, 2020](#)
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- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - Dec. 6, 2008](#)
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- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - Dec. 9, 2006](#)
- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - Nov. 7, 2006](#)
- [Provisional Voting Analysis Report - Dec. 4, 2004](#)
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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For more information about voting by mail, see [Frequently Asked Questions: Absentee Voting](#).

For more information about voting early, see [Frequently Asked Questions: Voting Early](#).

For more information about voting on election day, see [Frequently Asked Questions: Voting on Election Day](#).

For more information about voting provisionally, see [Frequently Asked Questions: Voting Provisionally](#).

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# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### ABSENTEE VOTING

#### Who can vote absentee?

In Louisiana you must have a reason to be eligible to vote by mail. Reasons include:

- military or overseas citizens;
- senior citizens (65+);
- voters with disabilities;
- higher education students & professors;
- religious clergy;
- voters temporarily absent during early voting and election day;
- voters who moved to a new parish more than 100 miles from former residence within 30 days of election;
- persons involuntarily confined to institution;
- sequestered jurors;
- voters hospitalized or who expect to be hospitalized during early voting and election day;
- voters employed upon state waters
- voters incarcerated for non-felony with sheriff's certification; and
- participants in the state's address confidentiality program.

If you registered to vote online or by mail and you have not previously voted in the parish, you are not eligible to vote absentee and must vote in person the first time, either during early voting or on election day. Exceptions include:

- military or overseas citizens;
- senior citizens (65+);
- people who are homebound because of a disability;
- students, who submit a copy of student ID or fee bill with the request;
- citizens who appear in the registrar of voters office before the election to verify identity; and
- participants in the state's address confidentiality program;
- a person who was registered to vote in another parish and previously voted in the other parish (R.S. 18:115(F)(e)).

All elections are open to all eligible voters in Louisiana, except for the [Presidential Preference Primary](#) and the state and local party elections (Democratic and Republican State Central Committees and Parish Executive Committees).

#### Who can vote absentee, reasons?

In Louisiana, you must have a reason to be eligible to vote by mail, unless you are a military or overseas voter. There are specific reasons listed below that qualify you to vote by mail. You can submit an application requesting a mail ballot through our online system or you may print and mail an application directly to your registrar of voters.

#### GENERAL APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS (REASONS TO APPLY)

- **Senior Citizen:** If you are 65 years of age or older you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee. You may apply for one election or you may apply to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections. Once you have opted in to automatically receive absentee ballots, you may opt out at any time by submitting an [Absentee Program](#)



[Opt-Out Form](#) or your own written request to your parish [Registrar of Voters](#). You will be removed from the Absentee Program automatically if any ballot mailed to you is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

- **Temporarily Absent:** If you will be temporarily outside your parish both during the early voting period and on election day, or expect to be, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee. Any person who requests an absentee ballot be mailed to an address within the parish must indicate on the application the dates that they will be absent from the parish.
- **Offshore:** If you work or expect to be offshore working during the early voting period and on election day, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee.
- **Nursing Home:** If you reside in a nursing home, veterans' home or a hospital for an extended stay for a physical disability and are unable to vote in person during early voting or at the polls on election day, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and enroll in the nursing home early voting program. Once accepted by the registrar of voters, the registrar or a deputy registrar will go to your home facility during a period of a week prior to the beginning of early voting through the last day of early voting. The registrar of voters will bring either a paper ballot or a portable voting machine and guide you through the process of casting your vote.
- **Higher Education:** If you are a student, instructor or professor located and living outside of your parish of registration, or the spouse/dependent thereof, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee.
- **Clergy:** If you are minister, priest, rabbi, or other member of the clergy assigned outside of your parish of registration, or a spouse/dependent, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee.
- **Moved Out of Parish:** If you moved more than 100 miles from the parish seat of your former residence after the voter registration books closed (30 days prior to an election), you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee.
- **Involuntary Confinement:** If you are involuntarily confined in an institution for mental treatment outside your parish of registration and you are not interdicted and not judicially declared incompetent, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote by absentee.
- **Hospitalized:** If you expect to be hospitalized on election day and did not have knowledge of the hospitalization until after the time for early voting had expired; or you were hospitalized during the time for early voting and you expect to be hospitalized on election day; or you were either hospitalized or restricted to bed by your physician during early voting and on election day, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee.
- **Incarcerated:** If you are incarcerated or expect to be incarcerated in an institution inside or outside of your parish of registration and you are not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee.
- **Address Confidentiality Program:** If you are a program participant in the secretary of state's Address Confidentiality Program, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote by absentee.
- **Juror:** If you will be sequestered on the day of the election, you may apply through a [General Application](#) and, once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote absentee.

## DISABLED APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS (REASONS TO APPLY)

**Physical Disability:** If you are physically disabled, you may apply through the [Disabled Application](#) and if not enrolled, enroll in the disability program. Once accepted by the registrar of voters, you may request a ballot for one election or you may request to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections. Once you have opted in to automatically receive absentee ballots, you may opt out at any time by submitting an [Absentee Program Opt-Out Form](#) or your own written request to your parish [Registrar of Voters](#). You will be removed from the Absentee Program automatically if any ballot mailed to you is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

If you have not previously provided proof of disability to your parish registrar of voters, one of the following must be submitted along with your application:

- a voter registration application requesting assistance in voting;
- a copy of a mobility impaired identification card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles;



- a copy of social security disability benefits, veteran's disability benefits, paratransit services, benefits from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services; or
- a letter from a physician, optometrist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certifying your disability.

**In addition to any disability documentation listed above**, any voter enrolling in the disability program must also enclose a copy of a photo ID (Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana special ID card or other photo ID with name and signature) or a letter of oath where you have listed the names and addresses of two persons residing in your precinct who could make oath, if required, to the fact that you are physically disabled.

**Homebound:** If you are homebound and cannot vote without assistance, you may apply through the [Disabled Application](#) and, if not enrolled, enroll in the disability program. If you are disabled and homebound and are voting for the first time, your proof of disability must be a physician's letter certifying that you are homebound to exempt you from law that requires that you either register or vote for the first time in person. Otherwise, you may provide proof of disability through any of the documents listed above.

### **Vote absentee request deadline?**

For General and Disabled Applications, applicants must request a ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before election day.

For Military, Overseas or Hospitalized Applications: Military personnel and/or their dependents; U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.; or voters that are hospitalized must request their ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before election day.

### **Apply to vote absentee?**

You may submit an application requesting an absentee ballot through our online system or you may print and mail an application directly to your [registrar of voters](#).

Please be aware of standard mail delivery times and the return ballot deadline when applying for an absentee ballot to ensure your voted ballot is received by the [registrar of voters](#) before the deadline. It is recommended that if you are going to request an absentee ballot that you apply as soon as possible, as there is no start date to apply.

Disabled voters, military voters and overseas voters may be eligible to receive their absentee ballot electronically. Apply online or contact your [registrar of voters](#) for additional information.

**Online Application:** You may request an absentee ballot by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) and following these steps:

- Click the "Search By Voter" button.
- Type in your First Name, Last Name and Zip Code or Birth Month and Year and then click the "Submit" button;
- Click the "Request Absentee Ballot" link found under the Quick Links heading; and
- Complete requested information and submit.

Note: You must be logged in to the Voter Portal as the voter for whom the request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

**Print and Mail Application:** You may also print an application to request an absentee ballot which you can complete and deliver to your parish [registrar of voters](#). Delivery may be by U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, hand delivery or fax. If hand delivered or faxed, the application can only be for you or your immediate family member. Select the application that applies to you:

- [General Application Form](#)
- [Disabled Application Form](#)
- [Military or Overseas Application Form](#)

View upcoming [election dates](#). You will need to list the election dates on your application.

## **Vote Absentee, Enroll in or Opt Out of Absentee Program**

If you qualify for voting absentee as a senior citizen or disabled voter, you can opt in to the Absentee Program and receive ballots automatically for each election. If you have previously opted in to receive your absentee ballots automatically, you may opt out at any time. To do so, simply submit an [Absentee Program Opt-Out Form](#) or your own written request to your parish [Registrar of Voters](#). You will be removed from the Absentee Program automatically if any ballot mailed to you is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

## **Vote absentee (military and overseas citizens), information?**

View voting information for [military or overseas voters](#).

## **Vote absentee, am I guaranteed to receive a ballot if I apply?**

The registrar of voters must verify that you are qualified to vote absentee. If your eligibility cannot be verified, then you will be notified in writing and you will not receive a ballot. See "Who can vote absentee?" Some reasons your request to vote absentee may be rejected are:

- your request was not received timely (see "What is the timeline to vote by mail?");
- you registered by mail, and you must vote in person the first time, unless an exception applies (see "Who can vote absentee?");
- you applied to vote absentee from a parish or district/precinct where you are not registered to vote or eligible to vote;
- your application to register to vote was not received timely and therefore, you are not eligible to vote in the election (you must register to vote 30 days before an election in order to vote in the election); or
- your request was incomplete (you may vote early or on Election Day).

## **Vote absentee documents to expect?**

When voting absentee, check to make sure you have received all of the following from the registrar of voters:

- official ballot(s) (white paper ballot(s) for either the primary or general election);
- affidavit envelope (secrecy envelope to seal your voted ballot with affidavit flap to certify your information);
- return envelope (to mail secrecy envelope with voted ballot(s) to registrar of voters); and
- instructions for voting absentee.

## **Vote absentee (military and overseas voters), what documents should I receive?**

Check to make sure you have received the following:

1. Official white paper ballot for the primary election;
2. Green ranking ballot for the general election (run-offs if there are two (2) or more candidates in a race);
3. Instructions;
4. White secrecy envelope with affidavit flap for white paper ballot;
5. Green secrecy envelope with affidavit flap for green ranking ballot;
6. White return envelope.

If there are any propositions added to a general election, you may receive a second mailing with a white paper ballot for the general election propositions that were not on the green ranking ballot, along with a white secrecy envelope with affidavit flap and a white return envelope.

## Fax ballot, information?

If you have received your absentee ballot but you will not have time to return it by mail, you may request that the [registrar of voters](#) send you the documents to return your ballot by fax. The documents include an affidavit and a statement waiving your right to a secret ballot. These documents along with your voted ballot are to be faxed back to the registrar of voters.

Additionally, if you have not yet received your absentee ballot, you can request that the registrar of voters also send your ballot by fax.

Your ballot, an affidavit and a statement waiving your right to a secret ballot will be faxed, and you must complete these documents and return them along with your voted ballot, by mail or by fax.

## Vote absentee, instructions for all voters other than military and overseas citizens?

Instructions for voting absentee for all voters (other than military and overseas citizens):

- **View and confirm** that you have your correct ballot by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) or downloading the free GeauxVote app on any smartphone or tablet.
- **Mark** your ballot - all pages, front and back by completely filling in the oval next to your choice. Pencil, black or blue pen are accepted. Do not make any stray or identifying marks on the ballot. You must mark your own ballot unless you are eligible for assistance. Request a replacement ballot, if necessary.
- **Place** voted ballot (all pages) in the Ballot Envelope and seal. The Ballot Envelope has a perforated Affidavit flap attached. Do not detach/remove the Affidavit flap from the Ballot Envelope.
- **Complete** Section 1: Election Date and Voter Information. Print the date of election. Print name, parish, address, city/town, and ward/precinct if not prepopulated on the Ballot Envelope Affidavit flap. (Your ward/precinct are on the return address label of the Return Envelope, if needed). Print your mother's maiden name or "unknown".
- **Complete** Section 2: Certification and Signatures. Read the statements that you are attesting to in voting. Sign and print your name on the Affidavit flap in the presence of a witness. The witness must sign and print their name.
- **Complete** Section 3: Assistance Acknowledgement: If registered for assistance, the person assisting you must also sign the Acknowledgment at the bottom of the Affidavit flap. If you are not registered for assistance, leave blank.
- **Place** the sealed Ballot Envelope with attached completed Affidavit flap containing the voted ballot in the Return Envelope that is addressed to the registrar of voters. Add First-Class Mail postage, if mailing. Return ballot by mail, commercial courier, hand delivery or by fax. (Contact your registrar of voters for fax information.)

Ballot will be counted on election night by the parish board of election supervisors with a digital scanner or by hand.

### Important Notes:

- To change a vote, use pencil and erase completely. If a black or blue pen was used, request a replacement ballot from your registrar of voters. Only vote for the number of candidates to be elected. For propositions, vote either for or against. If you overvote, your ballot will be VOID in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1309.
- A voter is eligible for assistance if registered to vote as needing assistance, unable to read, or physically disabled including visual impairment. A voter may receive assistance from any person he chooses, except from a CANDIDATE, employer, employer's agent, or union agent. A voter registration application requesting a change for assistance in voting or proof of disability is required to be filed with the registrar of voters either by mail or in person if you become disabled after registering and need assistance in voting, unless assistance is needed because you are unable to read. The person assisting a voter must inform the voter that a signature or mark constitutes certification that all statements on the affidavit are true and correct and subject to fine or imprisonment, or both, for false or incorrect statements. La R.S. 18:1310 If voting a mail ballot under the Nursing Home Program, no owner, operator, administrator, or employee of the nursing home may assist in voting. (La. R.S. 18:1333)

- Your ballot will be counted by comparing the name on your affidavit to the list of absentee ballots and determining if your ballot is valid. A ballot may be rejected if: (1) it is successfully challenged by a candidate or their representative, a member of the board, or a qualified elector on grounds that the voter is not qualified to vote in the election or precinct or is not the person whose name is shown as being registered to vote; (2) the board has cause to reject the ballot (cause may include failure to fill in any and/or all blanks on the Affidavit flap of the Ballot Envelope); or (3) the ballot contains a distinguishing mark or feature that allows it to be identified as the voter's ballot.

See [vote absentee](#) for all deadlines.

### **Vote absentee, instructions for military and overseas citizens?**

Military and overseas citizens, instructions for absentee voting (NOTE - not for ballots received electronically (by email). Please refer to the instructions transmitted with your electronic ballot):

- **REVIEW** and confirm that you have your correct ballot by logging in to the Louisiana Voter Portal or by downloading the free GeauxVote app on any smartphone or tablet. Primary elections include: (1) Primary election white paper ballot and ballot envelope with affidavit flap; (2) General election (Green Ranking Ballot) and green ballot envelope with affidavit flap; and (3) One return envelope addressed to the registrar of voters. General election includes: (1) General election white paper ballot and ballot envelope with affidavit flap for any propositions added to the general election; and (2) One return envelope addressed to your registrar of voters.
- **MARK** your white paper ballot - all pages, front and back. Completely fill in the oval next to your choice. Pencil, black or blue pen are accepted. Do not make any stray or identifying marks on ballot. You must mark your own ballot unless you are eligible for assistance. Request a replacement ballot, if necessary.
- **PLACE** voted white paper ballot (all pages) in the Ballot Envelope and seal. The Ballot Envelope has a perforated Affidavit flap attached - Do NOT detach/remove the Affidavit flap from the Ballot Envelope.
- **FILL** in all blanks that are not pre-populated on the Affidavit, specifically: Print the date of election. Print name, parish and your Louisiana residential address where registered to vote if not pre-populated on the Ballot Envelope Affidavit flap. (Your voter registration number will be added by the registrar of voters). Print your mother's maiden name or "unknown".
- **SIGN AND PRINT** your name on the Affidavit flap after reading the statements that you are attesting to in voting.
- **ASSISTANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** - If you are registered for assistance, the person assisting you in voting must sign and print their name on the Acknowledgement signature line at the bottom of the Affidavit flap. If you are not registered for assistance in voting, leave blank.
- **PLACE** the sealed Ballot Envelope with attached completed Affidavit flap containing the voted ballot in the white Return Envelope that is addressed to the registrar of voters. (If voting a General Election (green Ranking Ballot), do not seal until you have completed voting your General Ballot (green Ranking Ballot) and included it in the Return Envelope.

### **GENERAL ELECTION (green Ranking Ballot) instructions:**

- The General Election (green Ranking Ballot) is sent with the Primary Election white paper ballot in order to timely vote in both elections for all candidate races where there are more than two candidates in a race. The deadline to add a proposition or question to the General Election falls after the Primary Election ballots are mailed and therefore, a General Election white paper ballot may be sent in a separate mailing before the General Election if a proposition or question was added to the election.
- **MARK** your General Election (green Ranking Ballot) by preference for each candidate by ranking your candidate choices by placing the number one (1) in the box next to the candidate's name of your first choice, the number two (2) next to the candidate's name of your second choice, and so on until you have completed voting. You may rank all candidates in each race.

- **PLACE** voted General Election (green Ranking Ballot)(all pages) in the green Ballot Envelope and seal. Green Ballot Envelope has a perforated flap with an Affidavit - DO NOT DETACH OR REMOVE THE AFFIDAVIT FROM THE BALLOT ENVELOPE.
- **FOLLOW** the instructions in numbers 4-7 above to complete the process.

### **RETURNING VOTED BALLOT(S) AND COUNTING INFORMATION**

- No postage is necessary. (To be mailed without prepayment of postage, the balloting materials must be deposited at a U.S. Post Office, an overseas U.S. Military Post Office (APO/FPO), a Diplomatic Post Office (DPO), or an American Embassy or American Consulate in accordance with DMM 703.8.2.2.
- Return ballots by mail, commercial courier, hand delivery or by fax (Contact your registrar of voters for fax information or other special return methods).

**Ballots will be counted election night by the parish board of election supervisors with a digital scanner or by hand.** If your first choice candidate is eliminated in the primary, your second choice candidate will receive your vote in the General Election and so on until order of preference is exhausted. If you choose to number only one candidate, and if that candidate does not advance to the General Election, you will NOT have cast a vote for a candidate for that office in the General Election.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- To change a vote, use pencil and erase completely. If a black or blue pen was used, request a replacement ballot from your registrar of voters. If you will not have time to request a replacement ballot by mail, contact the registrar of voters for another delivery method. Only vote for the number of candidates to be elected. For propositions, vote either for or against. If you overvote, your ballot will be VOID in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1309.
- A voter is eligible for assistance if registered to vote as needing assistance, unable to read, or physically disabled including visual impairment. A voter may receive assistance from any person he chooses, except from a CANDIDATE, employer, employer's agent or union agent. A voter registration application requesting a change for assistance in voting or proof of disability is required to be filed with the registrar of voters either by mail or in person if you become disabled after registering and need assistance in voting, unless assistance is needed because you are unable to read. The person assisting a voter must inform the voter that a signature or mark constitutes certification that all statements on the affidavit are true and correct and subject to fine or imprisonment, or both, for false or incorrect statements. (La. R.S. 18:1310).
- Your ballot will be counted by comparing the name on your affidavit to the list of absentee ballots and determining if your ballot is valid. A ballot may be rejected if: (1) it is successfully challenged by a candidate or their representative, a member of the board, or a qualified elector on grounds that the voter is not qualified to vote in the election or precinct or is not the person whose name is shown as being registered to vote; (2) the board has cause to reject the ballot (cause may include failure to fill in any and/or all blanks on the Affidavit flap of the Ballot Envelope).; or (3) the ballot contains a distinguishing mark or feature that allows it to be identified as the voter's ballot.

### **Vote absentee, how is the ballot counted?**

Your vote will be counted election night by the parish board of election supervisors, via a digital scanner or hand count.

Before counting begins, your ballot will be verified by first comparing the name on your affidavit to the list of absentee ballots and determining if your ballot is valid. A ballot may be rejected if:

- it is challenged successfully by a candidate or their representative, a member of the board, or a qualified elector for grounds of the applicant not being qualified to vote in the election or in the precinct, or not being the person whose name is shown as being registered to vote;
- the board has cause to reject the ballot (cause may include failure to fill in any and/or all blanks on the affidavit); or



- the ballot contains a distinguishing mark or feature making the ballot susceptible of identification.

### **How will my ballot be counted if I vote absentee (military and overseas voters)?**

A white paper ballot may be counted by optical scan or hand count by the parish board of election supervisors in accordance with law.

A green ranking absentee ballot for military and overseas citizens to vote in a general election may be counted by the parish board of election supervisors by hand count according to your ranking(s). If your first choice candidate was eliminated in the primary, your second choice candidate will receive your vote and so on until your order of preference is exhausted. If you choose to number only one candidate, and if that candidate does not advance to the general election, you will not have cast a vote for a candidate for that office in the general election.

Your ballot will be counted by first comparing the name on your certificate to the list of absentee ballots and determining if your ballot is valid. A ballot may be rejected if it is challenged successfully by a candidate or his representative, a member of the board, or a qualified elector for grounds of the applicant not being qualified to vote in the election or in the precinct, or not being the person whose name is shown as being registered to vote; the board has cause to reject the ballot (cause may include failure to fill in any and/or all blanks on the certificate); or the ballot contains a distinguishing mark or feature making the ballot susceptible to identification.

### **Return absentee ballot by email (all voters other than military and overseas citizens)?**

No. You may return your absentee ballot by mail, fax, or hand delivery. If hand delivered or faxed, you may only return your own ballot, unless you are returning a ballot for a family member. You will be required to sign a statement or form. Please contact your local registrar of voters.

### **Return absentee ballot by email (military and overseas citizens)?**

There are special provisions for U.S. military or overseas citizens during a time of declared emergency. Please contact your parish [registrar of voters](#) to see if you are eligible to return your absentee ballot by email.

### **Opportunity to Cure Deficiencies**

Each [registrar of voters](#) will review the absentee ballot envelope flaps when they are received for the following ballot envelope flap deficiencies:

1. missing voter signature;
2. missing witness signature; and
3. incomplete affidavit information, including but not limited to missing election date and voter information.

If upon receipt of an absentee ballot envelope flap, with one or more of the above identified deficiencies, the [registrar of voters](#) will immediately mail a written notice of the ballot envelope flap deficiency to the voter to give them an opportunity to cure the deficiency. If there is a telephone number or email address available in the voter's registration record, the [registrar of voters](#) will also attempt to contact the voter by telephone or email.

If you are contacted by the [registrar of voters](#) about a deficiency with your absentee ballot envelope flap, you must appear in person at their [registrar of voters](#) office by no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before the election to cure the ballot envelope flap deficiency.

### **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB), information?**

Only a military or overseas citizen who has made a timely application to vote absentee in accordance with Louisiana law and who did not receive an absentee ballot may use the FWAB to vote in federal elections. Only

candidates on Louisiana's ballot may be written in on the FWAB.

### **Write in candidates, are they allowed?**

No, Louisiana does not allow write-in candidates.

### **State law prohibitions in voting, information?**

Louisiana state law prohibits:

- giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, money or anything of present or prospective value to influence a vote
- doing any of the following within 600 feet of the entrance of the polling place on election day:
  - handing out or displaying campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature, or placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising which advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot. The only exception is for placing or displaying political signs or pictures on private property that is not being used as a polling place
  - Circulating a petition or seeking handwritten signatures to a petition
- knowingly, willfully, or intentionally transmitting or otherwise providing false or misleading information concerning an election from a source disguised as or impersonating the secretary of state, a registrar of voters, a clerk of court, or other election official
- intimidating, deceiving or misinforming, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or nonvoting
- voting or attempting to vote more than once at an election
- offering money or anything of apparent present or prospective value or use, directly or indirectly, or engage in any form of intimidation to influence the action or encourage inaction of any election official with regard to the duties of his or her office
- disobeying any lawful instruction of the registrar, deputy registrars, commissioners or a law enforcement officer assisting at the early voting location or polling place or without lawful authority, obstructing, hindering or delaying any voter on his way to or while returning home from any early voting location or polling place where an election is held or impede a voter from entering or exiting an early voting location or polling place
- voting or attempting to vote, knowing that you are not qualified, or influencing or attempting to influence another to vote, knowing such voter to be unqualified or the vote to be fraudulent
- voting or attempting to vote in the name of another or in an assumed or fictitious name, or in any manner other than as provided by the [Louisiana Election Code](#)
- supplying a false answer or statement to an election official or on any document required by the [Louisiana Election Code](#), or executing an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information
- forging the name of another, or using a fictitious name on an affidavit or document required by the [Louisiana Election Code](#)
- unlawfully, directly or indirectly, possessing, tampering with, breaking, impairing, impeding or otherwise interfering with the maintenance, adjustment, delivery, use or operation of any voting machine or with any paraphernalia connected with or appertaining to the machine
- voters, election officials, watchers, or persons assisting a voter to allow a ballot to be seen, (except as provided by law), announce the manner in which a person has cast a ballot, place a distinguishing mark on a ballot with intent to make the ballot identifiable or make a false statement concerning a voter's ability to mark a ballot without assistance
- coercing, compelling or otherwise influencing an assisted voter to cast a vote in a certain way or fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter by the person providing assistance
- signing another voter's name in the precinct register
- attempting to influence an election official or watcher in the performance of his or her duties
- appearing in an intoxicated condition or possessing any beverage of alcoholic content
- voting at the polls on Election Day if you have voted early or submitted your absentee ballot
- voting if you have moved more than three months ago to an address outside of the parish or if registered to vote in another parish or state
- remaining within any early voting location or polling place or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance of any polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by a commissioner or law enforcement officer to leave the premises or area of an early voting location or polling place

- carrying or possessing a firearm, except a peace officer in the performance of his or her duties
- accepting directly, or indirectly anything of economic value, including reimbursement of costs, for the purpose of transporting a voter to an early voting location or polling place, or for driving or being in charge of any motor vehicle being used for such purpose (bus, taxi or licensed transportation are exempt)

### **Election laws in Louisiana, where to view?**

View the [Louisiana Election Code](#), Title 18 of Louisiana's revised statutes.

### **Federal law prohibitions in voting, information?**

Federal law prohibits:

- No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for voting or attempting to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for urging or aiding any person to vote or attempt to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for exercising any powers or duties under federal law.
- Knowingly and willfully depriving, defrauding, or attempting to deprive or defraud the residents of Louisiana of a fair and impartially conducted election process by the procurement, casting, or tabulation of ballots that are known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent under the laws of the State of Louisiana in any election for federal office.
- Conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in the free exercise or enjoyment of the right to vote or because of their having so exercised the right to vote.

### **Report a federal violation, contact information?**

To report fraud in a federal election, contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office. Additionally, you may contact the Election Integrity Division toll-free at 800.722.5305, the Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

To report a federal violation under The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits racial or language minority discrimination in voting, contact:

Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division  
Room 7254-NWB  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20530

toll-free 800.253.3931  
202.307.2767

To make a complaint under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, contact: Voting Rights Division, Department of Justice toll-free 800.514.0301 (option 7)

To file a notarized written complaint under the Help America Vote Act, contact: Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

### **Report a state violation, contact information?**

To report voting fraud, contact the Elections Division toll-free at 800.883.2805 or contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office.

To file a written notarized complaint with the elections division of the Louisiana Department of State, contact:

Commissioner of Elections

Department of State  
P.O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

**Additional information to vote absentee?**

If you have further questions about voting absentee, please call your parish [registrar of voters](#).

# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### VOTING EARLY

#### Who can vote early?

All registered voters may cast a ballot during the early voting period at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at an alternate site designated for [early voting](#). You do not need a reason to vote early.

#### Early voting days and hours?

The early voting period is from 14 days to seven days before each election, from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. (except Sundays and legal holidays). For presidential elections, the early voting period is from 18 to seven days before the election (except Sundays and legal holidays). One day of early voting will be added to the beginning of the early voting period anytime one or more state holidays (except Sundays) fall within the early voting period.

Persons in nursing homes, veterans' homes or long stay hospitals for a physical disability may apply for the nursing home program to vote during an extended early voting period at their facility.

#### Early voting locations?

At your parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at an [alternate site](#) designated for early voting.

#### Can I vote on election day if I have voted early?

No, a voter who has voted during the early voting period or voted absentee by mail and their ballot was received by the registrar of voters may not vote at the polls on Election Day.

#### Voter's responsibilities during early voting?

Voters in Louisiana are responsible to:

- Notify your parish registrar of voters of any changes to your registration. (Failure to update your residential address may result in an inactive registration status. Inactive voters must verify their residential address prior to voting, which may be done on election day at the precinct, in person at the Registrar of Voters' Office, online at [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com), or by mail through a voter registration application.)
- Know which precinct you are registered to vote in, its location, and the hours the polls are open.
- Provide photo identification, or complete a voter identification affidavit. (Photo ID may be a Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana special ID card, a United States military identification card that contains your name and picture, or other generally recognized photo ID that contains your name and signature. You may obtain a free Louisiana special ID card by presenting your voter registration information card to the Office of Motor Vehicles.)
- Do not bring or wear any campaign literature to the polls.
- Be prepared to timely cast your ballot by reviewing your sample ballot posted at the polling place, or reviewing online before election day at [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com) or on our [voter portal](#).
- Provide or complete necessary documentation when requesting assistance in voting, if not previously marked in the precinct register as being eligible for assistance.
- Inform commissioners if you need a braille booklet, audio voting keypad, or page magnifier to assist you in voting.



- Restore your voting rights after a felony conviction by appearing in person at the Registrar of Voters' Office, providing the reinstatement documentation as provided in La. R.S. 18:177, and providing documentation to prove that you have either completed your probation or parole, or that you have not been incarcerated pursuant to the order of imprisonment for a felony conviction within the last five years and that the felony conviction was not for election fraud or any other election offenses pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1461.2. If you are disabled and unable to appear in person, you may submit your application and documentation, along with proof of disability, by mail, facsimile, commercial carrier, or hand delivery.
- Cast your vote within the six minute time limit provided by law, or within twenty minutes if receiving assistance or using the audio voting keypad. If the ballot is lengthy or if it contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments, the commissioners may allocate additional time in an equitable manner.
- Promptly leave the polling place after voting.

## **Voter's rights during early voting?**

In Louisiana, you have a right to:

- Vote privately, confidentially and independently in an area that is free from any campaign materials.
- Ask a commissioner to instruct you on how to operate the voting machine before voting.
- Have a campaign-free zone 600 feet from the entrance to the polling place that is free from solicitation, intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction, undue influence, use of violence, force or threats, or action that impedes your entrance or exit to the polling place.
- Vote in a polling place that meets accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities.
- Receive assistance in casting your ballot, or use the audio ballot if you are unable to read or unable to vote without assistance due to a physical disability, including visual impairment.
- Use a braille booklet describing the use of the audio ballot, or use a page magnifier that will magnify the face of the voting machine.
- Go to the front of the line with the person who will be assisting you in voting if you have a visible physical disability or have in your possession a current mobility impairment photo ID card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles.

## **Inactive voter, what does it mean?**

An inactive status means that your registration address has not been verified by the registrar of voters through the annual canvass of the voter rolls or election mail sent to your registration address has been returned as undeliverable by the postal service to the [registrar of voters](#).

You may still vote! In order to do so and return to active status, you must verify your residential address prior to voting. You may do this when you vote on Election Day, in person at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#), [online](#) or by mail through a [voter registration application](#). If you verify your address before Election Day, you must do so at least 30 days before an election for your status to be updated for that election.

## **Felons, how to reinstate suspended voter registration?**

To reinstate your voter registration that was suspended for a felony conviction, you must appear in person at the registrar of voters office and provide documentation from the appropriate correction official showing that you are no longer under an order of imprisonment or, if under such order of imprisonment, that you have not been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years and that you are not under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction for election fraud or any other election offense.

The personal appearance requirement does not apply to a person approved as eligible for the Special Program for Handicapped Voters prior to January 1, 2010, or a person who has submitted to the registrar a current proof of disability from a physician as described in [La R.S. 18:177\(A\)\(2\)\(6\)](#).

## Assistance in voting during early voting?

Voters in Louisiana may request assistance in voting when they are registering to vote or when making a change to their voter registration. Assistance in voting is allowed when you have a physical disability or you are unable to read.

**PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY** - A voter, who is physically disabled or unable to read, may request assistance in voting by timely completing a voter registration application requesting assistance. These voters will be marked in the precinct register or the voter registration system as being entitled to receive assistance in voting.

**ON ELECTION DAY or DURING EARLY VOTING** - A voter who is not marked in the precinct register or the voter registration system as being entitled to receive assistance in voting may apply to receive assistance in one of the following manners:

1. If physically disabled, request assistance in voting by completing and signing a Voter Assistance Form.
2. Alternatively, a request for assistance in voting may be made by presenting proof of disability through one of the following documents:

- a physician's certificate indicating the voter's inability to vote without assistance because of a physical disability;
- a current mobility impaired photo identification card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles; or
- a copy of current documentation showing eligibility for disability benefits from either social security, veterans affairs, paratransit services, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

These documents may also be presented to the registrar of voters by mail and the voter is required to include a copy of their Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana special identification card, or other generally recognized photo ID with name and signature. If mailed timely, the registrar will mark the voter in the voter registration system and the precinct register as being entitled to receive assistance in voting and the voter will not be required to present evidence when voting.

Voters entitled to assistance in voting are allowed up to 20 minutes to cast their ballots and may choose to receive the assistance from any person, including a commissioner, with these exceptions:

- a candidate in the election;
- a commissioner-in-charge;
- an employer or employer's agent;
- a union agent;
- staff of state-operated facilities for disabled persons (by rule, the Department of Health (LDH) prohibits staff from assisting residents of state-operated facilities for mentally disabled/developmentally disabled persons); and
- owners, operators, administrators or employees of a nursing home, veterans' home or long stay hospitals for those with physical disabilities may not assist a person in voting.

The person or commissioner assisting the voter is required to sign the precinct register and to check a box if the voter is not marked in the precinct register as being entitled to receive assistance in voting. No person assisting a voter shall reveal the name of any person for whom the voter voted, any proposition the voter voted on or anything that took place while the voter was being assisted.

## Photo ID to vote, what is required?

Each voter is required to identify themselves by giving their name and address before voting by presenting a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card, LA Wallet digital driver's license, a United States military identification card that contains the voter's name and picture or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter, or by completing a Voter Identification Affidavit (AV-34) if no photo identification is available. A voter without photo ID may vote after completing the affidavit but is subject to challenge by law.

You may obtain a free Louisiana special identification card by presenting your voter information card to the Office of Motor Vehicles.

## Voting machines during early voting, how to operate?

Louisiana uses the ImageCast® X (or "ICX") voting system leased from Dominion Voting Systems during early voting. Paper ballots may be used, if necessary. All elections are open to all eligible voters in Louisiana, except for the [Presidential Preference Primary](#) and the state and local party elections (Democratic and Republican State Central Committees and Parish Executive Committees). which are restricted to party registration.

The voting system is a touchscreen voting machine. When voting, touch the screen lightly. If you have any questions, please notify the registrar of voters for assistance BEFORE casting your vote. A voter shall make at least one selection in a candidate or proposition election in order to cast a ballot. You are allowed, by law, six minutes to cast your vote or twenty minutes if entitled to assistance or using the audio voting keypad. If the ballot is lengthy or if it contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments, the commissioners may allocate additional time in an equitable manner. After voting, you are required to promptly leave the polling place. **TO CAST A BALLOT:**

1. After receiving a VOTER CARD, insert it into the bright yellow card slot located at the bottom of the voting machine and push the card in until it stops. Ask for assistance to insert your voter card if needed.
2. Select the box for the candidate of your choice, "Yes" or "No" for a proposition or constitutional amendment, and "FOR" or "AGAINST" for a recall question by:
  - o Touching the box (☐) to the RIGHT of a candidate's name or question of your choice. Confirm that a check mark appears in the box located next to your choice.
  - o To change your selection, press the box again and the check mark will disappear and then you may make a new choice.
  - o Press the "NEXT" button located at the BOTTOM RIGHT side of the display to continue to the next screen.
  - o To return to the previous screen, touch the "PREVIOUS" button at the bottom CENTER of the display. Once you are done making your selections, review the summary of all your votes on the "REVIEW PAGE."
  - o To make a change, touch the office or issue to return to that ballot screen for that contest.
  - o To cast your ballot, touch the "NEXT" button at the bottom right side of the display and then touch "CAST YOUR BALLOT." You will then see "THANK YOU FOR VOTING! YOUR BALLOT IS SUCCESSFULLY CAST" and you will hear a sound which signals your vote has been recorded.
3. Remove your VOTER CARD and RETURN IT TO THE COMMISSIONER.

## Write-in candidates allowed during early voting?

No, Louisiana does not allow for write-in candidates. The only exception is for military and overseas citizens who are voting on a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) and they may write in the candidate names, but only the candidates that are actually on Louisiana's ballot.

## State law prohibitions in voting?

Louisiana state law prohibits:

- giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, money or anything of present or prospective value to influence a vote
- doing any of the following within 600 feet of the entrance of the polling place on election day:
  - o handing out or displaying campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature, or placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising which advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot. The only exception is for placing or displaying political signs or pictures on private property that is not being used as a polling place
  - o Circulating a petition or seeking handwritten signatures to a petition
- knowingly, willfully, or intentionally transmitting or otherwise providing false or misleading information concerning an election from a source disguised as or impersonating the secretary of state, a registrar of voters, a clerk of court, or other election official

- intimidating, deceiving or misinforming, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or nonvoting
- voting or attempting to vote more than once at an election
- offering money or anything of apparent present or prospective value or use, directly or indirectly, or engage in any form of intimidation to influence the action or encourage inaction of any election official with regard to the duties of his or her office
- disobeying any lawful instruction of the registrar, deputy registrars, commissioners or a law enforcement officer assisting at the early voting location or polling place or without lawful authority, obstructing, hindering or delaying any voter on his way to or while returning home from any early voting location or polling place where an election is held or impede a voter from entering or exiting an early voting location or polling place
- voting or attempting to vote, knowing that you are not qualified, or influencing or attempting to influence another to vote, knowing such voter to be unqualified or the vote to be fraudulent
- voting or attempting to vote in the name of another or in an assumed or fictitious name, or in any manner other than as provided by the [Louisiana Election Code](#)
- supplying a false answer or statement to an election official or on any document required by the [Louisiana Election Code](#), or executing an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information
- forging the name of another, or using a fictitious name on an affidavit or document required by the [Louisiana Election Code](#)
- unlawfully, directly or indirectly, possessing, tampering with, breaking, impairing, impeding or otherwise interfering with the maintenance, adjustment, delivery, use or operation of any voting machine or with any paraphernalia connected with or appertaining to the machine
- voters, election officials, watchers, or persons assisting a voter to allow a ballot to be seen, (except as provided by law), announce the manner in which a person has cast a ballot, place a distinguishing mark on a ballot with intent to make the ballot identifiable or make a false statement concerning a voter's ability to mark a ballot without assistance
- coercing, compelling or otherwise influencing an assisted voter to cast a vote in a certain way or fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter by the person providing assistance
- signing another voter's name in the precinct register
- attempting to influence an election official or watcher in the performance of his or her duties
- appearing in an intoxicated condition or possessing any beverage of alcoholic content
- voting at the polls on Election Day if you have voted early or submitted your absentee ballot
- voting if you have moved more than three months ago to an address outside of the parish or if registered to vote in another parish or state
- remaining within any early voting location or polling place or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance of any polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by a commissioner or law enforcement officer to leave the premises or area of an early voting location or polling place
- carrying or possessing a firearm, except a peace officer in the performance of his or her duties
- accepting directly, or indirectly anything of economic value, including reimbursement of costs, for the purpose of transporting a voter to an early voting location or polling place, or for driving or being in charge of any motor vehicle being used for such purpose (bus, taxi or licensed transportation are exempt)

## Election laws in Louisiana?

View the [Louisiana Election Code](#), Title 18 of Louisiana's revised statutes.

## Federal law prohibitions in voting?

Federal law prohibits:

- No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for voting or attempting to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for urging or aiding any person to vote or attempt to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for exercising any powers or duties under federal law.
- Knowingly and willfully depriving, defrauding, or attempting to deprive or defraud the residents of Louisiana of a fair and impartially conducted election process by the procurement, casting, or tabulation of ballots that are known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent under the laws of the State of Louisiana in any election for federal office.

- Conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in the free exercise or enjoyment of the right to vote or because of their having so exercised the right to vote.

### **Law enforcement officers allowed at early voting locations?**

Yes, a law enforcement officer may be used by a registrar of voters to maintain order at any location where early voting is conducted. A law enforcement officer may not interfere with the conduct of the election, the voters, or the election officials.

### **Firearms allowed at a polling place?**

No, not even for a concealed carry permit. The only exception is for a peace officer as defined by [La R.S. 40:2402\(3\)\(a\)](#) in the performance of their official duties.

### **Report fraud or violation in a federal election?**

To report fraud in a federal election, contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office. Additionally, you may contact the Elections Compliance Unit ("ECU") toll-free at 800.722.5305, the Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

To report a federal violation under The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits racial or language minority discrimination in voting, contact:

Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division  
Room 7254-NWB  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20530

toll-free 800.253.3931  
202.307.2767

To make a complaint under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, contact: Voting Rights Division, Department of Justice toll-free 800.514.0301 (option 7)

To file a notarized written complaint under the Help America Vote Act, contact: Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

### **Report fraud or a violation in a state or local election?**

To report voting fraud, contact the Elections Division toll-free at 800.883.2805 or contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office.

To file a written notarized complaint with the elections division of the Louisiana Department of State, contact:

Commissioner of Elections  
Department of State  
P.O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

### **Additional information about early voting?**

If you have further questions about voting early, please call your parish [registrar of voters](#).



# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

#### Voting hours on Election Day?

On SATURDAY elections, the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On TUESDAY elections, the polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters in line at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

#### Voter's responsibilities on election day?

Voters in Louisiana are responsible to:

- Notify your parish registrar of voters of any changes to your registration. (Failure to update your residential address may result in an inactive registration status. Inactive voters must verify their residential address prior to voting, which may be done on election day at the precinct, in person at the Registrar of Voters' Office, online at [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com), or by mail through a voter registration application.)
- Know which precinct you are registered to vote in, its location, and the hours the polls are open.
- Provide photo identification, or complete a voter identification affidavit. (Photo ID may be a Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana special ID card, a United States military identification card that contains your name and picture, or other generally recognized photo ID that contains your name and signature. You may obtain a free Louisiana special ID card by presenting your voter registration information card to the Office of Motor Vehicles.)
- Do not bring or wear any campaign literature to the polls.
- Be prepared to timely cast your ballot by reviewing your sample ballot posted at the polling place, or reviewing online before election day at [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com) or on our [voter portal](#).
- Provide or complete necessary documentation when requesting assistance in voting, if not previously marked in the precinct register as being eligible for assistance.
- Inform commissioners if you need a braille booklet, audio voting keypad, or page magnifier to assist you in voting.
- Restore your voting rights after a felony conviction by appearing in person at the Registrar of Voters' Office, providing the reinstatement documentation as provided in La. R.S. 18:177, and providing documentation to prove that you have either completed your probation or parole, or that you have not been incarcerated pursuant to the order of imprisonment for a felony conviction within the last five years and that the felony conviction was not for election fraud or any other election offenses pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1461.2. If you are disabled and unable to appear in person, you may submit your application and documentation, along with proof of disability, by mail, facsimile, commercial carrier, or hand delivery.
- Cast your vote within the six minute time limit provided by law, or within twenty minutes if receiving assistance or using the audio voting keypad. If the ballot is lengthy or if it contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments, the commissioners may allocate additional time in an equitable manner.
- Promptly leave the polling place after voting.

#### Voter's rights on election day?

In Louisiana, you have a right to:

- Vote privately, confidentially and independently in an area that is free from any campaign materials.
- Ask a commissioner to instruct you on how to operate the voting machine before voting.

- Have a campaign-free zone 600 feet from the entrance to the polling place that is free from solicitation, intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction, undue influence, use of violence, force or threats, or action that impedes your entrance or exit to the polling place.
- Vote in a polling place that meets accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities.
- Receive assistance in casting your ballot, or use the audio ballot if you are unable to read or unable to vote without assistance due to a physical disability, including visual impairment.
- Use a braille booklet describing the use of the audio ballot, or use a page magnifier that will magnify the face of the voting machine.
- Go to the front of the line with the person who will be assisting you in voting if you have a visible physical disability or have in your possession a current mobility impairment photo ID card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles.

### **Inactive voter status?**

An inactive status means that your registration address has not been verified by the registrar of voters through the annual canvass of the voter rolls or election mail sent to your registration address has been returned as undeliverable by the postal service to the [registrar of voters](#).

You may still vote! In order to do so and return to active status, you must verify your residential address prior to voting. You may do this when you vote on Election Day, in person at the [Registrar of Voters Office, online](#) or by mail through a [voter registration application](#). If you verify your address before Election Day, you must do so at least 30 days before an election for your status to be updated for that election.

### **Felons, how to reinstate suspended voter registration?**

To reinstate your voter registration that was suspended for a felony conviction, you must appear in person at the registrar of voters office and provide documentation from the appropriate correction official showing that you are no longer under an order of imprisonment or, if under such order of imprisonment, that you have not been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years and that you are not under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction for election fraud or any other election offense.

The personal appearance requirement does not apply to a person approved as eligible for the Special Program for Handicapped Voters prior to January 1, 2010, or a person who has submitted to the registrar a current proof of disability from a physician as described in [La R.S. 18:177\(A\)\(2\)\(6\)](#).

### **Assistance in voting?**

Voters in Louisiana may request assistance in voting when they are registering to vote or when making a change to their voter registration. Assistance in voting is allowed when you have a physical disability or you are unable to read.

**PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY** - A voter, who is physically disabled or unable to read, may request assistance in voting by timely completing a voter registration application requesting assistance. These voters will be marked in the precinct register or the voter registration system as being entitled to receive assistance in voting.

**ON ELECTION DAY** - A voter who is not marked in the precinct register as being entitled to receive assistance in voting on election day may apply to receive assistance in one of the following manners:

1. If physically disabled, request assistance in voting by completing and signing a voter assistance form.
2. Alternatively, a request for assistance in voting may be made by presenting proof of disability through one of the following documents:

- a physician's certificate indicating the voter's inability to vote without assistance because of a physical disability;
- a current mobility impaired photo identification card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles; or
- a copy of current documentation showing eligibility for disability benefits from either social security, veterans affairs, paratransit services, the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or the

## Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

These documents may also be presented to the registrar of voters by mail and the voter is required to include a copy of their Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana special identification card, or other generally recognized photo ID with name and signature. If mailed timely, the registrar will mark the voter in the precinct register as being entitled to receive assistance in voting on election day and the voter will not be required to present evidence at the polls.

Voters entitled to assistance in voting are allowed up to 20 minutes to cast their ballots and may choose to receive the assistance from any person, including a commissioner, with these exceptions:

- a candidate in the election;
- a commissioner-in-charge;
- an employer or employer's agent;
- a union agent;
- staff of state-operated facilities for disabled persons (by rule, the Department of Health (LDH) prohibits staff from assisting residents of state-operated facilities for mentally disabled/developmentally disabled persons); and
- owners, operators, administrators or employees of a nursing home, veterans' home or long stay hospitals for those with physical disabilities may not assist a person in voting.

The person or commissioner assisting the voter is required to sign the precinct register and to check a box if the voter is not marked in the precinct register as being entitled to receive assistance in voting on election day. No person assisting a voter shall reveal the name of any person for whom the voter voted, any proposition upon which the person voted or anything which took place while the voter was being assisted.

### **Photo ID required in order to vote on Election Day?**

Each voter is required to identify themselves by giving their name and address to a commissioner and by presenting either a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card, LA Wallet digital driver's license, a United States military identification card that contains the voter's name and picture or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the applicant. If no photo ID is available, the voter can complete a Voter Identification Affidavit (AV-34) but is subject to challenge by law.

All registered voters may obtain a free Louisiana special identification card by presenting a voter information card to the Office of Motor Vehicles.

### **Where do I go to vote on Election Day?**

Use the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) to find where you vote on Election Day; download the free [GeauxVote app](#) to your smartphone or tablet to view your polling place for Election Day; visit [GeauxVote](#); call your parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#); or view your polling location on your voter information card received by mail from your [registrar of voters](#).

Polling places change due to being unavailable or due to an emergency. Please check to make sure you go to the correct polling place on Election Day.

### **Polling place changes?**

Polling places may be changed by the parish police jury or council. You will receive a Voter Information Card in the mail from the registrar of voters when your polling place has been changed. You may also go online to review your polling place at the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) where you also can sign up for a notification by email or text of not only a polling place change but also a notification for an early voting and election day reminder.

## Voting machines on Election Day, how to operate?

Louisiana uses the [AVC Advantage](#) voting machine on Election Day. The voting machine is a direct recording electronic machine with a full faced ballot.

Only one person is allowed to enter a voting machine at a time, unless entitled to assistance or allowing a minor to accompany a parent or legal guardian. In order to cast a vote, you must make at least one selection for either a candidate or vote on a proposition election. You are allowed by law six minutes to cast your vote, or 20 minutes if entitled to assistance or using the audio voting ballot. If the ballot is lengthy or if it contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments, the commissioners may allocate additional time in an equitable manner.

To vote on the machine, you must select a candidate of your choice or select YES or NO for a proposition by pressing the box to the right of the candidate's name or next to the YES or NO for a proposition. A green x will appear to the left of the box indicating your selection and the green header light for the office or proposition will turn off.

To change your selection, press the box again. The green x will disappear, the green header light for the candidate or proposition will light back up and you may make a new selection.

If at any time during voting, you do not understand how to operate the voting machine or you do not believe the voting machine is allowing you to vote on the offices that you are eligible to vote on, step out and notify a commissioner. You must notify a commissioner **before** you press the CAST VOTE button. Once you have pressed CAST VOTE, button, your vote has been cast and you may not vote again. The CAST VOTE button is a orange button at the bottom right hand side of the voting machine.

Once you have finished voting, part the curtains with your hands and exit the voting booth. Your vote(s) are electronically recorded and you will hear an audible bell sound and the lights will turn off.

All elections are open to all eligible voters in Louisiana, except for the [Presidential Preference Primary](#) and the state and local party elections (Democratic and Republican State Central Committees and Parish Executive Committees), which are limited to party registration.

## Audio ballot on voting machines?

A machine at each precinct provides an [audio ballot](#). Any voter may choose to use the audio ballot. If you choose to use the audio ballot, inform the commissioners.

You are allowed 20 minutes when using the audio ballot and then commissioner is required by law to ask you to complete voting so that other voters may vote. If the ballot is lengthy or if it contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments, the commissioners may allocate additional time in an equitable manner.

## Voting machine fails on election day, how to vote?

Louisiana has trained technicians to repair or replace a voting machine that fails on Election Day. In some small polling places where only one voting machine is available and it fails then you may vote on a paper ballot until the voting machine is repaired or replaced under Louisiana's emergency Election Day paper ballot procedure.

You will be allowed to cast your vote(s) on a paper ballot and you will receive instructions to complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope, vote your ballot and seal it in the envelope. If you have any questions about your ballot or how to proceed ask a commissioner for help.

If you make a mistake or spoil your ballot, seal the spoiled ballot in the envelope provided, write "spoiled" and ask a commissioner for a new ballot.

The paper ballots cast at the polling place shall be counted by the parish board of election supervisors on election night.

## Write-in candidates allowed in Louisiana?

No, Louisiana does not allow for write-in candidates. The only exception is for military and overseas citizens who are voting on a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) and they may write in the candidate names, but only the candidates that are actually on Louisiana's ballot.

## Violations of state law in voting?

Louisiana state law prohibits:

- giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, money or anything of present or prospective value to influence a vote
- doing any of the following within 600 feet of the entrance of the polling place on election day:
  - handing out or displaying campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature, or placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising which advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot. The only exception is for placing or displaying political signs or pictures on private property that is not being used as a polling place
  - Circulating a petition or seeking handwritten signatures to a petition
- knowingly, willfully, or intentionally transmitting or otherwise providing false or misleading information concerning an election from a source disguised as or impersonating the secretary of state, a registrar of voters, a clerk of court, or other election official
- intimidating, deceiving or misinforming, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or nonvoting
- voting or attempting to vote more than once at an election
- offering money or anything of apparent present or prospective value or use, directly or indirectly, or engage in any form of intimidation to influence the action or encourage inaction of any election official with regard to the duties of his or her office
- disobeying any lawful instruction of the registrar, deputy registrars, commissioners or a law enforcement officer assisting at the early voting location or polling place or without lawful authority, obstructing, hindering or delaying any voter on his way to or while returning home from any early voting location or polling place where an election is held or impede a voter from entering or exiting an early voting location or polling place
- voting or attempting to vote, knowing that you are not qualified, or influencing or attempting to influence another to vote, knowing such voter to be unqualified or the vote to be fraudulent
- voting or attempting to vote in the name of another or in an assumed or fictitious name, or in any manner other than as provided by the [Louisiana Election Code](#)
- supplying a false answer or statement to an election official or on any document required by the [Louisiana Election Code](#), or executing an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information
- forging the name of another, or using a fictitious name on an affidavit or document required by the [Louisiana Election Code](#)
- unlawfully, directly or indirectly, possessing, tampering with, breaking, impairing, impeding or otherwise interfering with the maintenance, adjustment, delivery, use or operation of any voting machine or with any paraphernalia connected with or appertaining to the machine
- voters, election officials, watchers, or persons assisting a voter to allow a ballot to be seen, (except as provided by law), announce the manner in which a person has cast a ballot, place a distinguishing mark on a ballot with intent to make the ballot identifiable or make a false statement concerning a voter's ability to mark a ballot without assistance
- coercing, compelling or otherwise influencing an assisted voter to cast a vote in a certain way or fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter by the person providing assistance
- signing another voter's name in the precinct register
- attempting to influence an election official or watcher in the performance of his or her duties
- appearing in an intoxicated condition or possessing any beverage of alcoholic content
- voting at the polls on Election Day if you have voted early or submitted your absentee ballot
- voting if you have moved more than three months ago to an address outside of the parish or if registered to vote in another parish or state
- remaining within any early voting location or polling place or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance of any polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by a commissioner or law enforcement officer to leave the premises or area of an early voting location or polling place
- carrying or possessing a firearm, except a peace officer in the performance of his or her duties
- accepting directly, or indirectly anything of economic value, including reimbursement of costs, for the purpose of transporting a voter to an early voting location or polling place, or for driving or being in



charge of any motor vehicle being used for such purpose (bus, taxi or licensed transportation are exempt)

## Election laws?

View the [Louisiana Election Code](#), Title 18 of Louisiana's revised statutes.

## Violations of federal law in voting?

Federal law prohibits:

- No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for voting or attempting to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for urging or aiding any person to vote or attempt to vote, or intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for exercising any powers or duties under federal law.
- Knowingly and willfully depriving, defrauding, or attempting to deprive or defraud the residents of Louisiana of a fair and impartially conducted election process by the procurement, casting, or tabulation of ballots that are known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent under the laws of the State of Louisiana in any election for federal office.
- Conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in the free exercise or enjoyment of the right to vote or because of their having so exercised the right to vote.

## Law enforcement officers allowed at a polling place on Election Day?

Yes, a law enforcement officer may be summoned by the commissioners to assist in preserving order, enforcing election laws, or protecting election officials from interference with the performance of their duties.

In addition, law enforcement officers may be stationed at polling places if their regular work duties are to provide security for the public building where the polling place is located.

## Firearms allowed at a polling place on Election Day?

No, not even for a concealed carry permit. The only exception is for a peace officer as defined by [La R.S. 40:2402\(3\)\(a\)](#) in the performance of their official duties.

## Report fraud in a federal election or report a federal violation?

To report fraud in a federal election, contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office. Additionally, you may contact the Elections Compliance Unit ("ECU") toll-free at 800.722.5305, the Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

To report a federal violation under The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits racial or language minority discrimination in voting, contact:

Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division  
Room 7254-NWB  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20530

toll-free 800.253.3931  
202.307.2767

To make a complaint under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, contact: Voting Rights Division, Department of Justice toll-free 800.514.0301 (option 7)

To file a notarized written complaint under the Help America Vote Act, contact: Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

**Report fraud in a state or local election?**

To report fraud in an election, contact the Elections Compliance Unit ("ECU") toll-free at 800.722.5305, the Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805 or contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office.

To file a written notarized complaint with the elections division of the Louisiana Department of State, contact:

Commissioner of Elections  
Department of State  
P.O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### VOTING PROVISIONALLY

#### What is provisional voting?

Provisional voting ensures that every U.S. citizen who is eligible to vote in a federal election will be able to do so. Provisional voting was provided for by federal law in the [Help America Vote Act](#). A paper provisional ballot is used to allow a person to vote when there is a question about the voter's eligibility. The person must certify that he or she is a registered voter in the parish and eligible to vote in the federal election before casting a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is a paper ballot that is cast provisionally until election officials can verify the voter's eligibility to vote in the federal election.

#### When is provisional voting provided in an election?

Provisional voting applies only to elections for federal office (Presidential Preference Primary, U.S. President, U.S. Senator and/or U.S. Representative). It does not apply to local or state elections. Provisional voting can take place either during early voting or on election day.

#### Who is a provisional voter?

A provisional voter during a federal election may be:

- a person whose name does not appear in the precinct register or supplemental register and who is not authorized to vote by Precinct Register Correction (PRC) form;
- a voter who is challenged and a majority of the commissioners determine that the challenge is valid; or
- a voter who votes in a federal election during court ordered extended poll hours (federal offices only).

#### Not found on the precinct register on election day, what to do?

If the commissioner cannot find a voter on the precinct register, the voter's name may be on the supplemental precinct register, if one, or there may be an error in the precinct register. The commissioner can call the registrar of voters or the secretary of state for assistance. If there was an error, the voter may be authorized to vote by completion of the Precinct Register Correction ("PRC") form.

The voter may just be at the wrong precinct. The commissioner can assist the voter by looking up their precinct information on either the secretary of state's [GeauxVote app](#) or through a look up voter registration list that may be provided by the clerk of court's office in some polling places for this purpose only on Election Day.

After completion of a PRC form, the voter signs and then the voter may vote on the voting machine. If a federal election, the voter would **not** be a provisional voter and therefore votes on the voting machine.

If there was no error and the person cannot be found at any other precinct in the state and it is a federal election, the person can vote a paper provisional ballot.

#### Provisional ballot, how to vote one?

To cast a vote on a paper provisional ballot, you will be given a paper ballot, an envelope with an affidavit and a pencil. A pen may be used to vote your ballot. You must complete the affidavit on the ballot envelope, vote your ballot, place it in the ballot envelope and seal before returning it to the commissioner. The commissioner verifies that the ballot affidavit has been completed and signed by the voter and detaches and gives the voter

the ballot stub which contains a number that can be used to track the ballot online. See [provisional voter search](#) to check if your provisional ballot was counted.

### **Provisional ballot counted or rejected?**

A paper provisional ballot in a federal election will be counted by the parish board of election supervisors if they find:

- you are an eligible voter in the federal election (including the specific federal office on the ballot in the precinct where you cast your vote); and
- you cast your ballot in the parish in which you are registered; and
- you have not voted another ballot in the election anywhere in the state.

### **Fraud in a federal election or federal violation?**

To report fraud in a federal election, contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office. Additionally, you may contact the Elections Compliance Unit ("ECU") toll-free at 800.722.5305, the Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

To report a federal violation under The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits racial or language minority discrimination in voting, contact:

Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division  
Room 7254-NWB  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20530

toll-free 800.253.3931  
202.307.2767

To make a complaint under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, contact: Voting Rights Division, Department of Justice toll-free 800.514.0301 (option 7)

To file a notarized written complaint under the Help America Vote Act, contact: Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805.

### **Fraud in a state or local election?**

To report fraud in an election, contact the Elections Compliance Unit ("ECU") toll-free at 800.722.5305, the Election's Division toll-free at 800.883.2805 or contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U.S. Attorney's office.

To file a written notarized complaint with the elections division of the Louisiana Department of State, contact:

Commissioner of Elections  
Department of State  
P.O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

### **Provisional Voting additional information?**

If you need additional information about voting a paper provisional ballot during a federal election, please call your parish [registrar of voters](#) or the secretary of state toll free at 800-883-2805.



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## GET ELECTION INFORMATION

**Our Elections Hotline Number is 1.800.883.2805.**

[View the November 5, 2024 Election Quick Facts for detailed information about this election.](#)

### November 5, 2024 - Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election

The following is important information for the Tuesday, November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election:

- Candidates for presidential elector that are affiliated with a political party can find out more information [here](#).
- Candidates for presidential elector that are not affiliated with a political party can find out more information [here](#).
- The qualifying period for all other candidates is July 17-19, 2024. [Local and municipal candidates](#) qualify with the clerk of court in the parish in which they are registered to vote (contact your local [clerk of court](#) for office hours). [State candidates](#) qualify at the Louisiana State Archives located at 3851 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. [Qualifying fees](#) must be paid in the form of cash; certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union; U.S. postal money order; or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union and must be accompanied by the [qualifying form](#).
- The deadline to register to vote in person, by mail or at the OMV Office is October 7.
- The deadline to register to vote through the [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) is October 15.
- Early voting is October 18-29 (excluding Sunday, October 20 and Sunday, October 27) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot is November 1 by 4:30 p.m (other than military and overseas voters). You can request an absentee ballot online through our [Voter Portal](#) or in writing through your [Registrar of Voters](#) Office.
- The deadline for a [registrar of voters](#) to receive a voted absentee ballot is November 4 by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters).
- On election day, the polls are open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

### December 7, 2024 - Congressional General Election

The following is important information for the Saturday, December 7, 2024 Congressional General Election:

- The deadline to register to vote in person, by mail or at the OMV Office is November 6.
- The deadline to register to vote through the [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) is November 16.
- Early voting is November 22-30 (excluding Sunday, November 24, Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot is December 3 by 4:30 p.m (other than military and overseas voters). You can request an absentee ballot online through our [Voter Portal](#) or in writing through your [Registrar of Voters](#) Office.
- The deadline for a [registrar of voters](#) to receive a voted absentee ballot is December 6 by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters).
- On election day, the polls are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

View more information on [past, present and future elections](#).

### Propositions and Constitutional Amendments

The text of propositions and the text and summaries of constitutional amendments to be voted on in upcoming elections and those which were voted on in recent past elections can be seen by viewing [propositions and constitutional amendments](#) under "Review Types of Elections."

### Purchase Voter Lists

A database of public information of registered voters is only available for purchase using specifically defined selection

criteria. The voter list is available through email as a PDF or tab delimited text file. In addition, printable address labels in PDF are available upon request during the online ordering process. You can receive a cost estimate and purchase a list of registered voters through our [online application](#). The purchaser is responsible for defining the selection criteria, reviewing the estimate and paying in advance of receipt of the requested list.

[View the instructional video before placing an order.](#)

If you need assistance in selection criteria, or have any other questions, please contact your [Registrar of Voters Office](#), [email us](#), call Elections Services at 225.922.0900 or call toll-free at 800.883.2805.

Additional information about the lists is available below:

- [Voter List Charges and Other Information](#);
- [Email Record Format](#);
- [Saving Information to an Excel Spreadsheet](#);
- [Purchase Voter Lists FAQs](#); and
- Voter history is also available as an option when purchasing a voter list.

\* [Redacted]

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[Click here to fill out an application to become an election worker](#)

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## SEARCH ELECTION DATES

View milestone dates for present, future and past elections in the calendars listed below. To view which offices are in an election, view the [candidate inquiry page](#) and select the upcoming election date.

### Present Election Dates

[2024 - Schedule of 2024 Elections \(Revised June 2021\)](#)

### Future Election Dates

- [2025 - Schedule of 2025 Elections](#)
- [2026 - Schedule of 2026 Elections](#)
- [2027 - Schedule of 2027 Elections](#)

### Past Election Dates

- [2023 - Schedule of 2023 Elections \(Revised Nov. 2023\)](#)
- [2022 - Schedule of 2022 Elections \(Revised April 2022\)](#)
- [2021 - Schedule of 2021 Elections \(Revised Nov. 2021\)](#)
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- [2009 - Schedule of 2009 Elections](#)
- [2008 - Schedule of 2008 Elections \(Revised Sept. 8, 2008\)](#)
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## POLLING LOCATIONS AND CHANGES

To find your election day polling location as well as other election information, visit our [voter portal](#).

In accordance with [La. R.S. 18:535](#), the parish governing authority establishes the precinct polling locations for each election. Subsequent changes to the polling location are also made by the parish governing authority, not the Secretary of State.

The list below only includes the most recent changes to polling locations in Louisiana. Polling locations that have not moved are excluded from this list.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to receive electronic notifications of emergency polling location changes as well as reminders for early voting and Election Day from the secretary of state, log in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) or download the free GeauxVote app on any smartphone or tablet. For more information on our subscription service, visit [Sign-up for Election Alerts](#).

To view a list of early voting locations in each parish, visit our [voter portal](#).

	File Name	Modified Date	File Size
	2024 Polling Location Changes.pdf	10/17/2024	134 KB
	2023 Polling Location Changes.pdf	12/12/2023	216 KB
	2022 Polling Location Changes.pdf	12/5/2022	171 KB

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## FIND RESULTS AND STATISTICS

### Election Results

[Graphical election results](#) may be viewed for federal, state and local elections. This site is mobile-friendly and includes statistics, dynamic mapping of selected results, printing capabilities and export to CSV functionality. CSV functionality is not available on election night until 11 p.m. Results from prior elections may not be available on the graphical site on election night.

### Registration Statistics

File names have been standardized for easy reference and sorting and include the year; month and day; parish or state. Statistical reports prior to 2007 also have active, inactive, or combined active and inactive files.

[Statewide](#)

[Parish](#)

### Early Voting Statistics

Cumulative early voting statistics are published one business day after each day of the early voting period (for example, statistics for Saturday are posted the following Monday).

The total number of votes is listed under the VOTES column on the far left. The second VOTES column breaks down the number of in person and mail voters. In person is represented as INP and ABS includes the number of voters casting mail ballots.

The ASST header lists those persons requesting assistance in voting (represented by column labeled D - Disabled and I - illiterate).

UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) represents the number of voters exercising their right to vote who are military and overseas civilians. The IN column represents voters residing in the USA and OUT represents voters residing outside of the country.

[Statewide](#)

[Parish](#)

[List of absentee by mail and early voters](#)

The names of voters includes those who voted in person during early voting and those whose absentee ballots have been received by the registrar of voters. This list of voters does not account for subsequent changes, if any, made by a registrar. Those changes will be found on the cumulative report at the end of early voting.

### Post Election Turnout Statistics

Post election turnout statistics are published after all parish registrar of voters complete their work in giving each voter credit for voting in the election and auditing. This may take up to two weeks following the election.

If you are viewing a report that identifies the parish by number instead of name, use this [parish list by number](#) to identify it.

[Statewide](#)

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For election statistics prior to 2007, you may need to review the [text and Excel file layouts](#).

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## REVIEW OFFICES IN AN ELECTION

Election day sample ballots cannot be populated until candidates have qualified and our office builds and programs the ballot. The sample ballot is available approximately three weeks prior to each election.

Prior to that time, view [offices](#) in the election. Additional offices may be added if a special election is called to fill a vacancy.

## REVIEW SAMPLE BALLOTS

Sample ballots are populated approximately three weeks prior to each election.

### Voter Ballots

- Get the app! Download [GeauxVote Mobile](#) to see what's on the ballot, where to vote and to get instant election results.
- Search by [candidates](#)
- Search by [propositions and constitutional amendments](#)
- Search by name or address in the [Voter Portal](#) on our website

### Precinct Ballots

- The precinct [sample ballot search](#) enables voters anywhere in the state to view and print individual precinct level ballots for all Louisiana elections. (You must have a ward and precinct number to use this application.)

### Parish Ballots

- Visit [Election Results](#) and select the 'Parish' tab.

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## REVIEW TYPES OF ELECTIONS

### Open Primary and General Elections

Louisiana conducts local and state elections on Saturdays using what is referred to as an open primary system, where any qualified elector may qualify as a candidate, regardless of party, and run for office and all eligible voters may cast a vote in the election, regardless of party affiliation. Some call this system a jungle primary because all candidates for an office run together in one election and the majority vote wins. If there is no [majority vote](#) winner in the primary election then the top two candidates go to a run-off election called a general election. This type of system is used in Louisiana for all offices state, parish, municipal and congressional, but it is not used for the [presidential preference primary](#).

### Presidential Elections

Presidential elections are held every four years on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November to choose the electors for president and vice president of the United States, one to be chosen from each of the six congressional districts and two at large for the state total of eight electoral votes. A vote for a presidential and vice presidential candidate is a vote for each of the electors nominated in support of that slate of candidates. View [how a candidate for presidential electors qualify](#).

The Electoral College is a process of choosing the president, where the slate of candidates who receive the most popular votes win all of the electors for the state. The electors meet at the state capital on the day appointed for their meeting by federal law in December to execute the duties and services enjoined on them by the [constitution](#) and laws of the United States. The states' electoral votes are counted by Congress on Jan. 6 following the presidential election.

Visit the [U.S. National Archives and Records Administration/Federal Register Website](#) to learn how the votes are cast by the Electoral College.

### History of Louisiana Electors

- [November 2024 Presidential Election](#)
- [November 2020 Presidential Election](#)
- [November 2016 Presidential Election](#)
- [November 2012 Presidential Election](#)
- [November 2008 Presidential Election](#)
- [November 2004 Presidential Election](#)
- [November 2000 Presidential Election](#)

### Congressional Elections

Louisiana elects two United States Senators for the entire state for six-year staggered terms and six United States representatives every two years from [congressional districts](#) drawn by the legislature.

Representatives and senators are elected at the federal November general election every even year on the first Tuesday following the first Monday and take office at noon on Jan. 3 following the election.

Louisiana reduced its congressional seats from seven to six in 2013 due to population loss and changed from a closed party primary system to an open primary system in [Act 570 of the 2010 Regular Session](#) effective Jan. 1, 2011, having operated under the closed party primary from a special congressional election in 2006 through December of 2010.

## Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional amendments are placed on statewide election dates as determined by the legislature. View summaries and complete text version of the [constitutional amendments from 2000 to present](#).

## Propositions (Tax, Bond, Question) Elections

Proposition Elections must be authorized by the state constitution, state law or by a local home rule charter. Select an election date and parish to [view propositions](#) from 2002 to present. Learn more about [proposition elections](#).

## Recall Elections

A recall election is a proposition election that is limited to the request that an election be called and held in the voting area for the purpose of recalling a public officer. No recall petition may be submitted for certification to or accepted for certification by the registrar of voters or any other official if less than six months remain in the term of office. Learn more about [recall elections](#).

## Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Security District Elections

Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Security District Elections are proposition elections governed by [La R.S. 18:1300.31](#), [La R.S. 18:1300.32](#), [La R.S. 18:1300.33](#). Review the laws for more information. In accordance with La. R.S. 18:1300.31(B) (2)(a), the [Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Security District Petition](#), approved by the Attorney General, has been provided.

## Gaming Elections

Gaming Elections are proposition elections governed by [La R.S. 18:1300.21](#), [La R.S. 18:1300.22](#), [La R.S. 18:1300.33](#). Review the laws for more information.

## Local Option Elections

Local Option Elections are proposition elections governed by [La R.S. 26:581](#) - [La R.S. 26:596](#). Review the laws for more information.

## Annexation Elections

Annexation Elections are proposition elections used as one way to enlarge the boundaries of an unincorporated municipality and are called by the municipality as governed by [La R.S. 33:172](#). Review the law for more information.

## Incorporation Elections

Incorporation Elections are proposition elections used by residents of any unincorporated area with a population of more than 200 inhabitants to incorporate an area by [petition](#) and election. Incorporations are governed by [La R.S. 33:1](#) - [La R.S. 33:3](#) and [Act 376](#) of the 2016 Regular Session. Review the laws for more information.

## Presidential Preference Primary and State and Local Party Elections

The Presidential Preference Primary is held statewide in the Spring of each presidential election year. In 2024, the Presidential Preference Primary will be held on March 23rd. It allows the electors of each political party having 40,000 or more registered voters to express their preference for their party's presidential nominee. View [how candidates for the presidential preference primary qualify](#).

The Democratic, Republican, and Independent Parties in Louisiana have 40,000 plus registered voters and therefore have a Presidential Preference Primary election. The parties govern by their rules who can vote in the election. Presently only registered Democratic voters can vote in the Democratic Party primary, registered Republicans in the Republican Party primary, and registered Independents in the Independent Party primary. These primaries are [closed](#) to all other registered voters.

Elections for the Democratic and Republican state central committees and parish executive committees are also held at the Presidential Preference Primary election. These offices are also [closed](#) primaries. View [how political party candidates are elected](#) in Louisiana.

## Constitutional Amendments from 2000 to present

Summaries and text versions of constitutional amendments; may be viewed by clicking on the relevant link below. Also available is the complete [text of the acts](#).

[Dec. 7, 2024 Constitutional Amendments](#)  
[Nov. 5, 2024 Constitutional Amendment Summary](#)  
[Nov. 5, 2024 Constitutional Amendment](#)  
[Nov. 18, 2023 Constitutional Amendments Summaries](#)  
[Nov. 18, 2023 Constitutional Amendments](#)

- [Oct. 14, 2023 Constitutional Amendment Summaries](#)
- [Oct. 14, 2023 Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [Dec. 10, 2022 Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [Dec. 10, 2022 Constitutional Amendment Summaries](#)
- [Nov. 8, 2022 Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [Nov. 8, 2022 Constitutional Amendment Summaries](#)
- [Oct. 9, 2021 Constitutional Amendments](#)
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- [Dec. 5, 2020 Constitutional Amendments](#)
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- [Nov. 3, 2020 Constitutional Amendments](#)
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## HOW ARE STATEWIDE AND LOCAL CANDIDATES ELECTED?

- Learn how [state, local and congressional candidates](#) are elected in Louisiana.
- Learn how [political party candidates](#) are elected in Louisiana.
- Learn how [candidates for presidential nominee](#) in the Presidential Preference Primary are elected in Louisiana.
- Learn how [candidates for Presidential Elector for President and Vice President of the United States](#) are elected.
- Learn how [candidates are certified to office](#) in Louisiana.

### State, Local, and Congressional Primary Elections are Majority Vote Elections

All statewide and local candidates in Louisiana are elected by majority vote. A majority vote is one more than 50% of the total votes cast for that office. When one candidate is to be elected, a candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast for an office in a primary election is elected. If no candidate receives a majority, the top two candidates who receive the most votes advance to the general election.

**Example:** If Candidate A received 3,617 votes and the number of votes for Candidate B (892), Candidate C (996) and Candidate D (747) = 2,635 then Candidate A has received a majority vote.

If the number of candidates receiving the highest tie vote exceeds the number of persons to be elected, they all advance to the general election.

### State, Local, and Congressional General Elections are Plurality Vote Elections

Candidates who qualify for each office remaining to be filled in a general election are those who received the two highest votes, four highest votes, etc... until the maximum number of candidates for each office is reached, except in the case of a tie vote.

The candidate who receives the most votes cast for an office in a general election is elected. If two or more offices are to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest total of votes are elected to the number of offices to be filled. If there is a tie vote among more candidates than offices to be filled, all candidates who received the highest number of tie votes advance to another election to be held on the 3rd Saturday after the promulgation of the election results.

Any votes received by an unopposed, disqualified or deceased candidate shall be void and not counted for any purpose whatsoever.

### Two or More To Be Elected

If there are two or more offices of the same character to be filled, the number of votes necessary to constitute a majority shall be the greater result obtained by:

- dividing the total votes cast for all of the candidates by the number of offices to be filled; and
- dividing the result so obtained by two and then adding one.

The total votes cast divided by the number of offices = result, then the result is divided by two + one = the number of votes needed for majority.

**Example:** If an election race is "Elect Three" and there were 1,040 total votes cast, the total votes are divided by three for the offices to be filled, which is 346.6. The resulting 346.6 is then divided by two to give the minimum threshold needed to



win with a majority vote, which is 173.3, plus one, which is 174.3. A candidate needs at least 174 votes to win one of the three offices to be filled. If there are more than three candidates that meet the 174 majority vote threshold, then the three candidates with the most votes will be elected.

If there are remaining offices to be filled due to a lack of a majority in the primary election, the number of candidates who qualify for the general election is twice the number of offices remaining to be filled.

**Example:** If only one candidate receives the majority vote requirement of 174 in the above example, then the highest four vote getters (twice the number of offices remaining to be filled) advance to the general election.

If the number of candidates who qualify for an office does not exceed the number of persons to be elected at the close of qualifying, or those remaining after the withdrawal of candidates before the election does not exceed the number of persons to be elected, they are declared elected as unopposed candidates and their name shall not appear on the ballot.

### Certification of Candidates

Elected candidates in a regularly scheduled election are certified by the secretary of state within 30 days of the general election.

Elected candidates in a special election due to a vacancy of an unexpired term are certified by the secretary of state promptly. For more information on oaths of office visit the [Commissions Division](#).

### Political Party Candidates are Elected by Plurality Vote

Candidates for membership in the democratic and republican state central committee and parish executive committee in each parish are not classified as local candidates and are elected by plurality vote in accordance with [La R.S. 18:443](#) and [La R.S. 18:444](#). They have one closed party primary election every four years at the presidential preference primary election.

Where **one political party candidate is to be elected**, the candidate who receives the greater number of votes cast is elected if the number of candidates who qualified for office exceeds the number of candidates to be elected for that office.

Where **two or more political party candidates are to be elected**, each candidate who received the greater number of votes cast as compared with the number of votes cast for each other candidate is elected until all offices are filled. No run-off election is used and instead the offices are filled by a public drawing of lots conducted by the state central committee or the parish executive committee.

### Candidates for Presidential Nominee are Elected by Majority Vote

The Presidential Preference Primary is held every four years in the spring of the presidential election year to select the nominee for the party by [majority vote](#).

### Candidates for Presidential Elector are Elected by Plurality Vote

Slates of candidates of electors for president and vice president are elected by plurality vote. If two or more slates of candidates receive the same highest number of votes, none of the slates are elected and the [slate of candidates](#) elected are selected by a public drawing of lots conducted by the state board of election supervisors at the state capitol on a day and time fixed by the board within one week after the results of the election become official. The governor issues a certificate of election to the persons elected and authorizes them to cast the vote of the state for president and vice president at the [Electoral College](#).

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## LEARN ABOUT REDISTRICTING

Reapportionment (re·ap·por·tion·ment) is the redistribution of representation in a legislative body, especially the periodic reallocation of U.S. congressional seats according to changes in the census figures as required by the Constitution.

Reapportionment applies to any "local governing authority, including but not limited to any police jury, city or parish council, or school board which is required under the constitution or laws of this state or of the United States to reapportion its voting districts following each decennial census." ([La. R.S. 18:1921](#))



Louisiana law [La. R.S. 33:1411](#) provides a mandatory six month timeframe after the official release of the census for all parish governing authorities which provide for the election of its members from wards, districts, or other subdivisions to examine the apportionment plan of its body to determine if there exists any substantial variation in the representation of the election districts and then adopt an ordinance by a majority of its members to either (1) declare its apportionment to be equitable and continue its existing apportionment plan or (2) provide for a new apportionment plan. The law further

provides that the boundaries of any election district for a new apportionment plan shall contain whole election precincts established by the parish governing authority under [La. R.S. 18:532](#) or [La. R.S. 18:532.1](#) ([La. R.S. 33:1411\(C\)](#)), unless certain exceptions apply. Additionally, municipalities who are elected by districts, school boards, and city councils shall each examine their respective voting districts under their current apportionment plan to determine whether or not there is a substantial variation. At that time, they will adopt an ordinance either confirming their voting districts are equitable or providing a new plan.

If it is determined that a new plan is needed, the governing body will then meet to discuss possible changes to the voting districts. At this time, some do elect to bring in outside demographers to assist with creating the plan.

### When Redistricting Occurs

"Unless a different period of time is specified by the constitution or by statute, the governing authority of each local governing body shall reapportion its voting districts by the end of the year following the year in which the population of this state is reported to the president of the United States for each decennial census." [La. R.S. 18:1922](#)

### Failure to Reapportion has Penalties

[La. R.S. 18:1922](#) and [La. R.S. 18:1923](#) provide that failure to meet the time for reapportionment by local governing bodies is misfeasance in office and may subject the governing authority to a loss of state revenue sharing funds.

### Implementation of Reapportionment Plans by the Secretary of State's Office

The Louisiana secretary of state is responsible for establishing a state voter registration computer system for the



registration of voters throughout the state, which contains the election jurisdiction for all offices voted on throughout the state. Redistricting plans are required to be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office by certified mail and to also be sent to the clerk of court and the registrar of voters. [La. R.S. 18:1945\(C\)](#) provides that no redistricting plan shall be implemented unless the plan is received by the secretary of state prior to 4:30 p.m. four weeks prior to the date the qualifying period opens.

If a local government utilizes a geographic information system (GIS) software to develop its redistricting plans, they are required to submit an electronic shapefile to the secretary of state within 10 business days of adoption of the redistricting plan. If they are unable to submit an electronic shapefile, they must submit an ASCII comma delimited block equivalency import file which indicates the census block assignments in the redistricting plan.

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## SIGN-UP FOR ELECTION ALERTS

This subscription service sends reminders for early voting and Election Day. You may also receive other important messages from the secretary of state, such as emergency polling location changes. We will only send information reminders relating to your registration or elections for which you are eligible to vote. Your email address is protected from disclosure under Louisiana law. The Department of State shall bear no responsibility and shall in no event be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, punitive or consequential damages for notifications lost in transmission or otherwise not received for any reason.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to election notifications log in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) or download the free [GeauxVote app](#) on any smartphone or tablet.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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- [Absentee Voting](#)

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To learn what happens **after** an election, view [Frequently Asked Questions After an Election](#).

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# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BEFORE AN ELECTION

To learn what happens **after** an election, view [Frequently Asked Questions After an Election](#).

#### **Purchase list of voters in my election district?**

Purchase a [voter list](#) online.

#### **Qualifications to run for office?**

View [qualifications](#) for public offices.

#### **Candidate's qualifications, who can challenge?**

A qualified elector may bring a court action objecting to the candidacy of a person who qualified as a candidate in a primary election for an office in which the plaintiff is qualified to vote. See La R.S. 14:1401-1453.

#### **Candidate's qualifications, how to challenge?**

The [Louisiana Election Code](#), La R.S. 18:1401-1453, provides for the laws on contests and challenges to candidates qualifications and elections. Also, [La R.S. 18:491](#) provides for a registered voter to present evidence that a candidate has illegally qualified for elective office to the district attorney. See also [La R.S. 18:491-495](#) regarding filing a complaint with the district attorney to investigate and file a contest suit.

#### **Candidate's qualifications, when to challenge?**

An action objecting to candidacy shall be instituted not later than 4:30 p.m. of the 7th day after the close of qualifications for candidates in the primary election. After the expiration of this time period, no further action shall be allowed objecting to candidacy based on the grounds contained in [La R.S. 18:492](#).

The grounds contained in [La R.S. 18:492](#) include:

- the defendant failed to qualify for the primary election in the manner prescribed by law;
- the defendant failed to qualify for the primary election within the time prescribed by law;
- the defendant does not meet the qualifications for the office he seeks in the primary election;
- the defendant is prohibited by law from becoming a candidate for one or more of the offices for which he qualified;
- the defendant falsely certified on his notice of candidacy that he does not owe any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act as provided in [La R.S. 18:463\(A\)\(2\)](#);
- the defendant falsely certified on his notice of candidacy that he does not owe any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics as provided in [La R.S. 18:463\(A\)\(2\)](#); or
- the defendant falsely certified on his notice of candidacy that for each of the previous five tax years he has filed his federal and state income tax returns, has filed for an extension of time for filing either his federal or state income tax return or both as provided in [La R.S. 18:463\(A\)\(2\)](#), or was not required to file either a federal or state income tax return or both.

#### **Vote absentee by mail or vote early, information?**

View information on [absentee-by-mail](#) and [early voting](#).

### **Listing of who voted absentee or early?**

The registrar is required to keep and post a list daily containing the names of all persons who vote during the early voting period or who return an absentee ballot. After the last day for early voting, the list is prepared alphabetically by precinct.

A list of who voted absentee or early may also be purchased [online](#).

A request to vote absentee is protected and not subject to a public records request.

### **Am I entitled to view the testing and sealing of the early voting machines?**

Yes, at the time of qualifying, the clerk of court is required to notify each candidate to contact the registrar of voters for the time and place when early voting machines will be prepared for early voting. A candidate or their representative may be present to observe the preparation of the machines by the registrar of voters with the assistance of the secretary of state's technicians and to observe the testing and sealing of the machines by the registrar of voters in the presence of the parish board of election supervisors. Each candidate or their representative shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to view the test vote tape for each machine to see that they are in the proper condition for use in the election, which opportunity shall not be less than 30 minutes beginning at the time designed by the registrar to begin the process. However, no one may interfere with the election officials in the performance of their duties. After examination, the parish board of election supervisors is required to generate a zero tally on each machine to ensure that the machine's public counter is set at zero and that no votes have been cast on the machine and then the registrar seals the machine.

### **Location of early voting sites?**

Early voting is held at each parish registrar of voters office and in [additional locations](#) in some parishes.

### **Challenge an early voter or absentee ballot?**

A candidate or their representative, a member of the parish board of election supervisors, or a qualified elector may file a challenge to an early voter or an absentee by mail voter for the following reasons:

- the applicant is not qualified to vote in the election;
- the applicant is not qualified to vote in the precinct; or
- the applicant is not the person whose name is shown on the precinct register.

These challenges MUST be filed no later than the 4th day before the election. A challenge is to be filed personally with the registrar of voters on a form in the registrar's office that is provided by the secretary of state. An objection to the qualifications of a voter or to an irregularity in the conduct of the election is deemed waived if it could have been and was not properly raised.

A challenge for cause for any other ground may be filed with the parish board of election supervisors during the counting on election day on a form that is provided by the secretary of state and available at the counting.

All challenges are determined by majority vote of the parish board of election supervisors during the counting.

### **Opening of polls on Election Day?**

Commissioners who are trained and commissioned by the clerk of court are responsible for the operations at the polling place on election day. After the commissioners take their oath, in the presence of the watchers (if any), they prepare the polling place for voting by comparing the voting machine serial numbers on the machines with the numbers on the key envelope to make sure they match. They also compare the protective counter numbers on the key envelope with the protective counter numbers on the machines. Then they open the key envelope and open the door of each voting machine and cause them to produce a zero proof sheet to determine that each counter on each machine is set at zero. They sign and certify to the correctness of each zero proof sheet and post it within the polling place.

## **Watchers at the polling place?**

Each candidate is entitled to have one commissioned watcher and alternate watcher at every precinct where his name is on the ballot. A watcher and alternate watcher may not serve at the same time. Each candidate also is entitled to one super watcher who may enter every precinct where the candidate is on the ballot, even if a watcher or alternate watcher is serving in the precinct. For more information, review the [Poll Watcher Handbook](#).

## **Political signs, how close can they be to the polling place?**

The legislature of Louisiana enacted a 600 foot campaign free zone from the entrance of any polling place from the hours of 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. The only exception is for campaign signs on private property. This law applies to early voting locations as well.

The legislature wrote the following public policy statement in the law: "The Legislature of Louisiana recognized that the right to vote is a right that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government. In order to preserve the integrity of its election process, and to protect the right of citizens to vote freely for the candidates of their choice, the state has a compelling interest in establishing a zone securing polling locations against certain conduct and activities, including voter intimidation, election fraud, confusion, and general disorder, that would interfere with the exercise of the right to vote. The legislature, therefore, enacts this Subsection to provide for a six hundred foot campaign-free zone around polling places to provide to each voter such an environment in which to exercise his right to vote." ([La R.S. 18:1462](#))

## **Election day procedures?**

The [Informational Pamphlet for Election Day Voting](#) provides step by step instructions for election day commissioners.

## **Identification of voters, what is required?**

A voter is required to give their name and address to a commissioner to be announced for voting. The commissioners are required to identify every applicant and require them to submit a photo ID; or sign an affidavit after answering questions that allow the commissioners to properly verify the voter before being allowed to vote.

Acceptable forms of photo ID include but are not limited to, a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card, a United States military identification card that contains the name and picture, or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter.

## **Disabled or needs assistance in voting?**

Review information for [disabled and elderly citizens](#).

## **Why are voters required to fill out other paperwork before voting?**

If a voter is inactive in the statewide voter registration database, then their registration information was not verified by the registrar during the annual canvass of voters and must be verified on election day before voting. These voters simply complete an Address Confirmation Card – Election Day form and are allowed to vote, unless they moved to an address outside of the parish or state more than 3 months before the election.

## **Voter's name not found in the precinct register, how to vote?**

The commissioner should look for a voter in the precinct register and the supplemental precinct register, if one. A voter may be registered under a maiden or married name and the commissioner should ask and look for both. A voter may be in the wrong precinct.

A commissioner may also contact the registrar of voters or the secretary of state for assistance and to confirm that no error has been made in the precinct register. If an error has been made, the commissioner will complete

a Precinct Register Correction Form, receive approval and the lock-out button number, if applicable, from the secretary of state or registrar of voters and then have the voter sign the precinct register behind the Precinct Register Correction Affidavit tab and allow the voter to vote.

If no error and it is a federal election, the person may vote a provisional ballot.

### **Voter not allowed to vote on specific race/candidate, what can be done?**

A voter must live in the jurisdiction of the race that the candidate is running in to be able to vote on the race/candidate. However, the voter or candidate can contact the clerk of court's office immediately to allow the clerk to confirm with all election officials as to whether or not the jurisdiction of the election is valid and/or whether the election officials are properly performing their duties at the polling place in setting up the voting machine.

### **Challenge a voter on election day?**

A voter may be challenged on election day by a commissioner, watcher or qualified voter before voting on any of the following grounds:

- not qualified to vote in the election;
- not qualified to vote in the precinct;
- not the person whose name is shown on the precinct register; or
- no photo ID and voting after completing a Voter Identification Affidavit.

There is a form at the polling place to be completed when challenging a voter. An objection to the qualifications of a voter or to an irregularity in the conduct of the election is deemed waived if with the exercise of due diligence it could have been raised by a challenge of the voter or objections at the polls to the procedure.

### **Challenged voter, who determines if it is valid or not?**

A majority of the commissioners must determine whether the challenge is valid or invalid. If valid, the applicant is not allowed to vote. If the commissioners determine that the challenge is invalid, the applicant is allowed to vote.

### **Prohibited activities during early voting and on Election Day?**

The Election Day [Bill of Rights](#) outlines the rights and responsibilities of Louisiana voters and lists prohibited activities under state law and federal law.

### **Enforcement, who enforces the law during voting?**

During early voting, the registrar of voters may enforce the election laws and may use law enforcement officers to maintain order at any location where early voting is conducted. They are authorized to verbally order a person to leave the premises after voting and may remove political signs on public property within the 600 foot campaign free zone.

On Election Day, the commissioners may enforce the election laws. They are authorized to verbally order a person to leave the premises after voting and may call law enforcement to preserve order and enforce the election laws. They may remove political signs on public property within the 600 foot campaign free zone.

Contact the [Elections Compliance Unit](#) for more information on reporting election irregularities.

# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AFTER AN ELECTION

To learn what happens **before** an election, view [Frequently Asked Questions Before an Election](#).

#### **Polls close, then what happens?**

The commissioners announce that voting is terminated at 8 p.m. and any voter in line at 8 p.m. is allowed to vote. The commissioners are required to secure the voting machines in the presence of the watchers (if any). They cause each voting machine to produce a set of 4 identical official election results reports and they examine, sign and certify each set. If they need technical assistance in producing the official election results, they call the Clerk who provides technical assistance through the voting machine technicians.

The commissioners complete and sign the machine certificates. They complete the back of the duplicate poll lists and certify to the correctness by signing. They announce the results of the election in the order of offices, candidates, and propositions listed on the ballot. They post the results of the election at a conspicuous place at the polling place for public viewing.

The commissioners complete the closing of the polls by placing documents used in the election in the appropriate envelopes for either the secretary of state, the clerk of court, the registrar of voters or for the back of the voting machine. Finally, the commissioners lock the doors of the voting machines and seal the keys in the key envelope and sign. The commissioner-in-charge delivers the voting machine keys and election results cartridges to the clerk of court.

#### **Voting machine results, how are they transmitted?**

Each voting machine stores votes on a removable memory device called an election results cartridge. Each election results cartridge is transported to the clerk of court after the polls close and is read and transmitted immediately over a secure dedicated internal network (not the internet) to the secretary of state's office. The results from the parish board's counting of the absentee by mail and early voting totals are entered into the secretary of state's database by the clerk and transmitted just as the machine data is transmitted.

#### **Election results?**

[Election results](#) are posted in real time to our website as they are transmitted to the secretary of state's office on election night. from each parish clerk of court. Also, the clerk makes the election results available to the press and the public.

#### **Voting machines after an election?**

Machines remain sealed and are transported back to the voting machine warehouse no later than 48 hours after the polls close on election day.

#### **Opening of the voting machines, when?**

Machines are opened the 3rd day after the election unless the election has been challenged in court and the court has ordered that the machines be opened at an earlier time. If the 3rd day is a holiday, the machines are opened the 2nd day following the election.



### **Opening of voting machines, who opens them?**

The clerk of court in the parish is responsible for opening the machines with the assistance of at least 1 member of the parish board of election supervisors.

### **Opening of voting machines, when and is it open to the public?**

Voting machines are opened on the third day following an election, unless a court orders an earlier opening. However, if the third day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the machines are opened on the second day following the election.

The clerk of court is required to post notice in his office of the time and place where the machines will be opened. The general public and candidates or their representatives are welcome to view the opening as it is an open meeting.

### **Opening of voting machines, procedures?**

The seals on the election day voting machines are broken and the public and protective counter numbers are recorded from each machine. The public counter number is the number of voters who voted on that machine during the election. The protective counter number is the number of votes received on the lifetime of that machine. The election results are then verified before the next machine is opened, but to facilitate the verification of election results, two or more voting machines may be opened simultaneously and the results verified.

Additionally, the sealed precinct registers are removed from the machine and immediately returned to the registrar of voters.

### **Election results, how are they verified?**

On the 3rd day following the election (or 2nd day if the 3rd day is a holiday), the clerk, deputy clerk or other employees of his or her office, in the presence of the parish board of election supervisors or their representatives and the candidates or their representatives, open the voting machines and verify the total votes cast for each candidate and the total votes cast for and against each proposition as shown on the voting machines or the voting machine election result tapes.

They also verify the total number of absentee and early voting votes cast for each candidate and the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for and against each proposition as shown on the final absentee by mail and early voting report.

The machines votes cast are required to be shown separately by each precinct and the absentee by mail and early voting votes cast are required to be shown as the total number of votes cast for each candidate and the total number of votes cast for and against each proposition.

### **Voting machine results, how long to view?**

The candidates or their representatives are to be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect the machines. The process must remain open for at least 30 minutes from the time of opening to allow the general public and the candidates' time to attend and inspect. For example, if the clerk sets the opening time at 10 a.m., then the earliest it can be concluded is 10:30 a.m., so as to allow a reasonable amount of time for public viewing.

### **Reinspect the voting machines, how to?**

A candidate may request the reinspection of voting machines by filing a written request with the clerk of court. The written request must be received by the clerk of court no later than the 3rd day following the election, or as advanced due to a holiday.

The reinspection shall be held at a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerks of court on the 5th day following the election and at any time ordered by a court. If the 5th day is

a holiday, the reinspection shall be held on the following day at a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerks of court.

The clerk of court is required to post notice in his office of time and date of reinspection and the candidate(s) requesting the reinspection.

A candidate requesting reinspection is responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the reinspection, including but not limited to \$150 to each of the five members or authorized members' designee of the parish board of election supervisors for attendance and responsibility of the reinspection. Reimbursement for attending may never exceed one meeting payment for all activities for the day.

### **Official election zero proof report, what is it?**

After the commissioners take their oath at the beginning of election day and before the time for opening the polls, the commissioners, in the presence of the watchers (if any), prepare the polling place for voting. They compare the voting machine serial numbers on the machines with the numbers on the key envelope to make sure they match. They also compare the public and protective counter numbers on the key envelope with the protective counter numbers on the machines. Then they open the key envelope and open the door of each voting machine. When the polls are opened, the official election zero proof report will automatically print. The commissioner verifies that the time and date are correct on the report and verifies that there are zeros by each candidate or proposition listed. All commissioners must sign the report and post it at the entrance to the polling place.

### **Official election results report, what is it?**

At the end of voting on election day, the commissioner closes the polls on each voting machine. The machine then automatically prints four identical official election results reports showing the votes for each candidate in each race and for each question on the ballot. All commissioners must sign and date all four results reports.

### **Poll list, what is it?**

Two poll lists (one pink and one gold) are provided by the secretary of state in the election supplies for each precinct. Poll lists are blank booklets in which two commissioners print the names of every single voter that votes in the precinct. It is numbered consecutively from one (1) to the end. Periodically, the commissioners check the public counter numbers on all of the machines in the polling place and the amount of voters on the poll lists. These numbers must balance.

The booklets also provide space in the back to record provisional voters in a federal election.

After the election, the pink poll lists are delivered to the registrar of voters in the ROV - Registrar of Voters Envelope via the clerk of court. The gold poll lists go back to the secretary of state's office in the S-19 - Secretary of State Envelope.

### **Machine certificate, what is it?**

A machine certificate is a form that commissioners enter voting machine specific information on prior to voting and after the polls close.

Before voting begins, the commissioners must enter the following information on the certificate:

- the exact time the keys to the machines were delivered;
- the serial number of each machine;
- the seal number of each blue results/audio cartridge;
- the number shown for the public counter number of each voting machine is zero the number shown on the protective counter on each machine;
- any visible damage to the machine; and
- the seal number on the precinct register.

After voting has concluded, the commissioners must complete the certificate by filling in the following:

- the exact time that the polls were closed;
- the serial number of each machine;
- the number shown on the protective counter on each machine;
- the public counter number on each machine (votes cast per machine);
- any visible damage to the machine; and
- the seal number of the precinct register.

All commissioners sign the completed form.

### **Recount the election results?**

The absentee and early voting ballots may be recounted.

A candidate or a person who voted on a proposition election may request the recount of absentee and early voting ballots by filing a written request with the clerk of court if the number of absentee and early voting ballots cast for all candidates for an office or for the proposition could make a difference in the outcome of the election. A candidate or a voter may also request the inspection of mail envelope flaps removed from the valid absentee by mail ballots and the flaps removed from the valid early voting ballots when paper ballots are used for early voting.

Any written request must be received by the clerk of court no later than 4:30 pm on the 3rd day calendar day after the election.

The recount will be held at a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerks of court on the 5th day following the election and at any time ordered by a court. If the 5th day is a holiday, the recount will be held on the following day at a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerks of court.

The clerk of court is required to post notice of time and date of recount and the candidate requesting it in their office.

The candidate or person requesting the recount is responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the recount, including but not limited to \$150 to each of the five members or authorized members' designee of the parish board of election supervisors. Reimbursement for attending may never exceed one meeting payment for all activities for the day. If the recount changes the outcome of the election, the recount expenses are returned to the candidate or voter and then paid by the state.

### **Candidate election. who can challenge or contest?**

A qualified elector may bring an action objecting to the candidacy of a person who qualified as a candidate in a primary election for an office in which the plaintiff is qualified to vote. A candidate who alleges that, except for substantial irregularities or error, or except for fraud or other unlawful activities in the conduct of the election, he would have qualified for a general election or would have been elected may bring an action contesting the election.

See [chapter 9](#) of the Louisiana Election Code for more information.

### **Challenge a proposition election, who and how to?**

A person in interest may bring an action contesting any election in which any proposition is submitted to the voters if he alleges that except for irregularities or fraud in the conduct of an election the result would have been different.

See [chapter 9](#) of the Louisiana Election Code for more information.

### **Special election call, who can challenge?**

A qualified elector may bring an action objecting to the calling of a special election to fill a vacancy if he alleges that no special election should have been called or that the special election was called on an improper day.

See [chapter 9](#) of the Louisiana Election Code for more information.

### **Candidate's qualifications, how to challenge?**

The [Louisiana Election Code](#), La R.S. 18:1401-1453, provides for the laws on contests and challenges to candidates qualifications and elections. Also, [La R.S. 18:491](#) provides for a registered voter to present evidence that a candidate has illegally qualified for elective office to the district attorney. See also [La R.S. 18:491-495](#) regarding filing a complaint with the district attorney to investigate and file a contest suit.

### **Candidate election, time to challenge or contest?**

An action contesting any election involving election to office is required to be filed in a court of proper jurisdiction on or before 4:30 p.m. of the 9th day after the date of the election.

### **Proposition election, time to challenge or contest?**

An action contesting an election on a proposed CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT shall be instituted not later than 4:30 on the 10th day after promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state.

An action contesting an election submitting a PROPOSTION to the voters, except constitutional amendments or the issuance of bonds or levying of a tax, shall be instituted not later than 4:30 p.m. of the 30th day after the official promulgation of the results of the election.

An action contesting an election on a BOND OR TAX ELECTION shall be instituted not later than 4:30 p.m. of the 60th day after official promulgation of the results.

An action contesting the certification of a RECALL PETITION shall be instituted not later than 4:30 p.m. of the 15th day after the governor has issued the proclamation ordering the recall election or not later than 4:30 p.m. of the 15th day after the last day for the governor to call the election if no recall election is called.

### **Special election call, time to challenge or contest?**

A special election is generally called to fill a vacancy in office. An action objecting to the calling of a special election is required to be filed in court of proper jurisdiction not later than 4:30 p.m. of the 14th day after the calling of the special election.



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## BECOME A CANDIDATE

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for an upcoming election, review how to [Qualify for an Election](#) or you may contact your parish [Clerk of Court's Office](#) to qualify as a candidate for local office. The Secretary of State's Office qualifies candidates for [state](#) office, as defined in [La. R.S. 18:452](#). Call 800.883.2805 for any questions regarding qualifying.

View upcoming [election date information](#).

Browse the [candidate database](#) to search for candidate information.

Browse the [elected officials list](#) to search all elected public officials.

If you are interested in running for President of the United States, you may [browse excerpts](#) from Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 18 (the "Election Code"). You may also view qualifying information for [presidential candidates that are affiliated with a recognized political party in Louisiana](#), or information for [candidates who are not affiliated with a political party](#). For additional information, please review [Qualify for an Election](#).

### Campaign Finance Reports, Lobbyists and Political Action Committees

Reports from incumbent statewide elected officials are available for online viewing at the [Louisiana Board of Ethics](#). In addition, lists of registered lobbyists and political action committees are available.

The [Federal Elections Commission](#) has copies of actual financial disclosure reports filed by House, Senate and presidential campaigns, parties and Political Action Committees (PACs) from 1993 to the present.

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## QUALIFY FOR AN ELECTION

### Candidates for Presidential Elector for President and Vice President

Recognized political parties in Louisiana may nominate a slate of candidates for presidential elector for the office of president and vice president. View the [qualifying information for the five recognized parties](#) in Louisiana (Democrat, Green, Independent, Libertarian and Republican) for all filing requirements and documents to be filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

Unrecognized political parties and candidates who have no party affiliation may nominate a slate of candidates for presidential elector for the office of president and vice president. View the [qualifying information for candidates that are not affiliated with a recognized political party](#) for all qualifying requirements and documents to be filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

Browse [excerpts from Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 18 \(the Election Code\)](#) on presidential elections held in Louisiana for additional information.

Louisiana does not allow write-in candidates.

### Congressional, State and Local Candidates

In order to become a candidate in an election, you must qualify for the office you are seeking. Louisiana does not allow write-in candidates. The qualifying period for congressional, state and local candidates is a three-day period set by law.

Local candidates qualify at the parish [Clerk of Court's Office](#). Congressional and [state candidates](#) qualify at the Secretary of State's Office at 3851 Essen Ln., Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Candidates may qualify for office by paying a [qualifying fee](#) or by filing a [nominating petition](#). Nominating petition forms are available for download and print on our [website](#). View the [number of signatures](#) required on nominating petitions for all offices.

A candidate serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who is stationed or deployed outside of the United States is not required to pay any qualifying fee or any additional fee per [Act 778](#) of 2012 Legislative Session. The candidate serving shall file with the qualifying official a [military qualifying certification form](#) prepared by the secretary of state certifying that at the time of qualifying they are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and that they are eligible to become a candidate pursuant to [United States Department of Defense Directive 1344.10](#).

### Having an Agent Qualify a Candidate for Office

If you are not able to qualify in person or by mail, you may use an agent to file your completed qualifying form signed by you. In addition to filing your notice of candidacy, the agent shall file with the qualifying official an [agent affidavit form](#) attesting that the agent has your authorization and consent to file the notice of candidacy.

The agent affidavit form does **not** authorize the agent to fill out a Notice of Candidacy on behalf of the candidate; it only authorizes the agent to bring in a completed Notice of Candidacy that has already been signed by the candidate and notarized.

An agent who files a notice of candidacy without the authorization or consent of the candidate shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both.

A copy of the candidate's valid Louisiana driver's license or identification card, issued by the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles, shall be provided by the agent to the qualifying official with the notice of candidacy. The agent shall also provide

a valid Louisiana driver's license or identification card, issued by the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles pursuant to La. R.S. 40:1321, to the qualifying official. *(Effective Jan. 15, 2021)*

### Qualification Requirements

The qualifications to run for office vary by office. View the [qualifications of specific offices](#). If qualifying for an office in Orleans Parish, view the [qualifications of candidates for Orleans Parish only](#).

Candidates shall provide proof of identity in the form of a valid Louisiana driver's license or identification card issued by the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles. *(Effective Jan. 15, 2021)*

### Qualifying Forms and Fees

Download a copy of the [qualifying fees](#).

Download the standard [notice of candidacy form](#) to qualify for congressional, state or local office.

Download a [nominating petition](#) for qualifying in lieu of qualifying fees for congressional, state or local office.

Download the [presidential notice of candidacy form](#) for candidates in the presidential preference primary.

Download a [nominating petition](#) for qualifying in lieu of qualifying fees for a presidential preference primary.

Download the [recognized party filing information and forms](#) for presidential elector for president and vice president.

Download the [qualifying forms](#) for candidates that are independent of a political party for presidential elector for president and vice president.

Download a [nominating petition](#) for qualifying in lieu of qualifying fees for candidates that are independent of a political party for presidential elector for president and vice president.

On the standard notice of qualifying form used for congressional, state or local offices, a candidate certifies to the following:

- Registered Voter: you are a qualified elector (registered voter) in the jurisdiction where you qualify to run for office;
- Felony Conviction: for any office other than U.S. senator or representative, you are not currently under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony in accordance with [La R.S. 18:451](#) and are not prohibited from qualifying as a candidate for the conviction of a felony pursuant to Article I, Section 10.1 of the Constitution of Louisiana;
- Homestead Exemption: for any office other than U.S. senator or representative, that if you claim a homestead exemption or a residence pursuant to Article VII, Section 20 of the Constitution of Louisiana, you are registered and vote in the precinct in which that residence is located, unless you reside in a nursing home as defined in [La. RS. 40:2009.2](#) or in a veterans' home operated by the state or federal government;
- Taxes: if you are a candidate for any office other than U.S. senator or representative, you must have filed federal and state income tax returns for each of the previous five tax years, have filed for an extension of time for filing either your federal or state income tax return or both, or was not required to file either a federal or state income tax return or both;
- Campaign Finance: you acknowledge that you are subject to the provisions of the [Campaign Finance Disclosure Act](#) if you are a candidate for any office other than U.S. senator, representative or member of a committee of a political party and that you do not owe any outstanding fines, fees or penalties pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, if any were previously due;
- Campaign Finance, Major or District Office: if you are a candidate for a major or district office as defined in [La. R.S. 18:1483](#), you have filed each report that you are required to file by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, if any were previously due;
- Ethics: you do not owe any outstanding fines, fees or penalties pursuant to the [Code of Governmental Ethics](#); and
- Election Offenses: you are knowledgeable of the laws governing election offenses as provided in Chapter 10 of Title 18 and the prohibitions relative to erecting, displaying or posting political campaign signs on any highway right-of-way, publicly owned property or right-of-way or to or on any public utility pole or stanchion as provided in [La. R.S. 48:347\(D\)](#), [La R.S. 30:2544\(A\)](#) and [La R.S. 18:1470](#).

Your candidacy may be challenged if you are not qualified to run for the office and you may be criminally charged for executing an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information.

### Candidates for Presidential Nominee for Presidential Preference Primary (PPP)

Candidates qualify at the Secretary of State's Office for presidential nominee of either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party for the PPP election. View the [qualifying requirements and documents](#) for additional information. For specific party rules and regulations, please contact your political party or visit their website.

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## FIND BALLOT NUMBERS

Candidate ballot numbers are determined by law, [La R.S. 18:551](#), according to title in the following order:

- president and vice president;
- presidential nominees in a presidential preference primary;
- state offices;
- local offices;
- municipal offices; and
- political party offices.

The candidates are then listed alphabetically within each race. Once the ballot numbers are determined, they remain the same for both the primary and general election.

[State candidates](#) may contact the secretary of state's office at 800.883.2805 or 225.922.0900 for their ballot number. Local and municipal candidates may contact their parish [clerk of court](#) where they qualified.

Candidate numbers can also be reviewed on [sample ballots](#). Sample ballots are available no later than 20 days prior to each election (online sample ballots do not contain withdrawn candidates).

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## PURCHASE VOTER LISTS

A database of public information of registered voters is only available for purchase using specifically defined selection criteria. The voter list is available through email as a PDF or tab delimited text file. In addition, printable address labels in PDF are available upon request during the online ordering process. You can receive a cost estimate and purchase a list of registered voters through our [online application](#). The purchaser is responsible for defining the selection criteria, reviewing the estimate and paying in advance of receipt of the requested list.

[View the instructional video before placing an order.](#)

If you need assistance in selection criteria, or have any other questions, please contact your [Registrar of Voters Office](#), email us, call Voter Registration at 225.922.0900 or toll-free at 800.883.2805.

Additional information about the lists is available below:

- [Voter List Charges and Other Information](#);
- [Email Record Format](#);
- [Saving Information to an Excel Spreadsheet](#);
- [Purchase Voter Lists FAQs](#); and
- Voter history is also available as an option when purchasing a voter list.

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# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### PURCHASE VOTER LISTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Pricing for voter lists?**

Pricing is established by administrative rule and is non-negotiable. Pricing details can be found at [VoterListChargesAndInfo](#) (PDF).

#### **Credit card charge?**

Credit card payments are subject to an additional statutory convenience fee of \$5.00.

#### **If I choose to receive the data electronically (by email), what does the data look like?**

The data is provided in a tab delimited text format. For the record layout, please see [RecordFormatSheet](#) (PDF).

#### **Convert data from the tab delimited text format?**

Instructions for converting the file to Excel can be found at [ConvertingTextFileToExcelFile](#) (PDF).

#### **No Excel or I don't know how to use Excel, what are my options?**

The voter list can be formatted for you to print out. It is sent as a .PDF list. You may request formatting for labels for a mailing. The .PDF will include all information found on an electronic list with the exception of vote history. The .PDF can also have the standard district information removed.

#### **Standard districts provided on email formats, what are they?**

Standard districts include: congressional, state senate, state representative, police jury, school board, justice of the peace, city, tax ward, state supreme court, appeals court, district court, public service commission and BESE board.

#### **Special districts, what are they and are they available?**

Special districts vary by parish and are most often for special purposes such as drainage, lighting, roads, etc.

Customers may request special districts to be included on electronic files by using a custom selection and specifying the special districts.

#### **Special districts available on hardcopy reports or labels?**

No.

#### **Email addresses available?**

No. Voter's email addresses are protected by law.

#### **Home addresses and mailing addresses included?**

Yes.

**Statistical information included?**

Age, race, and party are all included.

**Refund policy?**

The purchase of a voter list is final and the cost is non-refundable.

If there are unusual circumstances or a significant error in the data caused by the State or the Registrar of Voters, you may request for the customer data or reports to be replaced using the same selection criteria if the error is reported in 15 days.

If the problem is due to incorrect selections made by the customer, there is no refund or replacement.

**Credit card data, is it stored by the Secretary of State?**

The Department does not store credit card information.

**Are purchases final?**

All purchases are final.

**Questions or problems, contact information?**

If you have questions or issues, please contact Elections Services for an elections specialist at 225.922.0900, [contact Commercial Requests](#) or contact your local [registrar of voters](#).





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## UNDERSTAND CAMPAIGN REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 11 of the [Louisiana Election Code \(Title 18\)](#) outlines election campaign finance laws. [La R.S. 18:1481-18:1951](#) is cited as the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act and is governed by the [Louisiana Ethics Administration Program](#).

### Campaign Finance Reports, Lobbyists and Political Action Committees

Campaign finance reports which include reports from incumbent statewide elected officials are available for online viewing at the [Louisiana Ethics Administration Program](#). Lists of registered lobbyists and political action committees are also available.

### Federal Elections Commission

Financial disclosure reports filed by House, Senate and presidential campaigns, parties as well as Political Action Committees (PACs) from 1993 to the present are available at the [Federal Elections Commission](#).

### Campaign Communications (Automated Calls)

Louisiana law ([La R.S. 18:1463.1](#)) seeks to protect the integrity of the electoral process and assures that voters know who is responsible for telephone campaign communications in order to more properly evaluate the statements contained in them and to cast a more informed vote. It is essential to prohibit misrepresentation that a person, committee or organization speak on behalf of a candidate, political committee or agent thereof.

If a company or person is paid to make calls, an [approval of campaign telephone communications](#) must be filed with the secretary of state before authorized calls begin. The filing may be made by fax as long as within two days, exclusive of legal holidays, the **original** approval received is forwarded by United States mail to:

Secretary of State  
Attn: Elections Division  
P.O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

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## WITHDRAW FROM AN ELECTION

Any candidate who wishes to withdraw their candidacy may file a [notice of withdrawal](#) before the deadline enacted by [Act 410](#) of the 2015 Regular Session.

For a **primary election**, the withdrawal deadline is 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day after the close of the qualifying period.

For a **general election**, the withdrawal deadline is 4:30 p.m. on the ninth day after the date of the primary election.

Notwithstanding the deadlines listed above, if there are only two candidates remaining in a primary or general election for a public office, the secretary of state shall accept a notice of withdrawal if filed prior to 4:30 pm on the second day prior to the election as stipulated by [Act 657](#) of the 2018 Regular Session.

A notice of withdrawal is effective when the signed and notarized original is filed with the secretary of state. Any withdrawal that is not filed timely will be returned to the candidate and the candidate's name will remain on the ballot and all votes will be counted.

The original, signed and notarized form may be hand-delivered or mailed to:

Secretary of State  
 Elections Business  
 8585 Archives Ave.  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Faxed copies and photocopies are not accepted.

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## MONITORING AN ELECTION

Louisiana has a statewide voting system. AVC Advantage machines are used for Election Day voting, and ImageCast® X (or "ICX") voting machines are used for early voting. All Election Day machines are tested by certified technicians of the secretary of state's office prior to every election in each parish and then the voting machines are sealed for use in the election by the parish board of election supervisors in each parish. Testing and sealing is open to the public in each voting machine warehouse in each parish. For information on the testing and sealing of voting machines prior to Election Day, please contact your parish [clerk of court](#) (for Orleans Parish candidates, you must contact the Clerk of Criminal District Court). All early voting machines are tested and sealed prior to every early voting period in each parish registrar of voters office. For information on the testing and sealing of voting machines prior to early voting, please contact your parish [registrar of voters](#).

### Poll Watchers

Louisiana law ([La. R.S. 18:427 \(A\)](#)) states that a qualified voter of the state who is not a candidate may serve as a watcher, however, no person who is required to register as a sex offender or child predator pursuant to [La. R.S. 15:542](#) may serve as a watcher.

View and print a [Poll Watchers Booklet](#) to learn about the commissioning, qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers.

View and print a list of watchers form:

[Early Voting Political Party Watchers List](#)

[Election Day Political Party Super Watchers List](#)

[Election Day Watchers List for Candidates and Propositions](#)

### Early Voting Political Party Poll Watchers

In accordance with [Act 583 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session](#), the parish executive committee of a recognized political party having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered as begin affiliated with the political party is entitled to have an early voting watchers at each early voting location in the parish, as space permits, at which a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot.

Currently, only the Democratic and Republican parties may have early voting poll watchers.

A list of early voting watchers shall be filed with the registrar of voters by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the fourteenth business day before the first day of early voting for a primary or general election falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday.

The chairman of the parish executive committee shall sign and be responsible for filing the list of early voting watchers. The chairman of the state central committee may designate early voting watchers for the parish in any parish without a parish executive committee of the recognized political party in accordance with [La. R.S. 18:1309\(N\)\(9\)](#).

A list of early voting watchers submitted by a party for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the chairman of the parish executive committee or the state central committee of the party notifies the registrar of voters in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the start of early voting for the general election that he wants to use the same list of early voting watchers.

### Election Day Political Party Super Watchers



In accordance with [Act 583 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session](#), the parish executive committee of a recognized political party having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered as being affiliated with the political party is entitled to have political party super watchers in the parish if a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot. See the [Poll Watcher Booklet](#) for more details on how many super watchers are allowed in a specific parish.

The chairman of the parish executive committee shall file one list of super watchers with the clerk of court (the Clerk of Criminal District Court in Orleans Parish) by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the primary or general election. If the tenth business day before the primary or general election falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday.

The chairman of the parish executive committee of the political party shall sign and be responsible for filing the list of political party super watchers. The chairman of the state central committee of a recognized political party may designate super watchers for the parish in any parish without a parish executive committee of the recognized political party in accordance with [La. R.S. 18:435\(A\)\(4\)\(e\)](#).

A list of political party super watchers submitted by a party for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the chairman of the parish executive committee or state central committee of the party notifies the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the general election that he wants to use the same list of political party super watchers.

### **Election Day Watchers for Candidates and Propositions**

Louisiana law ([La R.S. 18:427](#), [La R.S. 18:435](#), [La R.S. 18:1486](#)) states that each candidate in an election is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct on election day where the office they seek is on the ballot in a primary or general election. Watchers are not allowed during early voting in the registrar of voters offices. In addition to watchers and alternate watchers per precinct, each candidate may designate one watcher as a super watcher who can be admitted in every precinct in the candidate's election at the same time as either the watcher or alternate watcher who is serving for the candidate. Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition (including the recall of a public officer) and who has filed a report required by [La R.S. 18:1486](#) (Campaign Finance Disclosure Act) is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct in which the proposition is on the ballot. Federal monitors and court-ordered monitors are subject to these guidelines.

The candidate shall file one list of watchers with the clerk of court (for Orleans Parish candidates, you must file with the Clerk of Criminal District Court), by hand delivery, facsimile, mail or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before any primary or general election.

A candidate's list of watchers may be filed by the candidate's authorized representative with a letter of authorization from the candidate; however, the list of watchers must be signed by the candidate. Any person filing a list of watchers for a proposition or recall election must attach a certified statement that the report required by [La R.S. 18:1486](#) has been filed with the division of campaign finance.

If a candidate submits a list for a primary election and does not submit a new list for the general election, the list submitted for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the candidate notifies the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the general election that they want to use the same list of watchers. A list of watchers shall contain only one watcher and one alternate watcher for each precinct where the candidate is entitled to have a watcher. In addition to watchers and alternate watchers per precinct, each candidate may designate one watcher as a super watcher for each parish they are on the ballot.

The list shall be submitted on a form provided by the secretary of state which is available from the clerk of court or on our website, or typed or legibly written on a form which contains the same information. The list shall contain the name and mailing address of each watcher and alternate watcher, and a designation of the precinct where they are to serve.

### **Presidential Election Watchers**

The state central committee of each recognized political party is responsible for filing the watcher list for its slate of candidates for presidential elector. The list of watchers must be signed by the chairman of the state central committee. The list of watchers for an independent or other party slate of candidates for presidential elector shall be signed and filed by any person so authorized by the presidential candidate supported by the slate of electors. A letter of authorization from the presidential candidate, or an authorized agent of their campaign, shall accompany the list.

It is **not** necessary to submit the certified statement that the report has been filed with the division of campaign finance.

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To learn what happens **before** an election, view [Frequently Asked Questions Before an Election](#).

To learn what happens **after** an election, view [Frequently Asked Questions After an Election](#).

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# Louisiana SECRETARY OF STATE NANCY LANDRY



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## FIND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

### Elected Officials Database

Use the [Elected Officials Database](#) to search for statewide and multi-parish elected officials; all elected officials in a parish and; all elected officials in an office e.g., "all sheriffs". Recent incumbents can be viewed as well. To view the incumbent history, click on the office title in your search results.

The [Elected Officials Excel File](#) provides a current listing of all elected public officials.

### Boards and Commissions

The governor makes appointments to various boards and commissions. The [Louisiana Boards and Commissions](#) database is maintained by the assistant secretary of the Senate. You can search for a board or commission, by members name or get a complete list of all boards and commissions.

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Elections Hotline: 800-883-2805 TTD/TTY: 711  
DIVISION OF ELECTION INTEGRITY: 800-722-5305

[Click here to fill out an application to become an election worker](#)

[View your sample ballot](#)

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## RECALL AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

A petition for recall is limited to the request that an election be called and held in the voting area for the purpose of recalling a public officer. Any public officer, except judges, may be recalled; however, no recall petition may be submitted for certification to or accepted for certification by the registrar of voters or any other official if less than six months remain in the term of office. ([La. R.S. 18:1300.1](#))

### General Information on Recalls

All recall petitions for local elected officials shall be on a [local recall petition form](#) or on a form which contains the same information and directed to the governor. All recall petitions for a statewide elected official shall be on a [statewide official recall petition form](#) or on a form which contains the same information and directed to the governor. Any petition not on such a form shall be invalid. In accordance with [Act 257](#) of the 2018 Regular Session, the recall petition shall contain a clear statement of the reason or reasons for the recall. When the recall involves the governor, the secretary of state acts in all matters where it is the duty of the governor to act. When the recall involves the secretary of state, the governor acts in all matters where it is the duty of the secretary of state to act. A copy of the signed recall petition must be filed by the chairman of the recall committee with Secretary of State's Office along with copies of a picture identification that contain the name and signature of the chairman and vice chairman, respectively, or copies of current utility bills, bank statements, government checks, paychecks or other government documents that show the name and address of the chairman and vice chairman, respectively prior to entering any signatures. Once the first signature is obtained, the recall petition becomes a public record with the chairman or vice chairman, when acting as the chairman, as custodian. After the petition is submitted to the registrar of voters for certification, the chairman or vice chairman, when acting as the chairman, shall no longer be the custodian. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.2](#) and [La. R.S. 18:1300.5](#) for more information.

All signatures on recall petitions must be handwritten. The petition shall be signed by 40 percent of the qualified electors within the voting area where less than 1,000 qualified electors reside in the voting area; 33 and 1/3 percent of the qualified electors of the voting area where 1,000 to 24,999 qualified electors reside in the voting area; 25 percent of the qualified electors of the voting area where 25,000 to 99,999 qualified electors reside in the voting area; or 20 percent of the qualified electors of the voting area where 100,000 or more qualified electors reside in the voting area. Contact the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) for the total number of eligible voters of the voting area for all elected official recalls. Contact the secretary of state for the total number of eligible voters of the state for all statewide elected official recalls. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.2\(B\)](#) for more information.

The [registrar of voters](#) shall honor the written request of any voter who either desires to have their handwritten signature stricken from the petition or desires to have their handwritten signature added to the petition at any time after receipt of the signed petition as provided in [La. R.S. 18:1300.2\(C\)](#), but prior to certification of the petition or within five days after receipt of such signed petition, whichever is earlier. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.3\(B\)\(1\)](#) for more information.

The completed petition is submitted to the [Registrar\(s\) of Voters Office](#) for certification no later than 180 days after being filed with Secretary of State's Office. An exception to this is if there are less than 1,000 qualified electors in the voting area. The petition must be submitted no later than 90 days after being filed with Secretary of State's Office. If the final day for submitting the petition falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the deadline will be on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.2\(C\)\(2\)](#) for more information.

The [registrar of voters](#) certifies the recall petition within 15 working days after it is presented to them, or within 20 working days after it is presented to them if any parish wholly or partially within the voting area contains more than 50,000 registered voters. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.3\(A\)](#) for more information.

The petition is then forwarded to the governor. The governor issues an election proclamation within 15 days after they receive the certified petition from the [Registrar of Voters Office](#), if the required number of qualified electors of the voting area signed the recall petition. See [La R.S. 18:1300.7\(A\)](#) for more information.

For a primary election date, the proclamation will be issued on or before the last day for candidates to qualify in the election (last day of qualifying). For a general election date, the proclamation will be issued on or before the 46th day prior to the election (same as propositions). In all cases where the governor is the subject of the recall petition, the secretary of state shall issue the proclamation and act in all matters where it is made the duty of the governor to act. If the secretary of state is the subject of the recall petition, the governor shall act instead of the secretary of state. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.7](#) and [La. R.S. 18:1300.15](#) for more information.

Immediately after the issuance of the proclamation, the governor publishes the proclamation in the official journal of each parish where the recall election is to be held. Within 24 hours after issuing the proclamation, the governor sends a copy of the petition and proclamation, by registered or certified mail, to the clerk of the district court for each parish in which the recall election will be held. A copy of the petition and proclamation will also be sent to the secretary of state. Within 24 hours after receiving the copies, the Secretary of State's Office notifies all other election officials in the parish(es) where the recall election is to be held. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.7](#) for more information.

If the recall passes, the public officer is recalled and the office is vacated upon the expiration of the time period for contesting the recall election (4:30 p.m. on the ninth day after the date of the election) or if a contest is filed timely, upon the final judgment becoming definitive. The office will be filled as in the case of ordinary vacancies and according to the constitution and laws of the state. The recalled official cannot be appointed or be a candidate in the special election to fill the vacancy. In addition, if the recalled official is a member of a governing authority of a municipality governed by the Lawrason Act (Part I of Chapter 2 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes), they cannot be a candidate to fill any vacancy for the governing authority prior to the next regular scheduled election. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.13](#) for more information.

If the recall fails, no recall election for the same official shall be held within 18 months from the date of the failed recall election. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.14](#) for more information.

If the officer subject to the recall election resigns prior to the first day of early voting and the recall election is the only issue on the ballot, early voting and the recall election is not held. If the recall election is not the only issue on the ballot and the early voting ballot has been prepared, the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) shall post a notice of the resignation at each early voting location where the recall is on the ballot. If the Election Day ballot has been printed, the Clerk of Court's Office shall post notice of the resignation at each polling place where the recall is on the ballot. Any votes cast in the recall election shall be null and void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever. See [La. R.S. 18:1300.7](#) for more information.

### Recall History

[Recalls 1966-2013](#)

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## INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The Louisiana Secretary of State's Office attests to all official documents and commissions. All elected public officials except for Congress, file notices of retirement or resignation with the Secretary of State's Office. View [How to File a Notice of Retirement or Resignation](#) or [How to File an Oath of Office](#). Commissions certificates are issued to elected officials and gubernatorially appointed board members, as well as state departments and the legislature. View [How to Order a Commission Certificate or ID Card](#).

For additional information, view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) where you can find information on apostilles, who can perform marriage ceremonies, our hours of operation and forms or payment.

In accordance with [Article X, Section 21 of the Louisiana Constitution](#), a governmental [Code of Ethics](#) for officials and employees was created, enacted, and codified by [La R.S. 42:1101](#). The [Code of Ethics](#) intent was to increase public confidence in the integrity of government and the code ensures (1) independence and impartiality of elected officials and public employees, (2) that governmental decisions and policy are made in the proper channel of the government structure and (3) that public office and employment are not used for private gain.

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## FILE AN OATH OF OFFICE

### Oaths of Office (La. R.S. 42:141)

All public officers shall take and subscribe to the oath of office required by the [Louisiana Constitution, Article X, Section 30](#) before acting in their respective offices.

The secretary of state mails to each elected public officer a commission certificate, two [Oath of Office Forms](#) and an ID card at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the elected public officer's term of office.

The [Code of Governmental Ethics](#) is provided digitally on our website.

The following individuals can administer oaths of office:

- governor;
- secretary of state;
- judges;
- clerks of court;
- notaries public; and
- justices of peace.

Each public officer shall take his oath of office **within 30 days** after receipt of the commission. All state officers shall file their original oath of office with the secretary of state. All parish officials shall file an original with the secretary of state and a second original with the clerk of court in the parish where they are elected.

Information on the oath of office is entered into our database of elected and appointed officials, including name, address and telephone number(s). Information on oaths of office are public record.

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**FILE A NOTICE OF VACANCY**

A vacancy in an elected office may occur due to a variety of reasons, such as the resignation or retirement of the elected officer, death, removal from office, failure to take office for any reason, being elected and sworn into another office, moving out of the jurisdiction of a specific district, being recalled or by judgment.

All letters of resignation and retirement must be an *original* and must be *notarized*. The resignation shall become valid upon *receipt* of the original notarized letter in the Secretary of State's Office. When an original, notarized letter of resignation is received, the Commissions Division of the Secretary of State's Office will transmit the notice to the local governing authority who is required by law to make an appointment to fill the vacancy and call a special election to fill the vacancy, if more than one year remains in the term of office for certain elected officials or if more than 18 months remains in the term of office for certain parish or municipal governing authority members. Special elections are sometimes not necessary when the regular election will be held within one year to 18 months. Contact the [Elections Division](#) for specific information.

A notification of a death should include the name of the deceased elected official, the office title and date of death. Faxed or emailed copies are acceptable for a notification of death only.

Please refer to **La. R.S. 18:591; 601-604; 621; 652-654; and 671** for detailed information on specific elected offices.

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## CERTIFICATES OR ID CARDS

### Certificates

The governor makes appointments to various [boards and commissions](#), as well as state departments and the legislature. The Secretary of State's Commissions Division issues commission certificates for these appointees and maintains records of the appointments and resignations. The commission certificates are then forwarded to the Governor's Office who mails them out.

The Commissions Division is responsible for sending the commission certificates to all elected officials.

### ID cards

Elected and appointed officials are issued an ID card upon receipt of their signed and notarized oath of office form with our office. The ID cards are mailed to the address on the oath form. If lost, a replacement ID card may be obtained, the cost is \$5 each.

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# Louisiana Secretary of State

## Nancy Landry

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **When are commission certificates issued?**

- Issued to elected officials (except the president, U.S. senators and U.S. congressmen) and mailed by our office, with a Code of Governmental Ethics, oath of office form and ID card;
- issued to officials appointed by the governor, including members of boards and commissions, and mailed by the Governor's Office;
- issued to notaries;
- issued to assistant district attorneys when a letter of appointment and oath of office are received from the district attorney
- replacement certificates are issued when an original certificate has been lost or damaged, but require a written request with the name of the official, address and a \$20 replacement fee

#### **Who can perform marriages?**

A priest, minister, rabbi, clerk of the Religious Society of Friends or any clergyman of any religious sect who is authorized by the authorities of his religion to perform marriages must be registered with the clerk of court in the parish where he will principally perform marriage ceremonies. A state judge or justice of the peace can also perform marriage ceremonies.

#### **How can I receive a Certificate of Elected Service?**

Submit the name of the elected official; the office the person held; the year, month and day the person served in office; and a contact person's name and telephone number. A \$20 fee is required.

#### **What is an Apostille?**

An apostille is a specific form of authentication that is prepared pursuant to an international treaty known as the "Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirements of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents." The convention eliminates the need for authentication above the level of the secretary of state and is only accepted by countries that have signed the treaty.

#### **What times are walk ins taken?**

Walk ins are taken from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visitors must sign in at the front desk in the Commercial Division.

#### **What forms of payment do we accept?**

We accept cash, checks, money orders, credit cards and debit cards. Please make checks and money orders payable to: Secretary of State of Louisiana.





# Louisiana SECRETARY OF STATE NANCY LANDRY



<b>ELECTIONS &amp; VOTING</b>	<b>BUSINESS SERVICES</b>	<b>NOTARY &amp; CERTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>OUR OFFICE</b>
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Elections Hotline: 800-883-2805 TTD/TTY: 711  
**DIVISION OF ELECTION INTEGRITY: 800-722-5305**

[Click here to fill out an application to become an election worker](#)

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## GET INVOLVED

Voting is one of our most sacred rights as Americans. Secretary Landry encourages Louisianians to:

- vote because it is your right;
- vote to ensure your voice is heard;
- vote to make a better state for yourself and your family; and
- voting is one of the most powerful rights that a citizen has, and voter participation is crucial for an effective, truly representative government.

Our mission is to encourage citizens of Louisiana to protect and enrich their quality of life by exercising their rights and responsibilities as informed voters. Our outreach initiatives include:

- coordinating elections for schools and private organizations as a means to involve students and the community to think about voting and how it affects their lives;
- making presentations to schools and communities about the importance of voting;
- conducting and facilitating voter registration drives; and
- supporting registrars of voters and clerks of court in their efforts to recruit and inform voters by providing brochures and assisting with the voter registration process.

If you are interested in any of these events, please view our list of [programs](#).

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Elections Hotline: 800-883-2805 TTD/TTY: 711  
**DIVISION OF ELECTION INTEGRITY: 800-722-5305**

[Click here to fill out an application to become an election worker](#)

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## BECOME AN ELECTION WORKER

### Are You?

- A registered voter in Louisiana?
- A registered voter who is able to perform the essential duties of a commissioner?
- Able to attend a 1-2 hour training course?
- A nonresident active duty service member or dependent in Louisiana?
- A postsecondary student attending school in Louisiana?
- At least 17 years old and a high school senior or older?
- Interested in earning a paycheck while serving the community?

If you answered 'YES' to the questions above, you may be able to help your community by becoming an elections worker for upcoming elections.

### Interested in signing up? It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. To become an election worker, review the [Election Worker Flyer](#) and complete the [Election Worker Application](#).
2. Return the completed application to your parish [Clerk of Court's Office](#).
3. The parish [Clerk of Court's office](#) or [registrar](#) will contact you with your next steps.

### Job Description:

- *Election Day Commissioner - works only on Election Day*  
 Compensation depends on which certificates of instruction the commissioner has received:  
 -A commissioner who has received no certificates of instruction will earn \$35.  
 -A commissioner who has received a certificate of instruction will earn \$100.  
 -A commissioner who has received the pre-election certificate of instruction will earn \$200.  
 Arrive at least 30 - 60 minutes prior to polls opening.  
 Able to work for the entire day.
- *Election Day Commissioner-in-Charge - works only on Election Day.*  
 Earn \$250 (or \$350 if assigned to more than one precinct).  
 Arrive at least 30- 60 minutes prior to polls opening.  
 Able to work for the entire day.
- *Early Voting Commissioner - works for 7 days excluding Sundays.*  
 Earn \$150 per day.  
 Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to polls opening.  
 Able to work for the entire day.
- *Parish Board of Election Supervisors Commissioner - works for the counting and tabulation meeting(s)*  
 Earn \$50 per meeting (or \$100 if Secretary of State approves a request from the Parish Board for additional compensation for elections with exceptionally high amounts of absentee voting)  
 You will be notified about the time of meeting(s), but expect to work at least 4 hours.

### You must be able to:

- Provide your own transportation to your assigned precinct.
- You must remain at your assigned location all day, you are unable to leave during your shift.

### You cannot be a commissioner if:

- You are required to register as a sex offender or child predator pursuant to [La. R.S. 15:542. \(Act 221 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session.\)](#)

## Election Day Training Video

View the series of videos below for use by clerks of court and commissioners.

[2024 Election Day Training Video Part 1: Introduction](#)

[2024 Election Day Training Video Part 2: Verification](#)

[2024 Election Day Training Video Part 3: Pre-election Set Up](#)

[2024 Election Day Training Video Part 4: Election Day Voting](#)

[2024 Election Day Training Video Part 5: Closing the Polls](#)

[2024 Election Day Training Video Part 6: Provisional Voting](#)

## Commissioner Resources

[Informational Pamphlet](#)

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## ORGANIZE A REGISTRATION DRIVE

### Interested in conducting a voter registration drive?

Beginning August 1, 2024, all third-party voter registration organizations must register before conducting a third-party voter registration drive.

Individuals and entities interested in conducting a third-party voter registration drive must register with the Secretary of State's Office or their parish Registrar of Voters Office prior to conducting a drive by completing a [Voter Registration Drive Contact Form](#) and submitting it to our office or Registrar of Voters Office. (La. R.S. 18:119). You may submit in person to the Registrar of Voters Office, the Secretary of State's Office, or by emailing the contact form back to [outreach@sos.la.gov](mailto:outreach@sos.la.gov).

A third-party voter registration drive is defined as the solicitation, distribution, or collection of voter registration applications by a third-party voter registration organization. Individuals and entities are considered to be a third-party voter registration organization if they solicit, distribute, or collect voter registration applications and are not required by law to do so. Individuals who only seek to encourage or assist immediate family members in registering to vote do not have to register as a third-party voter registration organization.

[Contact us](#) to receive important information before conducting a voter registration drive and to order voter registration applications.

**IMPORTANT:** No individual or entity conducting a voter registration drive shall fill out information on another individual's voter registration application, except when providing assistance. No individual or entity can alter any information contained on the voter registration application. Voter registration applications submitted by applicants may contain private and protected information and cannot be copied or reproduced for any purpose other than fulfilling the person's duties relative to registration of voters as provided by law. All completed voter registration applications received by a third-party voter registration organization must be turned into the parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#) within 30 days of receipt of the completed application or by the close of registration for the next election, whichever occurs first. Please turn the completed registration forms into the Registrar of Voters Office of the parish in which the applicant resides.

Please see La. R.S. 18:1461.2 and R.S. 18:1461.7 for prohibited activities related to voter registration. Violators shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense.

### Voter Registration Drive Best Practices

Review the [Voter Registration Drive Packet](#) for more information on how to conduct a successful third-party voter registration drive.

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## EXPLORE PROGRAMS

The Secretary of State's Office offers programs and educational materials to individuals and organizations throughout the state regarding elections and voting in Louisiana.

### Private Elections

Private elections are conducted for schools and organizations at no charge. Examples of private elections include student government and homecoming elections. The AVC Edge voting machines are used to conduct the elections. These elections are subject to the availability of staff and voting machines. Staff will deliver the machines and stay for the duration of the election to operate the machines. Private elections may also be coordinated and/or conducted in conjunction with the local [Clerk of Court's Office](#) and/or [Registrar of Voters Office](#).

A request for an election must be submitted at least one month prior to the election date; however, please note that during election cycles, our schedule fills quickly. Therefore, we recommend requests be submitted 10 to 12 weeks prior to requested date as dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. The organization's name, contact information and the date and time for the election must be specified. Additionally, ballot submissions with race titles and candidate names must be received no later than two weeks prior to the election date. To request private election services, please complete the [contact form](#).

If a school or organization is interested in conducting an election using paper ballots or the larger AVC Advantage voting machines (used on Election Day), please include this information in your initial request. In addition, please note that these services are provided at a cost and are subject to availability.

**Note:** Private elections will not be conducted between Sept. 30 and Dec. 14 due to the fall primary and general elections.

### Voting Machine Demonstrations

Voter machine demonstrations are conducted for schools and organizations at no charge. The Edge voting machines are used to conduct the demonstrations. These demonstrations are subject to the availability of staff and voting machines. Staff will deliver the machines and stay for the duration of the demonstration to operate the machines. Demonstrations may also be coordinated and/or conducted in conjunction with the local [Clerk of Court's Office](#) and/or [Registrar of Voters Office](#).

A request must be submitted two weeks prior to the demonstration date; however, please note that during election cycles, our schedule fills quickly. Therefore, we recommend requests be submitted ten to twelve weeks prior to requested date, as dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. To request a voting machine demonstration, please complete the [contact form](#).

If a school or organization is interested in conducting a demonstration using the larger AVC Advantage voting machines (used on Election Day), please include this information in your initial request. In addition, please note that these services are provided at a cost and are subject to availability.

**Note:** Voting machine demonstrations will not be conducted between Sept. 30 and Dec. 14 due to the fall primary and general elections.

### Official Voter Registration Drives

Voter registration drives for Louisianians 17 or older are conducted and facilitated by the Louisiana Secretary of State's



Office or your local [Registrar of Voters Office](#). These drives are subject to the availability of staff.

A request must be submitted two weeks prior to the voter registration drive date; however, please note that during election cycles, our schedule fills quickly. Therefore, we recommend requests be submitted 10 to 12 weeks prior to requested date, as dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. To request voter registration services, please complete the [contact form](#).

**Educational Presentations**

Educational presentations about the importance of voting in Louisiana are available upon request. These presentations are subject to the availability of staff.

A request must be submitted two weeks prior to the presentation date; however, please note that during election cycles, our schedule fills quickly. Therefore, we recommend requests be submitted 10 to 12 weeks prior to requested date, as dates are reserved on a first come, first serve basis. To request an educational presentation, please complete the [contact form](#).

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## ELECTION INTEGRITY DIVISION

The Election Integrity Division, as part of the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office, is charged with the investigation and reporting of matters involving violations of the Louisiana election code. The division is composed of law enforcement officers with statewide jurisdiction. The division conducts investigations that involve voter fraud, vote buying and voter intimidation during early voting, absentee by mail voting and election day voting. In addition, the division also investigates allegations of persons providing false or misleading information to a registrar or to a commissioner during the registration or voting process.

During early voting and on election day, electioneering complaints should be brought to the attention of the commissioners who are working at the various precincts. The commissioners, along with local law enforcement, can address any problem areas.

The division works closely with district attorneys and local law enforcement officials around the state on any criminal violations of the election code. The district attorney is the agency for the review of all matters that may involve a criminal prosecution.

### Election Fraud Hotline

Complaints that may involve violations of the election code, including but not necessarily limited to those areas listed above, should be reported to the Election Integrity Division at 1.800.722.5305.

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## POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION

A political party shall be recognized if any one candidate of the political party for presidential elector received at least five percent of the votes cast in this state for presidential electors in the last presidential election, or if any one candidate of the political party for any statewide office received at least five percent of the votes cast for the statewide office in any primary or general election.

A political party recognized in this manner will cease to be recognized if no registered member of the party qualifies as a candidate in a primary election for any period of four consecutive years.

A political party may also be recognized in Louisiana 90 days prior to the opening of the qualifying period for any election if:

- there are at least 1,000 registered voters in the state registered as being affiliated with such party;
- the political party has filed a notarized [political party registration statement](#) with the secretary of state; and
- the political party has paid a registration fee of \$1,000 to the secretary of state.

See [La R.S.18:441](#) and [Political Parties in Louisiana](#) for more information. You may also review [administrative rules](#) regarding political parties.

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# Louisiana SECRETARY OF STATE NANCY LANDRY



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## CONDUCT AN EXIT POLL FOR AN ELECTION

In accordance with [La. R.S. 18:1462.1](#), exit polls must be registered with the Secretary of State. No person shall conduct an exit poll between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance to any polling place, unless the person conducting the polling has filed a [registration statement](#) necessary with the Secretary of State prior to the start of early voting or election day, as applicable.

The [registration statement](#) may be filed in person, by facsimile, or electronic mail.

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## REVIEW ADMINISTRATION & HISTORY

The Secretary of State's Elections Division is responsible for:

- administering all laws governing voter registration and elections;
- maintaining the statewide voter registration system;
- scheduling elections and qualifying candidates for elections;
- purchasing and maintaining absentee, early voting and election day voting equipment;
- programming all equipment with election specific information and delivering and testing on all equipment statewide;
- printing and distributing absentee paper ballots;
- statewide support of administering elections during early voting and on election day;
- election night tally and transmission of results;
- paying for all election expenses; and
- compiling, reporting and maintaining official elections returns and statistics.

Also, the governor issues and the secretary of state countersigns the official commission that entitles elected or appointed officials to hold office. The secretary of state publishes the Louisiana Roster of Officials, the [Louisiana Election Code](#) with all of Louisiana's elections statutes, and the Election Returns Books that contain precinct-by-precinct returns for all presidential and gubernatorial elections.

For more information on the specific duties of election officials, review [Election Officials Duties](#).

### History of Elections

For many centuries, people have sought a simple, quick and accurate way of expressing and recording their wishes. The ancient Greeks voted by acclamation, by division into groups or by balloting with shells and bronze disks of different sizes. Another means used consisted of placing a pebble or little ball in an urn, hence the word ballot from the Italian ballotta, meaning little ball. The little balls could have been white in color for an affirmative vote or black for a negative vote. From there came the term blackballed that is still used today to describe rejection. These were forerunners of today's elections with voting machines.

In 139 B.C. the first written ballot was used in Rome. It was not until 1872 that secret voting for elected officials was adopted (in England). The opposition termed it "the deadly mischief of making numbers the sole test of public opinion." The first record of the use of the secret ballot in America was in 1629 when the members of the Salem church chose their pastor. A few years later the Colony of Massachusetts adopted this method to elect civil magistrates. In these early days, little secrecy was afforded the voter in marking his or her ballot. Each party or faction distributed its own ballot among the voters. Frequently printed on colored paper, it was readily possible to determine which ballot the voter selected.

The Australian ballot was introduced in this country in 1888. Under this system, the ballots were printed at public expense by the officials charged with the conduct of elections. The names of all candidates for each office are grouped on the same ballot and the voter indicates his choice by marking an x for each candidate he or she favors. This provided some degree of secrecy for the voter.

During this struggle to permit the people to decide the fate of government by secret ballot, many people sought to perfect a fair, infallible, yet simple method of voting and vote counting by machine.

Thomas A. Edison was a pioneer in this field. His very first patent, issued June 1, 1869, was for an electrographic vote recorder, which he built in the hope it might be used in Congress. While never adopted for public use, his ideas paved the way for voting machines today.

The first voting machine used in an election (in



Lockport, New York, in 1892) was the invention of safemaker Jacob H. Meyers. It was a massive device, too cumbersome for wide spread use. Four years later, the United States Voting Machine Company of Jamestown marketed an improved device which soon secured widespread use throughout New York State. This organization was the parent of the Automatic Voting Machine Corporation of Jamestown, New York, that manufactured the AVM voting machines. Samuel R. Shoup followed this example, built his own lever voting machine and founded the Shoup Voting Machine Corporation in 1905. The two rivals grew to dominate the

American market. By 1928, one of six citizens voted on an AVM or Shoup voting machine. Many of these machines were still working and used in the 2000 presidential election. They were only eradicated due to the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

Interestingly, about 5,100 old lever machines were [brought out of retirement](#) and used in New York's mayors race in the fall of 2013. Though they were replaced with a \$95 million electronic system in 2010, it took 72 days to determine the winner of a special election for State Senate in Brooklyn in 2012. The Board of Elections determined that it couldn't collect, reprogram and test all of the electronic machines in the three weeks between the September 10 primary and a possible runoff on October 1.

### Voting Machines in Louisiana

In Louisiana voting machines were first introduced in Orleans Parish in the early 1940's. They were Shoup machines that were mechanical with a vertical ballot placement which allowed for 500 voting positions. Shoup voting machines were next acquired in East Baton Rouge Parish, Calcasieu Parish and Caddo parish. The original Shoup voting machines remained in service in Louisiana for more than 50 years.



In 1952, former Judge Robert F. Kennon won election as Governor of Louisiana. He decided to challenge the notion that Louisiana was laughable because of corrupt politics. In the first year of his administration, legislation was passed and an appropriation was made to acquire voting machines at state expense for every parish in the state.

The AVM Corporation and the Shoup Voting Machine Corporation were still the biggest manufacturers of voting machines at this time. Neither company could produce the numbers of machines required to fill the Louisiana order within the time specified, so the machines were ordered from both manufacturers and would be placed in whole congressional districts.

Since Orleans, East Baton Rouge, Calcasieu and Caddo already had some Shoup voting machines, the congressional districts 1, 2, 4, 6 & 7 would all get Shoup voting machines. There were 34 parishes in these five congressional districts. The rest of the state that included congressional districts 3, 5 & 8 were slated to get the AVM machines. Both machines had the same capacity (500 voting levers) and all the same security features as required by the Voting Machine Law of 1952. The AVM machine was different only in that the ballot presentation was horizontal and mostly at eye level with the voter. Additionally, the top part of the voting machine descends into the lower case that facilitates handling when transporting from storage to precinct and back.



Voting machines were in the custody and control of Secretary of State Wade O. Martin, Jr., a veteran of many years in public office. Immediately after the passage of the Voting Machine Law in the 1952 legislative session, which allocated \$1,500,000 for the purchase of voting machines in parishes in which voting machines were not presently in use, arrangements to provide for the receipt and storage of these massive devices (1000 pounds) began. The law provided that at least one voting machine would be purchased for each precinct in the state with additional machines provided under a formula that would allow one machine for every 400 registered voters or major part thereof. Consolidation of precincts, which was and continues to be the duty of the parish governing authority, eliminated many small precincts to make for a more efficient use of the machines.

After acquiring the new machines, drayage contracts were negotiated to distribute the voting machines to the respective parishes for permanent storage. Some voting machines were delivered by boat or barge, as there were a number of voting precincts isolated by water. Bayou Chene, Atchafalaya, Stephenville and Belle River in St. Martin Parish had permanently assigned machines. Pecan Island in Vermilion Parish was another as were Pilottown, Ostrica and Olga in Plaquemines Parish.



The secretary of state set up an election department within his office and began to assemble and train a full time staff of service technicians to maintain the voting machines in all 64 parishes. Besides training staff for operating and maintaining the new voting machines the secretary of state embarked on a large scale public education program. Parish clerks of court, who were and still are the chief election officials at the parish level, were extensively involved in demonstrating the new voting device that would change the election process in Louisiana forever.

Voting machines were placed in each courthouse where visitors and interested citizens had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the operation of this newest addition to the election process in Louisiana.



Universities, high schools, civic and church groups were offered the use of voting machines for their private elections and thereby gave more people the opportunity to learn the very simple procedure of voting on a mechanical voting machine. It was believed then, as it is today that to start the process of inculcation with the youth of our state would eventually arouse the interest of the older segment of our population. It worked very well. Thousands

of people had the opportunity for hands on experience with the mechanical giant before an official election would be held. To this day, Louisiana proudly offers this service for private elections through the outreach division.

### Voting Systems in Louisiana



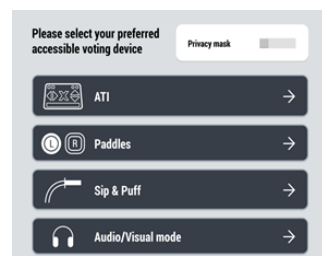
For early voting beginning in the fall of 2019, all Louisiana voters will use the ImageCast® X (or "ICX") voting system leased from Dominion Voting Systems. Early voting is held 14 to seven days prior to any scheduled election at each [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at designated locations in the parish.

On this small and easy to operate touchscreen system, the voter will scroll through their entire ballot to vote. The election results are easily printed and stored on a cartridge that is delivered to the Parish Board of Election Supervisors for tabulation on Election Day.

The ICX unit was designed as a voting solution for all and offers several options for voters with accessibility needs to vote in a private and independent manner. The ICX offers the following user interfaces:

- Visual mode: The voter navigates their ballot using one of the available accessibility tools and the visual display.
- Audio mode: The visual display can be disabled, and the voter uses headphones to navigate an audio ballot using one of the available accessibility tools.
- Visual and audio mode: The voter navigates their ballot using one of the available accessibility tools, the visual display and the audio ballot.

In addition to the touchscreen functionality, the ICX is compatible with a range of accessibility tools that voters can use to navigate through the ballot and make their selections. The system is compatible with accessibility devices such as the Audio Tactile Interface (ATI) handheld controller, a four-way joystick, a sip and puff device or a paddle device. The ATI has raised keys that are identifiable tactilely without activation (e.g., raised buttons of different shapes and colors, large or Braille numbers and letters), can be operated with one hand and includes a 3.5 mm headphone jack. The images below include what a voter selecting an accessible voting device will see on the machine and what the ATI looks like.



*The ImageCast X is compatible with a range of accessibility tools and can present the ballot in audio only, visual only or both audio/visual mode.*



Beginning with the Fall of 2006, all of Louisiana's voters began using the AVC Advantage voting systems for election day



voting. On this direct recording electronic voting system, the entire ballot appears on the screen.



Over a period of 15 years, the state began procuring these voting systems for 12 parishes in Louisiana. Since 2005, federal funds which were awarded through the Help America Vote Act of 2002 were used to procure voting systems for the remainder of the state.

The ballot has large type and is easy to read. The AVC Advantage voting system is wheelchair accessible and is capable of using an audio voting keypad, available for voters with disabilities. The election results are easily printed and stored on a cartridge which is delivered to the clerk of court after the polls are closed.

Since 2006, Louisiana's voters have had access to using the AVC Audio Handset, which makes the AVC Advantage voting system accessible to individuals who are visually impaired, physically disabled, struggle with the written word, unable to read the written word, or unable to read English.



There are no requirements for a voter to use the AVC Audio Handset.

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## FEDERAL LAW

The Code of Laws of the United States of America is a compilation and codification of the general and permanent federal laws of the United States. It currently contains 51 titles.

Since its creation, a substantial amount of federal legislation related to voting and elections has been enacted. In 1926, however, when the original organizational scheme for the United States Code was established, there were a limited number



of provisions on this subject so no distinct title for voting and elections was created at that time. As this body of statutory material grew over the decades, much of it was incorporated into the United States Code in Title 42 (*The Public Health and Welfare*). Other provisions related to voting and elections were incorporated into the United States Code in Title 2 (*The Congress*), Title 3 (*The President*), Title 26 (*Internal Revenue Code*), and Title 48 (*Territories and Insular Possessions*).

### Voting Rights Act of 1965

The [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#) (42 U.S.C. §§ 1973-1973aa-6) is a landmark piece of national legislation in the United States that outlawed discriminatory voting practices that had been responsible for the widespread disenfranchisement of African Americans in the U.S. "Voting Rights Act." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 26

March 2013 Web.

Echoing the language of the 15th Amendment, the Act prohibits states from imposing any "voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure ... to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color."Id. The Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who had earlier signed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. Id.

The Act established federal administrative oversight of elections administration, providing that states and jurisdictions with a history of discriminatory voting practices, called covered jurisdictions, could not implement any [change affecting voting](#) without first obtaining approval either through an administrative process with the Department of Justice, known as preclearance, or through a declaratory judgment action in the District Court of the District of Columbia. The entire state of Louisiana was a covered jurisdiction.

The Act has been renewed and amended by congress five times, a 25-year extension was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2006. "Voting Rights Act." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 26 March 2013 Web.

On June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that the 40 plus year practice of preclearance is no longer relevant, and struck down part of the Act. States are no longer required to undergo special scrutiny from the Federal Government before changing their voting laws. With this 5-4 ruling, there are no longer any covered jurisdictions in the United States.

### Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)

The [Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act \(UOCAVA\)](#) (42 USC 1973ff et seq. 1986) was enacted by congress in 1986. The act requires that all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands allow certain U.S. citizens to register to vote and to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections. "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 12 June 2011 Web. Louisiana has extended this federal law to state elections.

UOCAVA covers members of the seven uniformed services and the U.S. Merchant Marine and their eligible family members. It also covers U.S. citizens employed by the federal government residing outside the U.S. and other private U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

The Act provides for an emergency back-up ballot, the [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#), which can be cast by voters who "have made a timely application for but have not received their regular ballot from the state or territory, subject to certain conditions." "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 12 June 2011 Web.

### **National Voter Registration Act Of 1993 (NVRA)**

The [National Voter Registration Act \(NVRA\)](#) (42 U.S.C. § 1973gg), also known as The Motor Voter Act, was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on May 20, 1993, but did not require implementation until January 1, 1995. The legislation required state governments to allow for registration when a qualifying voter applied for or renewed their driver's license or applied for social services. "National Voter Registration Act of 1993." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 2 February 2013 Web.

To comply with the federal mandate, the Louisiana legislature adopted Act 10 of the Third Extraordinary Session of 1994. Since states combine elections for federal and state offices, Louisiana opted to adopt a law which affected procedures for both federal and state offices maintaining a single voter registration system. The secretary of state is designated the chief election official responsible for the coordination of the state's duties under the NVRA.

View [Louisiana's National Voter Registration Act Pamphlet](#)

The main intent of Act 10 is to make it easier for persons to participate in the electoral process by providing new and innovative ways to register to vote. These programs not only bring new voters into the election process, but they also bring new people to the task of registration administration. The people who directly perform the intake function of NVRA programs will be employees of driver's license offices and other public assistance agencies, as well as party workers and activists using mail registration applications in voter registration drives.

In addition to registering online, by mail, or in person at a parish Registrar of Voters office, voter registration is offered under the NVRA in connection with a designated service at driver's license facilities, public assistance offices through the food stamp program, Medicaid program, Women, Infants, and Children program, Family Independence Temporary Assistance program and other social services offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities. Additionally, registration is offered at recruitment offices of the Armed Forces, public colleges, universities and high schools, and other private high schools, colleges, universities and municipalities who have chosen to participate in the NVRA.

### **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)**

The [Help America Vote Act of 2002 \(HAVA\)](#) (Pub.L. 107-252), or HAVA, is a United States federal law which passed in the House 357-48 and 92-2 in the Senate and was signed into law by President Bush on October 29, 2002. "Help America Vote Act." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 13 March 2013 Web. Drafted (at least in part) in reaction to the controversy surrounding the 2000 U.S. presidential election, the goals of HAVA were to replace punch card and lever-based voting systems; to create the Election Assistance Commission to assist in the administration of Federal elections; and to establish minimum election administration standards. Id.

View the [Help America Vote Act of 2002 \(HAVA\)](#), the [Original Louisiana State Plan](#), the [Louisiana Amended State Plan \(Amendment #1\)](#), the [Louisiana Amended State Plan \(Amendment #2\)](#), the [Louisiana Consolidated State Plan \(Amendments #1 & #2\)](#), or the [Louisiana Amended State Plan \(Amendment #3\)](#).

The Impact Of HAVA Elections In Louisiana

The new HAVA legislation mandated a number of changes in the way elections are conducted, and introduced several requirements designed to improve the voting process. Federal funds were made available to the secretary of state's office through the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to assist with improving election administration, replacing lever-operated voting machines and punch cards with new voting equipment and machines, improving voter accessibility to voting systems and polling places, training elections officials and poll workers and educating the voters of Louisiana.

HAVA Complaints

All official complaints concerning non-compliance with HAVA legislation should be reported to the state board of election

supervisors by forwarding the complaint to the secretary of state's office utilizing the [Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\) Complaint Form \(HAVA-COM\)](#). You may also view [HAVA Complaints](#).

### **Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE ACT)**

The [Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act \(or MOVE Act\)](#) is Subtitle H of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (H.R. 2647, Pub.L. 111-84, 123 Stat. 2190.) and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on October 28, 2009. "Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 10 March 2013 Web. The overall purpose of the law is to help military serving overseas and citizens who live abroad vote in U.S. elections. Id.

The Louisiana Legislature passed Act 624 (HB 1200, R.S. 2010) to implement the MOVE Act for Louisiana's military and overseas voters. The law was amended by Act 195 (HB 524, R.S. 2011). View information for [military and overseas voters](#).

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## READ ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The secretary of state (and the previous commissioner of elections) has rule making authority under La. R.S. 36:742 and the [Louisiana Election Code](#) to promulgate administrative rules to provide more detail for certain election laws passed by the Legislature that set broad policy. Visit the Division of Administration's website for more information about the [Louisiana Administrative Code](#).

### Permanent Rules

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##### Part I. Elections Process

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- [Chapter 5 Voter Registration at Optional Voter Registration Agencies](#)
- [Chapter 7 Standards for Effective Non-Partisan Voter Registration and Voter Education](#)

##### Part III. Procurement

- [Chapter 1 Procurement of Voting System Drayage and Storage](#)
- [Chapter 3 Procurement and Certification of Voting Equipment](#)

### Rules (Includes Additions, Deletions and Amendments to New or Existing Rules)

#### Title 31. Elections

##### Part I. Elections Process

- [Chapter 8 Voting Technology Fund \(Adopted 11.20.17\)](#)

##### Part II. Voter Registration and Voter Education

- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Adopted 4.20.15\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Repeals the Appeal of Merit Evaluation for Registrars of Voters \(Adopted 12.20.17\)\)](#)
- [Chapter 2 Registrars of Voters \(State Board of Election Supervisors\) \(Appeal of Merit Evaluation for Registrars of Voters\) \(Adopted 12.20.17\)](#)

### Emergency Rules

#### Title 31. Elections



## Part I. Election Process

- [Chapter 3 Opportunity to Cure Deficiencies in Absentee by Mail Ballots \(Permanent Rule Effective 10.20.21\)](#)

## Part II. Voter Registration and Voter Education

- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Merit Evaluation for Registrars of Voters\) \(Adopted 10.24.14\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Merit Evaluation for Registrars of Voters\) \(Adopted 2.18.15\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Appeal of Merit Evaluation for Registrars of Voters\) \(Adopted 10.30.15\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Rescinds Emergency Rule Issued on 10.30.15\) \(Adopted 11.30.15\)](#)

**Notice of Intent**

## Title 31. Elections

## Part I. Elections Process

- [Chapter 3 Opportunity to Cure Deficiencies in Absentee by Mail Ballots \(Published 6.20.21\)](#)
- [Chapter 3 Determination of Cure Sufficiency \(Published 4.20.24\)](#)
- [Chapter 8 Voting Technology \(New Rule\) \(Published 6.20.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 9 Recognition of Political Parties \(Published 9.20.18\)](#)

## Part II. Voter Registration and Voter Education

- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Amend Section 105 Sale of Voter Registration Lists\) \(Published 11.20.13\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Amend Sections 107 and 109 and Adopt Section 108\) \(Published 12.20.14\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Amend 107 and 109 and Repeal 108\) \(Initial Report Submitted 9.8.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Amend 107 and 109 and Repeal 108\) \(Published 9.20.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 2 Registrar of Voters \(State Board of Election Supervisors\) \(Appeal of Merit Evaluation for Registrars of Voters\) \(Published 9.20.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 3 Voter Registration at Driver's License Facilities \(Amend Sections 303-313\) \(Published 2.20.19\)](#)

**Legislative Narrative Reports Submitted**

## Title 31. Elections

## Part I. Election Process

- [Chapter 3 Determination of Cure Sufficiency Summary Report \(Submitted 5.21.24\)](#)
- [Chapter 3 Opportunity to Cure Deficiencies in Absentee by Mail Ballots \(Initial Report Submitted 6.9.21\)](#)
- [Chapter 3 Opportunity to Cure Deficiencies in Absentee by Mail Ballots \(Second Report Submitted 8.11.21\)](#)
- [Chapter 8 Voting Technology \(Initial Report Submitted 6.8.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 8 Voting Technology \(Second Report Submitted 9.27.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 9 Recognition of Political Parties \(Initial Report Submitted 9.10.18\)](#)
- [Chapter 11 Emergency Election Day Paper Ballot Voting Procedures \(Submitted 3.12.13\)](#)

## Part II. Voter Registration and Voter Education

- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Amend Section 105 Sale of Voter Registration Lists\) \(Submitted 1.9.14\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Amend Section 107 and 109 and Adopt Section 108 Merit Evaluation for Registrars of Voters\) \(Submitted 2.26.15\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Adopt Section 117 Prohibition on Accumulation of Annual, Sick and Compensatory Leave for Registrars of Voters\) \(Submitted 11.25.13\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Amend 107 and 109 and Repeal 108\) \(Initial Report Submitted 9.20.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Amend 107 and 109 and Repeal 108\) \(Second Report Submitted 11.7.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 2 Registrars of Voters \(State Board of Election Supervisors\) \(Appeal of Merit Evaluation for Registrar of Voters\) \(Initial Report Submitted 9.8.17\)](#)
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- [Chapter 3 Voter Registration at Driver's License Facilities \(Amend Sections 303-313\) \(Submitted 2.7.19\)](#)
- [Chapter 4 Voter Registration at Mandatory Voter Registration Agencies in the State that Provide Public Assistance or Provide State-funded Programs Primarily Engaged in Providing Services to Persons with Disabilities \(Submitted 9.4.13\)](#)

**Potpourri**

## Title 31. Elections

## Part I. Election Process

- [Chapter 8 Voting Technology \(Substantive Change\) \(Published 8.20.17\)](#)
- [Chapter 9 Recognition of Political Parties \(Substantive Change\) \(Published 4.20.19\)](#)

## Public Hearings Scheduled

### Title 31. Elections

#### Part I. Election Process

- [Chapter 8 Voting Technology \(New\) \(Agenda for Tuesday, July 24, 2017 at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge\)](#)
- [Chapter 8 Voting Technology \(New\) \(Agenda for Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge\) \(See Potpourri\)](#)
- [Chapter 9 Recognition of Political Parties \(Amend Rule\) \(Agenda for Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018 at the Department of State in Baton Rouge\)](#)
- [Chapter 9 Recognition of Political Parties \(Amend Rule\) \(Agenda for Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge\) \(See Potpourri\)](#)

#### Part II. Voter Registration and Voter Education

- [Chapter 1 Registrars of Voters \(Amend Sections 107 and 109 and Adopt Section 108\) \(Notice of Intent\) \(Agenda for Monday, Jan. 26, 2015 at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge\)](#)
- [Chapter 1 Registrar of Voters \(Amend 107 and 109 and Repeal 108\) \(Agenda for Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge\)](#)
- [Chapter 2 Registrar of Voters \(State Board of Election Supervisors\) \(Appeal of Merit Evaluation by Registrar of Voters\) \(New\) \(Agenda for Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017 at 1 p.m. at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge\)](#)
- [Chapter 3 Voter Registration at Driver's License Facilities \(Agenda for Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 1 p.m. at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge\)](#)

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## PRESERVE A PROCES VERBAL

Pursuant to R.S. 18:1293, "the governing authority ordering the election shall preserve a proces verbal of the canvass. If the election affects ad valorem taxation, the governing authority shall include a copy of the notice of election and proof of publication of the notice in the proces verbal. The governing authority shall forward a copy of the proces verbal to the secretary of state, who shall record it. A copy also shall be forwarded to the clerk of the district court, and in Orleans Parish to the clerk of the civil district court, who shall record it in the mortgage records. A copy shall be retained in the archives of the office of the governing authority ordering the election."

After a proposition election, regardless of whether the proposition passes or fails, the governing authority shall forward the proces verbal to the Secretary of State, along with a check made payable to the Secretary of State for the certificate(s) and number of pages, to the following address:

Louisiana Secretary of State  
Elections Services  
P. O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125

The fee to file a proces verbal is \$10 for the certificate and \$2 per page to record. For additional information or to obtain copies of previously filed proces verbals, please [contact us](#) or call Elections Services at 225.922.0900.

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## GET BOND, DEBT OR TAX COSTS

### Request estimated cost for bond, debt or tax election

Act 205 of the 2019 Regular Session requires the notice of election for bond, debt and tax elections called after Sept. 23, 2019 to state the estimated cost of the election as determined by the secretary of state. The request for the estimated cost may be submitted electronically using our [contact form](#).

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## ACTUAL COST INFORMATION

### Obtain actual cost for bond, debt or tax election

Act 205 of the 2019 Regular Session requires the governing authority to include in the publication of the result of the election a statement of the actual cost of the election as determined by the secretary of state for a bond, debt or tax election called after Sept. 23, 2019. An invoice that provides the actual election cost is mailed by the secretary of state to the governing authority 45 to 60 days after the election is closed and distributed. The actual election cost may be obtained from the governing authority who called the bond, debt or tax election upon receipt of the invoice from the secretary of state.

Contact Richard Adcock at 225.922.1228 for questions and information.

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#### Members:

[Hon. Kyle Ardoin, Secretary of State](#)

[Sherri Hadskey, Commissioner of Elections](#)

[Hon. Sam Jenkins](#)

[Hon. Bridget Hanna](#)

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#### Press:

[Secretary Ardoin announces rescheduled Voting System Commission date](#)

[Voting System Commission deadline suspended](#)

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### HCR 14 Disability Voting Rights Task Force

Oct. 10 Meeting Livestream: <https://youtu.be/xP0IN9HK7WA>

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## ELECTION PUBLICATIONS

To obtain a copy of election publications, please [contact](#) the Elections Services or call us at 225.922.0900; fax at 225.922.0197; or mail to Secretary of State, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

To see a detailed description of each publication, go to [Obtain Publications](#).

To see the fees for each publication, go to [Fee Schedule](#).

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## ELECTIONS FORMS

The Department of State offers forms, handbooks and reports to assist citizens in navigating the Louisiana electoral process.

## Voter Forms

- [Louisiana Voter Registration Application](#)
- [Cancel Voter Registration Form](#)
- [General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
- [Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
- [Military or Overseas Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
- [Over 65 and Disability Absentee Program Opt-Out Form](#)
- [Military or Overseas Absentee Ballot Program Opt-Out Form](#)

## Candidate Forms

- [Affidavit of Acceptance of Nomination \(Presidential Recognized Party Candidates\)](#)
- [Affidavit of Acceptance of Nomination \(Presidential Electors that are not affiliated with a recognized political party\)](#)
- [Agent Affidavit](#)
- [Candidate Withdrawal Form](#)
- [Military Qualifying Certification](#)
- [Nominating Petition for qualifying in lieu of qualifying fees for congressional, state, or local office](#)
- [Nominating Petition for qualifying in lieu of qualifying fees for the presidential preference primary](#)
- [Nominating Petition for qualifying in lieu of qualifying fees for candidates that are not affiliated with a recognized political party for presidential elector for president and vice president.](#)
- [Notice of Candidacy Form \(Standard Form\)](#)
- [Notice of Candidacy Form \(Presidential Preference Primary\)](#)
- [Notice of Candidacy Form \(Presidential Electors that are not affiliated with a recognized political party\)](#)
- [Recognized party filing information and forms for Presidential Electors](#)
- [Not affiliated with a recognized political party filing information for Presidential Electors](#)

## Poll Watcher Forms

- [Poll Watchers Booklet](#)
- [Early Voting Political Party Watchers List](#)
- [Election Day Political Party Super Watchers List](#)
- [Election Day Watchers List for Candidates and Propositions](#)

## Other Forms/Brochures/Handbooks

- [Incorporation Petition](#)
- [Incorporation Petition Chairperson Affidavit Form](#)
- [National Voter Registration Act Implementation Manual](#)
- [Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Security District Petition](#)
- [Parish Board of Election Supervisors Handbook](#)
- [Political Party Registration Statement](#)
- [Provisional Voting Guide](#)
- [Recall Petition For Statewide Official](#)
- [Recall Petition \(For All Officials Except Statewide\)](#)
- [Securing Your Vote Poster](#)
- [Voting Precinct Handbook](#)

## Election Expense Forms

- [Early Voting Request for Security Form](#)
- [Election Day Request For Security Form](#)
- [Election Time and Expense Report \(Hourly Rate Pay Form\) - Fillable](#)



- [Election Time and Expense Report \(Hourly Rate Pay Form\) - Non-Fillable](#)
- [Election Time and Expense Report \(Flat Rate Pay Form\) - Fillable](#)
- [Election Time and Expense Report \(Flat Rate Pay Form\) - Non-Fillable](#)
- [Expense Reimbursement Form - Fillable](#)
- [Expense Reimbursement Form - Non-Fillable](#)
- [Expense Approval Request Form](#)
- [Election Expense Manual for COC and PBES](#)
- [ROV Request for Part-time Employees](#)
- [Travel Expense Form](#)

**Parish Polling Places**

- [Parish Grant Application Form](#)
- [Parish Polling Place Accessibility Survey and Checklist](#)
- [Polling Place Lease Agreement](#)

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## REVIEW VOTING BROCHURES

The Secretary of State's Office has developed educational materials to assist citizens in understanding the Louisiana voting process.

For information about cybersecurity and protecting Louisiana's elections, view our [Securing Your Vote](#) brochure.

For individuals or organizations seeking to conduct a successful voter registration drive, review [Voter Registration Drive Best Practices](#).

The Election Day [Bill of Rights](#) outlines the rights and responsibilities of Louisiana voters.

The Audio Voting Keypad is available for use in voting on Election Day. The Audio Tactile Interface (ATI) is a similar keypad used during early voting. The keypad may be used by any voter, especially those individuals who are visually impaired, physically disabled, illiterate, unable to read the written word or unable to read English. There are no requirements for a voter to use the keypad. View the [Guide to Using the Audio Voting Keypad](#) and the [Audio Tactile Interface Instructions](#) for more information. Braille versions of both are also available.

The [Informational Pamphlet for Election Day Voting](#) is a useful tool for Election Day commissioners.

View the [Louisiana Election Code](#), Title 18 of Louisiana's Revised Statutes.

The [Voting in Louisiana](#) booklet contains general information about registering to vote and voting in Louisiana.

The [Disabled, Senior and Nursing Home Voter Information](#) booklet complements the Voting in Louisiana booklet and contains information on the entire voter registration and voting process.

View and print a [Poll Watchers Booklet](#) to learn about the commissioning, qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers. Visit [here](#) for more information.

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[Commissioner of Elections Sherri Wharton Hadskey](#)

225.922.0900

225.922.0945 fax

[Elections Accounting](#)

225.922.0900

225.922.0945 fax

[Elections Business](#)

225.922.0900

800.883.2805

225.922.0945 fax

[Election Integrity Division](#)

800.722.5305

225.925.4771 fax

[Elections Field](#)

225.922.2486

225.922.2910 fax

[Elections Operations](#)

225.922.2486

225.922.0826 fax

[Elections Services](#)

225.922.0900

800.883.2805

225.922.1167 fax

[Disability Program](#)

225.922.0900

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