



Louisiana Clerks
OF COURT ASSOCIATION

ELECTIONS

2025 Legislative Update

Clerks Institute – Wednesday, August 13, 2025

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SENATE BILL NO. 90

BY SENATORS EDMONDS, FESI, KLEINPETER, MIGUEZ, MILLER, REESE AND WOMACK

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:1461.7(A)(10), relative to election offenses; to prohibit betting or wagering
3 on elections; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 18:1461.7(A)(10) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 §1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

7 A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

8 * * *

9 **(10) Participate in any bet or wager that is based upon any contingency**
10 **whatsoever that arises from an election conducted pursuant to this Title,**
11 **including any of the following:**

12 **(a) Making an offer to bet or wager on an election.**

13 **(b) Accepting a bet or wager on an election.**

14 **(c) Taking a share or monetary interest in a bet or wager on an election.**

15 **(d) Providing money to be used by another person in making a bet or**
16 **wager on an election.**

17 **(e) Acting in any manner to become a party to a bet or wager on an**
18 **election.**

19 * * *

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

SENATE BILL NO. 80

BY SENATOR MILLER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1462.1(B) and to enact R.S. 18:1462.1(D), relative to exit
3 polling; to define exit polling; to provide for the conduct of exit polling; and to
4 provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1462.1(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
7 18:1462.1(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1462.1. Registration of persons conducting exit polling during early voting or on
9 election day; penalties

10 * * *

11 B.(1) No person shall conduct an exit poll between the hours of 6:00 a.m.
12 and 9:00 p.m. within any polling place being used in an election on election day or
13 during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance to any
14 polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, unless
15 the person conducting the polling has filed a registration statement with the secretary
16 of state prior to the start of early voting or election day, as applicable. The
17 registration statement may be filed in person, by facsimile, or by electronic mail.

18 **(2) The exit poll shall be conducted in a nondisruptive manner.**

19 * * *

20 **D.(1) "Exit poll" as used in this Section shall mean a poll of voters by a**
21 **bona fide news gathering organization as defined in R.S. 44:3.1.1 leaving a**
22 **polling place to gather basic demographic information and determine how**
23 **voters voted on candidates and propositions in an election.**

4 * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED: _____

ACT No. 75

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 281

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1462(A)(4), relative to acts prohibited during early voting or
3 on election day; to prohibit the wearing of campaign apparel; to provide for
4 penalties; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1462(A)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1462. Acts prohibited during early voting or on election day; electioneering;
8 intimidation; exceptions; enforcement; penalties

9 A. The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the right to vote is a right
10 that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government. In order to
11 preserve the integrity of its election process, and to protect the right of citizens to
12 vote freely for the candidates of their choice, the state has a compelling interest in
13 establishing a zone securing polling locations against certain conduct and activities,
14 including voter intimidation, election fraud, confusion, and general disorder, that
15 would interfere with the exercise of the right to vote. The legislature, therefore,
16 enacts this Subsection to provide for a six hundred foot campaign-free zone around
17 polling places to provide to each voter such an environment in which to exercise his
18 right to vote. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, it shall be unlawful
19 for any person, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., to perform or cause to
20 be performed any of the following acts within any polling place being used in an
21 election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet

3 * * *

7 * * *

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

8

ACT No. 80

2025 Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 351
BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

1 AN ACT
2 To enact R.S. 18:1401(G), relative to objections to candidacy; to provide for penalties for
3 attesting to false information in a notice of candidacy; to provide for an effective
4 date; and to provide for related matters.
5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1401(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
7 §1401. Objections to candidacy; contests of elections; contests of certification of
8 recall petition; parties authorized to institute actions; penalties
9 * * *
10 G. Upon a determination that a candidate knowingly attested to false
11 information in a notice of candidacy, the court shall assess court costs and attorney
12 fees, and the court may impose any other sanctions the court deems appropriate
13 against the candidate.
14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
18 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

ACT No. 84

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 420

BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:441(B)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:107(G) and 441(B)(4) and (E), relative to political parties; to provide for recognition of a political party; to provide for party affiliation for voter registration; to prohibit recognition of certain political parties; to prohibit designation of party affiliation with certain parties for voter registration; to require a change in party affiliation under certain circumstances; to provide for a procedure allowing a political party to request that it be dissolved; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:441(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:107(G) and 441(B)(4) and (E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§107. Party affiliation ~~not required~~ for registration; change in party affiliation

* * *

G.(1) A person who applies for registration on or after August 1, 2025, shall not be designated as "Independent" or designated as being affiliated with the "Independent Party". An applicant who declares party affiliation as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party" shall have his party affiliation entered as "No Party".

1 The Department of State shall notify the registrant of the change pursuant to R.S.
 2 18:109. The notice shall contain an explanation for the change in registration.

3 (2) A registrant who is registered as "Independent" or designated as being
 4 affiliated with the "Independent Party" before August 1, 2025, shall have his party
 5 affiliation changed to "No Party". The Department of State shall notify the registrant
 6 of the change pursuant to R.S. 18:109. The notice shall contain an explanation for
 7 the change in registration.

8 * * *

9 §441. Recognition

10 * * *

11 B.(1) A political party shall be recognized if ninety days prior to the opening
 12 of the qualifying period for any election at least ~~one~~ five thousand registered voters
 13 in the state are registered as being affiliated with such political party; such political
 14 party has filed a notarized registration statement as described in Paragraph (2) of this
 15 Subsection with the secretary of state; and the political party has paid a registration
 16 fee of ~~one~~ five thousand dollars to the secretary of state upon filing the registration
 17 statement. The political party designation of a candidate shall not be listed on the
 18 ballot unless the political party was recognized prior to the close of qualifying for the
 19 office the candidate is seeking.

20 * * *

21 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no political party
 22 shall be recognized in this state which declares its name solely to be "Independent"
 23 or the "Independent Party".

24 * * *

25 E.(1) A political party may through its bylaws provide for the process of
 26 dissolution. A political party that has been recognized pursuant to Subsection B of
 27 this Section may request to have the party dissolved by the secretary of state. A
 28 political party that requests the party's dissolution shall file a notarized dissolution
 29 statement with the secretary of state made in accordance with the party's bylaws.

1 (2) A registrant who is registered as being affiliated with a political party
2 that is dissolved pursuant to this Subsection shall have his party affiliation changed
3 to "No Party". The Department of State shall notify the registrant of the change
4 pursuant to R.S. 18:109. The notice shall contain an explanation for the change in
5 registration.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

SENATE BILL NO. 4

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1470, relative to campaign advertising; to prohibit certain
3 kinds of political advertising on public property; to authorize campaign signs on
4 school athletic facilities and gymnasiums if paid for by the political candidate or
5 campaign; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1470 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1470. Political advertising; prohibition; **exception**

9 ~~A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, Except as~~
10 **provided in Subsection B of this Section, no** political campaign signs shall ~~not~~ be
11 erected, displayed, or posted on any publicly owned property or right of way, or to
12 or on any public utility pole or stanchion.

13 **B. Subject to school board policy, political campaign signs may be**
14 **erected, displayed, or posted in or on the premises of any public school athletic**
15 **field or public school gymnasium if the erection, display, or posting is paid for**
16 **by a political candidate or political campaign.**

17 **C. The provisions of this Section shall not create an exception to R.S.**
18 **18:1462, relative to prohibited acts during early voting or on election day.**

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

ACT No. 199

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 482

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:532.1(C)(4) and to enact R.S. 18:532(F), 532.1(C)(5), and
3 1922.2, relative to the review of local precinct and redistricting plans by the parish
4 registrar of voters and clerk of court prior to adoption; to provide for consultation
5 with a demographer; to provide for transmission of relevant data files; to provide for
6 criteria for review; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:532.1(C)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:532(F),
9 532.1(C)(5), and 1922.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §532. Establishment of precincts

11 * * *

12 F. Prior to the adoption of an ordinance to establish the boundaries of
13 precincts pursuant to this Section, the parish governing authority shall submit the
14 proposed precincts and boundaries to the clerk of court and registrar of voters to
15 confirm the ability to conduct an election utilizing the proposed boundaries.

16 §532.1. Changing boundaries

17 * * *

18 C.

19 * * *

20 (4) In addition to the requirements of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, when
21 the proposed precinct change involves dividing a precinct, prior to the adoption of
22 the ordinance, the parish governing authority shall submit proposed changes to the
23 clerk of court and registrar of voters to confirm the ability to conduct an election
24 utilizing the proposed boundaries.

(5) No precinct boundary change shall become effective for the election unless the information required in this Subsection is received by the secretary of state prior to 4:30 p.m. at least four weeks prior to the date the qualifying period opens.

* * *

§1922.2. Approval of reapportionment plan by local election officials

A. Prior to the adoption of any local redistricting or reapportionment plan, a local governing body shall submit the proposed plan to the parish registrar of voters and clerk of court for review. If the local governing body utilizes a demographer to produce the proposed plan, the demographer shall be available to the registrar of voters and clerk of court to conduct their review. If the local governing body utilizes a geographic information system to develop its redistricting plan, it shall submit the proposed plan to the registrar of voters and clerk of court electronically in a geospatial shape file or an ASCII, comma delimited block equivalency import file which indicates the census block assignments in accordance with its redistricting plan.

B.(1) The registrar of voters shall review and confirm that each district of the proposed plan assigns all of the geography of the affected area without omission or duplication. If the proposed plan utilizes precincts, the registrar shall confirm the proposed plan utilizes the most current precincts established by the parish governing authority pursuant to R.S. 18:532 and 532.1.

(2) The registrar of voters and clerk of court shall review and confirm the
ability to conduct an election utilizing the proposed plan.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

ACT No. 208

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 577

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1361(A) and (B), 1362(A)(1), 1362.1(I)(1) and (K), and
3 1362.2(A) and (C) and to enact Subpart B of Part II of Chapter 8 of Title 18, to be
4 comprised of R.S. 18:1367.1 through 1367.14, relative to procurement of voting
5 systems or system components; to provide relative to the allowable methods of
6 procurement; to provide relative to the approval of voting systems; to provide
7 relative to the Voting System Commission and its powers and duties; to provide
8 relative to the Voting System Proposal Evaluation Committee and its powers and
9 duties; to provide for the authority and duties of the secretary of state; to provide for
10 the authority and duties of the commissioner of administration and chief procurement
11 officer with respect to procurement; to provide for legal and contractual remedies
12 and for administrative appeals relative to such procurements; to provide for the
13 authority of the Louisiana Law Institute; to provide for an effective date; and to
14 provide for related matters.

15 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

16 Section 1. R.S. 18:1361(A) and (B), 1362(A)(1), 1362.1(I)(1) and (K), and 1362.2(A)
17 and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and Subpart B of Part II of Chapter 8 of Title 18,
18 comprised of R.S. 18:1367.1 through 1367.14, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

19 SUBPART A. PROCUREMENT AND ALLOCATION OF VOTING SYSTEMS

20 §1361. Approval of voting systems or system components; certificate; expenses of
21 examination

22 A. Prior to the ~~solicitation of bids for~~ procurement and use of any new voting
23 system, the secretary of state shall examine any type or make of voting system or
24 system component upon the request of a representative of the maker or supplier
25 thereof for compliance with the certification standards promulgated pursuant to R.S.
26 18:1353. If the secretary of state determines that the voting system or system

1 component complies with the certification standards, he shall approve that voting
2 system or system component for use in this state and shall issue his certificate of
3 approval thereof.

4 B. In addition to meeting any applicable certification standards, any voting
5 system or system component procured or used in the state must have been certified
6 according to the voluntary voting system guidelines developed and maintained by
7 the United States Election Assistance Commission upon testing conducted by a
8 voting system test laboratory accredited by the United States Election Assistance
9 Commission. This certificate, together with any relevant reports, drawings, and
10 photographs, shall be a public record.

11 * * *

12 §1362. Method of procuring voting systems or system components; parts and
13 supplies; contracting for the maintenance of voting machines

14 A.(1) All voting systems or system components used in this state shall be
15 procured by the secretary of state, taking into consideration the recommendations of
16 the Voting System Commission as provided in R.S. 18:1362.1, out of state funds
17 appropriated for that purpose, ~~on the basis of a competitive request for proposals~~
18 ~~process or public bids submitted to the secretary of state~~ on the basis of competitive
19 sealed proposals or the invitation to negotiate in accordance with the provisions of
20 the Louisiana Procurement Code. Required specifications shall include tests and
21 examinations of the operation of the voting systems or system components, and the
22 secretary of state, for that purpose, shall employ experts to conduct these
23 examinations in accordance with R.S. 18:1361 and report the results thereof to the
24 Voting System Commission. The expenses of the services of these experts shall be
25 paid by the vendor that seeks to have its system certified for consideration. In every
26 respect, the procurement of voting systems or system components shall be in
27 accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code.

28 * * *

§1362.1. Voting System Commission; creation and organization; duties and responsibilities

* * *

I.(1) After complying with the provisions of Subsection H of this Section, the commission shall determine the type of voting system to recommend to the secretary of state to submit ~~for competitive solicitation~~ for procurement in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code.

* * *

K. Upon receipt of the report, the secretary of state, working in conjunction with the office of state procurement, shall develop ~~a request for proposals~~ the best method of procurement taking into consideration the commission's recommendations. No later than thirty days prior to the issuance of the request for proposals or the issuance of an invitation to negotiate, the secretary shall promulgate certification standards for the type of voting system to be procured in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:1353.

* * *

§1362.2. Voting System Proposal Evaluation Committee; membership; duties

A. The Voting System Proposal Evaluation Committee is created and established within the Department of State for the purpose of independently reviewing any proposals or responses to an invitation to negotiate received by the secretary of state in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:1362.1.

* * *

C. The committee shall investigate and publicly test the voting systems proposed by ~~the respondents to the request for proposals~~ potential vendors and may utilize subject matter experts to assist in the investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, the committee shall ~~score~~ evaluate each proposal or response to an invitation to negotiate according to the ~~request for proposal procurement~~ criteria, which shall ensure that all proposals or responses to an invitation to negotiate are evaluated in a fair and balanced manner and provide equal consideration for all potential vendors without exception. ~~The highest-scoring proposal shall receive the~~

1 ~~recommendation of the committee. The recommendation shall be communicated to~~
2 ~~the secretary of state. The committee shall make a recommendation and notify the~~
3 secretary of state. The secretary of state shall then make a recommendation and
4 submit the proposal to the chief procurement officer for subsequent review, approval,
5 or further inquiry in accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code.

6 * * *

7 SUBPART B. LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL REMEDIES FOR THE
8 PROCUREMENT OF VOTING SYSTEMS

9 §1367.1. Applicability of Subpart; definitions

10 A. To the extent any provisions of this Subpart regarding legal and
11 contractual remedies for the procurement of voting systems conflict with any
12 provision of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the provisions of this
13 Subpart shall supersede and control.

14 B. As used in this Subpart, "commissioner" means the commissioner of
15 administration.

16 §1367.2. Authority to resolve protested solicitations and awards

17 A. Right to protest. Any person who is aggrieved in connection with the
18 solicitation or award of a contract of a voting system or system components issued
19 by the applicable chief procurement officer shall protest to the chief procurement
20 officer. Protests with respect to a solicitation shall be submitted in writing at least
21 ten days prior to the opening of bids. Protests with respect to the award of a contract
22 shall be submitted in writing within fourteen days after contract award.

23 B. Authority to resolve protests. The chief procurement officer or his
24 designee shall have authority, prior to the commencement of an action in court
25 concerning the controversy, to settle and resolve a protest of an aggrieved person
26 concerning the solicitation or award of a contract. This authority shall be exercised
27 in accordance with regulations promulgated pursuant to R.S. 39:1671(H).

28 C. Decision. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the chief
29 procurement officer or his designee shall, within seven days, issue a decision in
30 writing. The decision shall:

1 (1) State the reasons for the action taken.

2 (2) Inform the protestant of its right to administrative and judicial review as
3 provided in this Subpart.

4 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this
5 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the protestant and any
6 other party intervening.

7 E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall
8 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

9 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

10 (2) The person adversely affected by the decision has timely appealed
11 administratively to the commissioner in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.6.

12 F. Stay of procurements during protests. In the event of a timely protest
13 under Subsection A of this Section, the state shall not proceed further with the
14 solicitation or with the awarding of the contract unless the chief procurement officer
15 makes a written determination that the awarding of the contract is necessary without
16 delay to protect the substantial interests of the state. Upon such determination by the
17 chief procurement officer, no court shall enjoin progress under the award except after
18 notice and hearing.

19 G. Award of costs to protestants. In addition to any other relief, when the
20 protest is administratively or judicially sustained and the protesting bidder or
21 proposer should have been awarded the contract but is not, the protesting bidder or
22 proposer shall be entitled to the reasonable costs incurred in connection with the
23 solicitation, including bid or proposal preparation costs other than attorney fees,
24 provided that any administrative determination of such costs shall be subject to the
25 written concurrence of the attorney general.

26 §1367.3. Authority to debar or suspend

27 A. Applicability. This Section applies to a debarment, as defined in R.S.
28 39:1556(18), for cause from consideration for award of contracts or a suspension
29 from such consideration during an investigation where there is probable cause for
30 such a debarment.

1 B. Authority. After reasonable notice to the person involved and reasonable
2 opportunity for that person to be heard, the chief procurement officer shall have
3 authority to suspend or debar a person for cause from consideration for award of
4 contracts, provided that doing so is in the best interests of the state. The causes for
5 debarment are set forth in Subsection C of this Section. The chief procurement
6 officer may suspend a person from consideration for award of contracts if he
7 determines that there is probable cause to believe that such person has engaged in
8 any activity which might lead to debarment. The suspension shall not be for a period
9 exceeding six months. The authority to debar or suspend shall be exercised in
10 accordance with regulations as provided in R.S. 39:1673(B).

11 C. Causes for debarment. The causes for debarment include the following:

12 (1) Conviction for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to
13 obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the
14 performance of such contract or subcontract.

15 (2) Conviction under state or federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery,
16 bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, or any other
17 offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty which currently,
18 seriously, and directly affects responsibility as a contractor.

19 (3) Conviction under state or federal antitrust statutes arising out of the
20 submission of bids or proposals.

21 (4) Violation of contract provisions, as set forth below, of a character which
22 is regarded by the chief procurement officer to be so serious as to justify debarment
23 action:

24 (a) Deliberate failure without good cause to perform in accordance with the
25 specifications or within the time limit provided in the contract.

26 (b) A recent record of failure to perform or of unsatisfactory performance in
27 accordance with the terms of one or more contracts; provided that failure to perform
28 or unsatisfactory performance caused by acts beyond the control of the contractor
29 shall not be considered to be a basis for debarment.

1 (5) Any other cause the chief procurement officer determines to be so serious
2 and compelling as to affect responsibility as a state contractor, including debarment
3 by another governmental entity for any cause listed in regulations.

4 (6) Violation of the ethical standards set forth in Chapter 15 of Title 42.

5 D. Decision. The chief procurement officer shall issue a written decision to
6 debar or suspend. The decision shall:

7 (1) State the reasons for the action taken.

8 (2) Inform the debarred or suspended person involved of its rights to
9 administrative and judicial review as provided in this Subpart.

10 E. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection D of this
11 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the debarred or
12 suspended person and any other party intervening.

13 F. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection D of this Section shall
14 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

15 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

16 (2) The debarred or suspended person has timely appealed administratively
17 to the commissioner in accordance with R.S. 18:167.10.

18 §1367.4. Authority to resolve contract and breach of contract controversies other
19 than professional, personal, consulting, and social services contracts

20 A. Applicability. This Section applies to controversies between the state and
21 a contractor and which arise under or by virtue of a contract between them. This
22 includes without limitation controversies based upon breach of contract, mistake,
23 misrepresentation, or other cause for contract modification or rescission. Any
24 contractor who seeks a remedy with regard to such controversy shall file a complaint
25 with the chief procurement officer.

26 B. Authority. The chief procurement officer or his designee is authorized,
27 prior to the commencement of an action in court concerning the controversy, to settle
28 and resolve, with the approval of the attorney general, a controversy described in
29 Subsection A of this Section. This authority shall be exercised in accordance with
30 regulations.

1 C. Decision. If such a claim or controversy is not resolved by mutual
2 agreement, the chief procurement officer or his designee shall promptly issue a
3 decision in writing. The decision shall do all of the following:

4 (1) State the reasons for the action taken.

5 (2) Inform the contractor of its right to administrative and judicial review as
6 provided in this Subpart.

7 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this
8 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the contractor.

9 E. Finality of decision. The decision under Subsection C of this Section
10 shall be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

11 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

12 (2) The contractor has timely appealed administratively to the commissioner
13 in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.8.

14 F. Failure to render timely decision. If the chief procurement officer or his
15 designee does not issue the written decision required under Subsection C of this
16 Section within sixty days after written request for a final decision, or within such
17 longer period as may be agreed upon by the parties, then the contractor may proceed
18 as if an adverse decision had been received.

19 §1367.5. Authority of the commissioner of administration

20 The commissioner of administration shall have the authority to review and
21 determine any appeal by an aggrieved person from a determination by the state chief
22 procurement officer or his designee which is authorized by R.S. 18:1367 or R.S.
23 18:1367.1.

24 §1367.6. Protest of solicitations or awards

25 A. Scope. This Section applies to an appeal addressed to the commissioner
26 of a decision under R.S. 18:1367.2(C).

27 B. Time limitation on filing an appeal. The aggrieved person shall file an
28 appeal within seven days of receipt of a decision under R.S. 18:1367.2(C).

29 C. Decision. On any appeal under Subsection A of this Section, the
30 commissioner or his designee shall decide within seven days whether the solicitation

1 or award was in accordance with the constitution, statutes, regulations, and the terms
2 and conditions of the solicitation. The seven-day period provided for in this
3 Subsection shall not be extended. Any prior determinations by the state chief
4 procurement officer or his designee shall not be final or conclusive.

5 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this
6 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the protestant or any
7 other party intervening.

8 E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall
9 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

10 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

11 (2) The person adversely affected by the decision has timely appealed to the
12 court in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.9(A).

13 §1367.7. Suspension or debarment proceedings

14 A. Scope. This Section applies to a review by the commissioner of a
15 decision under R.S. 18:1367.3.

16 B. Time limitation on filing an appeal. The aggrieved person shall file an
17 appeal with the commissioner within seven days of the receipt of a decision under
18 R.S. 18:1367.2(D).

19 C. Decision. The commissioner or his designee shall decide within seven
20 days whether, or the extent to which, the debarment or suspension was in accordance
21 with the constitution, statutes, regulations, and the best interests of the state, and was
22 fair. Any prior determination by the state chief procurement officer or his designee
23 shall not be final or conclusive.

24 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this
25 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the debarred or
26 suspended person or any other party interviewing.

27 E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall
28 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

29 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

1 (2) The debarred or suspended person has timely appealed an adverse
2 decision of the commissioner to the court in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.9(B).

3 §1367.8. Contract and breach of contract controversies

4 A. Scope. This Section applies to a review by the commissioner of a
5 decision under R.S. 18:1367.4.

6 B. Time limitation on filing an appeal. The aggrieved contractor shall file
7 an appeal with the commissioner within seven days of the receipt of the
8 determination under R.S. 18:1367.4(C).

9 C. Decision. The commissioner or his designee shall decide within seven
10 days the contract or breach of contract controversy. Any prior determination by the
11 state chief procurement officer or his designee shall not be final or conclusive.

12 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this
13 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the contractor.

14 E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall
15 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

16 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

17 (2) The contractor has timely appealed an adverse decision of the
18 commissioner to the court in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.9(C).

19 §1367.9. Actions by or against the state in connection with contracts

20 A. Solicitation and award of contracts. The Nineteenth Judicial District
21 Court shall have exclusive venue over an action between the state and a bidder,
22 offeror, or contractor, prospective or actual, to determine whether a solicitation or
23 award of a contract is in accordance with the constitution, statutes, regulations, and
24 the terms and conditions of the solicitation. Such actions shall extend to all kinds of
25 actions, whether for monetary damages or for declaratory, injunctive, or other
26 equitable relief.

27 B. Debarment or suspension. The Nineteenth Judicial District Court shall
28 have exclusive venue over an action between the state and a person who is subject
29 to a suspension or debarment proceeding, to determine whether the debarment or

1 suspension is in accordance with the constitution, statutes, and regulations. Such
2 actions shall extend to actions for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief.

3 C. Actions under contracts or for breach of contract. The Nineteenth Judicial
4 District Court shall have exclusive venue over an action between the state and a
5 contractor who contracts with the state, for any cause of action which arises under
6 or by virtue of the contract, whether the action is on the contract or for a breach of
7 the contract or whether the action is for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable
8 relief.

9 D. Limited finality for administrative determinations. In any judicial action
10 under this Section, factual or legal determination by employees, agents, or other
11 persons appointed by the state shall have no finality and shall not be conclusive,
12 notwithstanding any contract provision, regulation, or rule of law to the contrary,
13 except to the extent provided in R.S. 18:1367.2(E), 1367.3(F), 1367.4(E), 1367.6(E),
14 1367.7(E), and 1367.8(E).

15 E. Writs or appeals; district court decisions. Any party aggrieved by a final
16 judgment or interlocutory order or ruling of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court
17 may appeal or seek review thereof, as the case may be, to the Court of Appeal, First
18 Circuit or the Supreme Court of Louisiana, as otherwise permitted in civil cases by
19 law and the constitution.

20 §1367.10. Commencement of actions

21 A. Protested solicitations and awards. Any action under R.S. 18:1367.9(A)
22 shall be commenced within fourteen days after receipt of the decision of the
23 commissioner under R.S. 18:1367.6(C).

24 B. Debarments and suspension for cause. Any action under R.S.
25 18:1367.9(B) shall be commenced within sixty days after receipt of the decision of
26 the commissioner under R.S. 18:1367.7(C).

27 C. Actions under contracts or for breach of contract controversies. Any
28 action under R.S. 18:1367.9(C) shall be commenced within sixty days after receipt
29 of the decision of the commissioner under R.S. 18:1367.8(C).

30 §1367.11. Trial; decision; appeal

1 A.(1) Actions objecting to the solicitation or award of a contract pursuant to
2 this Subpart shall be tried summarily, without a jury, and in open court. The trial
3 shall begin no later than fourteen days after suit is filed.

4 B. In all actions, the trial judge shall render judgment within seven days after
5 the case is submitted to him and shall indicate the date and time rendered on the
6 judgment. The clerk of the trial court shall immediately notify all parties or their
7 counsel of record by telephone and/or facsimile transmission of the judgment.

8 C. Within twenty-four hours after rendition of judgment, a party aggrieved
9 by the judgment may appeal by obtaining an order of appeal and giving bond for a
10 sum fixed by the court to secure the payment of costs. The clerk of the trial court
11 shall give notice of the order of appeal to the clerk of the court of appeal and to all
12 the parties or their counsel of record. The trial judge shall fix the return day at a time
13 not to exceed three days after rendition of judgment.

14 D. The clerk of the trial court shall prepare the record on appeal and transmit
15 it to the clerk of the court of appeal on the return day.

16 E. Immediately upon receipt of the record the clerk of the court of appeal
17 shall notify the parties and the case shall be heard no later than forty-eight hours after
18 the record is lodged with the court of appeal. Judgment shall be rendered within
19 twenty-four hours after the case is argued. The court of appeal shall indicate the date
20 and time rendered on the judgment. The clerk of the court of appeal shall
21 immediately notify all parties or their counsel of record by telephone and/or
22 facsimile transmission of the judgment.

23 F. An application to the supreme court for a writ of certiorari shall be made
24 within forty-eight hours after judgment is rendered by the court of appeal.

25 G. The appellate court may sit in panels of three or more as directed by the
26 chief judge.

27 H. No application for a new trial or for a rehearing shall be entertained by
28 any court, but a court, upon its own motion, may correct manifest error to which its
29 attention is called.

1 I. As used in this Subpart, judgment shall be deemed to have been rendered
 2 when signed by the judge.

3 §1367.12. Computation of time
 4 Computation of all time intervals in this Chapter shall include Sundays and
 5 other legal holidays. However, if the time interval ends on a Sunday or other legal
 6 holiday, then noon of the next legal day shall be deemed to be the end of the time
 7 interval.

8 §1367.13. Code of Civil Procedure
 9 Any procedural matter not specifically provided for in this Subpart shall be
 10 governed by the Code of Civil Procedure.

11 §1367.14. Termination
 12 The provisions of this Subpart shall be null and void and have no effect
 13 beginning on June 30, 2027.

14 Section 2. The Louisiana Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to designate
 15 R.S. 18:1361 through 1366 as Subpart A of Part II of Chapter 8 of Title 18 of the Louisiana
 16 Revised Statutes of 1950.

17 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 18 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 19 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 20 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 21 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

ACT No. 212

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 625

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

1 AN ACT

2 To provide for a special statewide election to be held on April 18, 2026, for the purpose of
3 submitting proposed constitutional amendments to the electors of the state; to
4 provide for the conduct of such election; to provide for an effective date; and to
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. A special statewide election shall be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, for
8 the purpose of submitting to the electors of the state proposed constitutional amendments
9 contained in joint resolutions concurred in by each house of the legislature during the 2025
10 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

11 Section 2. The election for which provision is made in this Act shall be held in
12 compliance with and subject to the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code.

13 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
14 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
15 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
16 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
17 effective on the day following such approval.

18 Section 4. This Act shall be void and of no effect if no proposed constitutional
19 amendment as contained in a joint resolution that specifies the special statewide election

1 provided in this Act as the statewide election at which the proposed constitutional
2 amendment shall be submitted to the electors is concurred in by each house of the legislature
3 during the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

2025 Regular Session

ACT No. 213

HOUSE BILL NO. 648

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU AND SENATORS CARTER, FESI, JENKINS,
KLEINPETER, MIGUEZ, MILLER, REESE, SELTERS, AND WOMACK

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) and to enact R.S. 18:454 and
3 464(B)(5), relative to candidate qualifying fees for an election; to provide for the
4 imposition of a candidate qualifying fee for certain candidates; to provide for the
5 dedication of certain revenues from the collection of a candidate qualifying fee; to
6 establish the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund as a special fund in the state treasury;
7 to provide for the transfer, deposit, and use of monies in the Campaign Sign
8 Recycling Fund; to provide for the powers and duties of the state treasurer; to
9 provide for the powers and duties of the secretary of state; to provide for a prior Act
10 of the Legislature of Louisiana; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for
11 related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and
14 R.S. 18:454 and 464(B)(5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §454. Campaign Sign Recycling Fund

16 A. There is hereby established in the state treasury, as a special fund, the
17 Campaign Sign Recycling Fund, hereinafter referred to in this Section as the "fund".

18 B.(1) After allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund
19 as provided in Article VII, Section (9)(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the
20 treasurer shall deposit into the fund the following:

21 (a) Monies collected from candidate qualifying fees for an election pursuant
22 to R.S. 18:464(B)(5).

(b) Monies designated for the fund and received by the state treasurer from donations, gifts, grants, appropriations, or other revenue.

(2) Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be deposited into the state general fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

C.(1) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the secretary of state for the recycling of political campaign signs.

(2) The secretary of state shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act necessary for implementation and administration of the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

* * *

§464. Qualifying fees; additional fees imposed by political party committees; financial statements

* * *

B. Amount of qualifying fees. The qualifying fees for candidates in primary elections are:

* * *

(5) All candidates other than candidates for membership on the state central committee or parish executive committee of a political party, in addition to the qualifying fees established pursuant to Paragraphs (1) through (4) of this Subsection, shall pay an additional qualifying fee of twenty-five dollars. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the additional fee paid pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be deposited into the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund as established in R.S. 18:454.

* * *

§1254. Slates of candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party; nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

A. A slate of candidates for presidential elector who are not affiliated with a recognized political party may be nominated by nominating petition or may qualify

by the payment of a qualifying fee of five hundred dollars. Such qualifying fee shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:464(A). The candidate shall also pay a qualifying fee pursuant to R.S. 18:464(B)(5). The period for filing such qualifying fee shall begin on the third Tuesday in July and shall end at 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is to be held. Each qualifying fee shall be accompanied by the notice of candidacy and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying his acceptance of the nomination. A candidate for presidential elector who is not affiliated with a recognized political party may be registered to vote with or without a declaration of party affiliation.

* * *

§1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

A. Candidates for presidential nominee shall qualify in accordance with procedures established by the party. Prior to qualification as a candidate of a political party for presidential nominee, a person shall pay a qualifying fee of seven hundred fifty dollars and any additional ~~fee fees~~ as authorized by ~~R.S. 18:464(C)~~ R.S. 18:464(B)(5) and (C) or shall have obtained a nominating petition, bearing the handwritten signatures of no less than one thousand registered voters affiliated with the party from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided. If the candidate is qualifying by paying a fee, the fee shall be paid in cash, by certified or cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank or credit union, by United States postal money order, or by a money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1254. Slates of candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party; nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

A. A slate of candidates for presidential elector who are not affiliated with a recognized political party may be nominated by nominating petition or may qualify

by the payment of a qualifying fee of one thousand dollars. Such qualifying fee shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:464(A). The candidate shall also pay a qualifying fee pursuant to R.S. 18:464(B)(5). The period for filing such qualifying fee shall begin on the third Tuesday in July and shall end at 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is to be held. Each qualifying fee shall be accompanied by the notice of candidacy and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying his acceptance of the nomination. A candidate for presidential elector who is not affiliated with a recognized political party may be registered to vote with or without a declaration of party affiliation.

* * *

§1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

A. Candidates for presidential nominee shall qualify in accordance with procedures established by the party. Prior to qualification as a candidate of a political party for presidential nominee, a person shall pay a qualifying fee of one thousand dollars and any additional ~~fee~~ fees as authorized by ~~R.S. 18:464(C)~~ R.S. 18:464(B)(5) and (C) or shall have obtained a nominating petition, bearing the handwritten signatures of no less than one thousand registered voters affiliated with the party from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided. If the candidate is qualifying by paying a fee, the fee shall be paid in cash, by certified or cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank or credit union, by United States postal money order, or by a money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

* * *

Section 3(A). R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) as amended and reenacted in Section 2 of this Act shall supercede R.S. 18:1254(A) and 1280.22(A) as amended and reenacted in Act No. 1 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature.

(B) The additional qualifying fee provided for in this Act shall be required of candidates qualifying on and after August 1, 2025.

1 Section 4.(A) This Section and Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall become effective
2 upon signature of this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration
3 of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article
4 III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and
5 subsequently approved by the legislature, this Section and Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall
6 become effective on the day following such approval.

7 (B) The provisions of Section 2 of this Act shall become effective when Act 1 of the
8 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature becomes effective.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

ACT No. 219

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 63

BY REPRESENTATIVES GREEN AND HUGHES

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 23(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the mandatory retirement of judges; to provide that a judge shall not remain in office beyond his seventy-fifth birthday; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article V, Section 23(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§23. Judges; Retirement

Section 23.

* * *

(B) Mandatory Retirement. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, a judge shall not remain in office beyond his ~~seventieth birthday~~ seventy-fifth birthday. A judge who attains seventy-five years of age ~~A judge who attains seventy years of age~~ while serving a term of office shall be allowed to complete that term of office.

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on April 18, 2026.

1 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
 2 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
 3 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
 4 follows:

5 Do you support an amendment to change the mandatory retirement age for
 6 judges from seventy to seventy-five, provided that a judge may continue to
 7 serve to complete a term of office? (Amends Article V, Section 23(B))

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ACT No. 386

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 592

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(4), 18(D), 25(B), 104(C)(1)(introductory paragraph),

3 108(A) and (C), 111, 154(C)(2)(e), 192(A)(1) and (2), 401.2(A) and (B)(introductory

4 paragraph), (1), (2), and (3), 402(A)(1), (D), (E)(1)(introductory paragraph), and

5 (G)(1), 410.1 through 410.3, 410.4(B), 410.5(A), 410.6(B)(1) and (2), 410.7, 410.8,

6 410.9(A), 425.1, 426(A) and (B), 434(A)(introductory paragraph) and (1),

7 435(A)(4)(b) and (c) and (B)(1), 501(A)(1), (B)(1), and (C), 531(B), 533(A)(2) and

8 (B)(1), 534(A) and (B)(1) and (2)(a), 551(B), (C)(1)(c)(i) and (2), and (D),

9 553(E)(2), 571(A)(8), 573(E)(1) and (4), 1259(B)(6) and (C), 1279, 1280.21(B),

10 1284(F)(1), 1285(B)(1)(a), 1286.1, 1299.1, 1300(C)(1), 1300.2(C)(2)(b), 1300.7(A),

11 1300.11, 1306(E)(1)(f), 1307(E), 1309(D)(1)(c) and (d) and (2), (E)(1), (H), and

12 (N)(2), (5), and (7), 1309.1(A), 1313(F), (H)(3), and (K)(1), 1313.1(F), (I)(2), and

13 (L)(1), 1315(D)(1), 1333(D)(2) and (E), 1362.1(L), 1363(A)(3) and (4), 1405(C),

14 1462(F), 1501.3(C)(introductory paragraph), Section 2 of Act No. 1 of the 2024 First

15 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, and Section 5 of Act No. 640 of the 2024

16 Regular Session of the Legislature, to enact R.S. 18:2(20) and (21), 401.1(H), Part

17 IV of Chapter 6 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be

18 comprised of R.S. 18:1280.31, 1284.1, 1286(C), 1307(L), 1310(E) and (F),

19 1333(D)(3), 1409(K), and 1461.7(E), and to repeal R.S. 18:1280.21(C) and (D),

20 1280.21.1, 1371(A)(2)(c), and Section 2 of Act No. 640 of the 2024 Regular Session

21 of the Legislature, relative to the revision of the system of laws providing for

22 elections; to make revisions to the Louisiana Election Code; to provide for

23 agreements for sharing voter registration information; to provide for the annual

24 report of the State Board of Election Supervisors; to provide for affidavits and

25 attestations; to provide for the reinstatement of voter registration; to provide for

name changes; to provide for address data in connection with the annual canvass of registered voters; to provide for the effectiveness of a change in voter registration; to provide for duties of the clerk of court; to provide for perjury for false statements made in an attestation and criminal penalties therefore; to provide for polling places during a state of emergency; to provide for consolidation of polling places; to provide for election dates and the calculation of days related thereto; to provide for commissioner qualifications and selection; to provide for alternate political party super watchers; to provide for ballot arrangement; to provide for voting in the presidential preference primary election; to provide for testing of voting machines; to provide for replacement absentee by mail ballots; to provide for tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots; to provide for the validity of ballots deemed challenged; to provide for address confirmation for nursing home early voting program participants; to provide for the allocation of voting machines; to provide for the requirements of the secretary of state related to an objection to candidacy; to provide for actions contesting an election on a proposed constitutional amendment; to provide for the preparation of a question or proposition to be submitted to voters; to provide for the filling of vacancies in closed party primary offices; to provide for emergency elections; to provide for closed party primary ballot selection by an unaffiliated voter; to provide for procedural requirements as they relate to closed party primary elections; to provide for the effectiveness of Act No. 1 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature and Act No. 640 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature and specific provisions thereof; to provide for definitions; to correct terminology; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:2(4), 18(D), 25(B), 104(C)(1)(introductory paragraph), 108(A) and (C), 111, 154(C)(2)(e), 192(A)(1) and (2), 401.2(A) and (B)(introductory paragraph), (1), (2), and (3), 402(E)(1)(introductory paragraph), and (G)(1), 425.1, 426(A) and (B), 434(A)(introductory paragraph) and (1), 435(A)(4)(b) and (c), 531(B), 533(A)(2) and (B)(1), 534(A) and (B)(1) and (2)(a), 553(E)(2), 571(A)(8), 573(E)(1) and (4), 1259(B)(6) and (C), 1280.21(B), 1284(F)(1), 1285(B)(1)(a), 1286.1, 1299.1, 1300(C)(1), 1300.2(C)(2)(b),

1300.7(A), 1300.11, 1306(E)(1)(f), 1309(D)(1)(c) and (d) and (2), (E)(1), (H), and (N)(2),
 1309.1(A), 1313(F), (H)(3), and (K)(1), 1313.1(F), (I)(2), and (L)(1), 1315(D)(1),
 1333(D)(2) and (E), 1362.1(L), 1363(A)(3) and (4), 1405(C), 1462(F), and
 1501.3(C)(introductory paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:2(20) and
 (21), Part IV of Chapter 6 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised
 of R.S. 18:1280.31, 1284.1, 1286(C), 1310(E), 1333(D)(3), 1409(K), and 1461.7(E) are
 hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2. Definitions

As used in this Code, the following words and terms shall have the meanings
 hereinafter ascribed to each, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning:

* * *

(4) "Immediate family" means the individual's children, the spouses of his
 children, his brothers and their spouses, his sisters and their spouses, his parents, his
 spouse, ~~and the parents of his spouse,~~ his grandparents, and his grandchildren.

* * *

(20) "Affidavit" means an oath or affirmation signed by the affiant before
 a notary public, or before a commissioner-in-charge, commissioner, registrar of
 voters, deputy registrar of voters, early voting commissioner, or secretary of state
 election staff, as specifically required in this Code.

(21) "Attestation" means an oath or affirmation signed by the person making
 the oath or affirmation.

* * *

§18. Secretary of state; powers and duties

* * *

D. The secretary of state may enter into cooperative agreements with other
 states or ~~the Electronic Registration Information Center~~ written agreements with
state and federal governmental agencies and private vendors that provide voter
registration eligibility or address data to share voter registration information or data
 for purposes of ~~determining whether a voter is registered in more than one state and~~
~~for the voter list~~ maintenance of the state voter registration computer system. The

1 secretary of state shall include in any such cooperative agreement a provision for the
 2 privacy of the information or data that complies fully with applicable state and
 3 federal law.

4 * * *

5 §25. Annual reports

6 * * *

7 B. The board shall annually report to the House and Governmental Affairs
 8 Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate and Governmental
 9 Affairs Committee of the Senate its findings, observations, and recommendations
 10 concerning all aspects of elections in this state. The report shall be submitted no
 11 later than ~~January thirty-first each year~~ forty-five days prior to the start of each
 12 regular session of the legislature, and shall include but shall not be limited to the
 13 following subjects: election laws in general, registration procedures, election
 14 procedures, election officials, voting machines, tabulation and transmission of
 15 election returns, procedures used for casting and counting absentee by mail and early
 16 voting ballots, and any other aspect of elections the board deems appropriate.

17 * * *

18 §104. Application for registration; form

19 * * *

20 C.(1) The form shall inform the applicant of the penalty for violation of
 21 applicable laws relating to registration of voters and shall contain an ~~affidavit~~
 22 attestation to be subscribed, through a handwritten signature, attesting to each of the
 23 following:

24 * * *

25 §108. Prior registration; surrender of ~~certificate or~~ notice of registration before new
 26 registration; change of place of registration

27 A. If the registrant's application indicates that the applicant previously
 28 registered as a voter in any other parish, and if the previous ~~voter registration~~
 29 ~~certificate or~~ notice of registration is available, then before making a new registration
 30 the registrar shall require the applicant to surrender his previous ~~certificate or~~ notice

for cancellation. The registrar shall promptly notify the registrar of the parish in which the applicant has registered previously, through the statewide voter registration system, of the present registration. The other registrar shall verify the cancellation of the voter's registration in the other parish; however, the cancellation shall not be made as long as the registrant has the right to vote in the parish of his former residence as provided in R.S. 18:110(C).

* * *

C. For any voter whose registration has been canceled because the voter has registered in another parish or in another state, if such voter makes application to register in the parish in which he was previously registered to vote ~~within three years after the cancellation of his registration in that parish~~, and the registrar determines that he is qualified to register to vote in that parish, the voter's information in the statewide voter registration system from his previous registration shall be reinstated, except that any necessary changes shall be made to such information, including but not limited to the voter's new address, and he shall receive an updated ~~certificate or~~ notice of registration.

* * *

§111. Change of name or signature; married persons

A. In order to remain a legal registrant, a person who changes his name by virtue of a judgment of court shall produce in the presence of or, if required, file with the registrar or any person authorized to accept voter registration applications a certified copy of the judgment, his Louisiana driver's license number, Louisiana special identification card number, or social security number, or his ~~affidavit attestation~~ setting forth the pertinent facts containing the change of name.

B. A married ~~woman, at her option, person~~ may be registered ~~in her maiden name, her present husband's name,~~ using the surname of either or both spouses as a surname, or in a hyphenated combination thereof. If divorced, widowed, or remarried, ~~she~~ the applicant may be registered ~~in her maiden name~~ using his surname, in the surname of ~~her~~ the deceased or former or present ~~husband spouse~~, or in a hyphenated combination thereof. ~~A change of name allowed by this~~

~~Subsection shall be made by producing in the presence of the~~ A person who changes
his name by virtue of marriage shall submit a voter registration application to the
 registrar or other person authorized to accept voter registration applications ~~her~~
~~affidavit stating~~ that contains the applicant's social security number, valid Louisiana
driver's license number or Louisiana special identification card number, or attestation
setting forth the name under which ~~she~~ the applicant desires to be registered as
 allowed by this Section.

C. If a registered voter, subsequent to his registration, is no longer capable
 of signing his name without using a mark, he shall file an ~~affidavit, meeting the~~
~~requirements of R.S. 18:200,~~ attestation with the registrar of voters attesting to that
 fact and stating the reason for such a change in signature.

* * *

§154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

* * *

C.

* * *

(2)

* * *

(e) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to
 voter registration information or data transmitted to a state or ~~the Electronic~~
~~Registration Information Center~~ federal governmental agency or private vendor to
provide voter registration eligibility or address data pursuant to a written agreement
 for purposes of ~~determining whether a voter is registered to vote in more than one~~
~~state and for the~~ voter list maintenance of the state voter registration computer
 system.

* * *

§192. Annual canvass; costs

A.(1) No later than June thirtieth, the registrar of voters of each parish in
 conjunction with the Department of State shall annually canvass the names of the
 registrants in all precincts in the parish. Failure of the registrar to conduct an annual

1 canvass as provided in this Subsection shall constitute willful misconduct relating
 2 to his official duty for the purposes of R.S. 18:53. The Department of State shall use
 3 ~~the United States Postal Service or its licensee~~ address data obtained pursuant to a
 4 written agreement from another state or federal governmental agency or private
 5 vendor that provides voter registration eligibility or address data to verify the names
 6 and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state. A verification ~~by the~~
 7 ~~United States Postal Service or its licensee~~ of address data shall constitute a valid
 8 canvass of the registered voter.

9 (2) In conducting the verification, if ~~the United States Postal Service or its~~
 10 ~~licensee provides~~ the obtained address data indicates a corrected address, the
 11 Department of State shall furnish the corrected address to the appropriate registrar
 12 of voters. Upon receiving a corrected address inside the parish, either the
 13 Department of State or the registrar of voters shall update the voter's address on the
 14 statewide registration system and mail a new voter information card to the voter
 15 using the corrected address provided and an address confirmation notice as provided
 16 in R.S. 18:193. If the new voter information card using the corrected address is
 17 returned to the registrar and the voter has failed to return the address confirmation
 18 notice, the registrar shall consider the address not corrected. The registrar shall
 19 change his records to reflect the prior address on file for that voter. If the corrected
 20 address is outside of the parish, the registrar of voters shall not make the change on
 21 his records and shall send an address confirmation notice as provided in R.S. 18:193.

22 * * *

23 §401.2. ~~Relocation of~~ Change to polling places; state of emergency

24 A. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:~~425.1~~, 534, 535, 536, ~~and~~ 537,
 25 1286, and 1286.1, if any polling place is determined by the clerk of court in
 26 conjunction with the secretary of state to be destroyed, inaccessible, or unsafe due
 27 to an emergency or common disaster occurring before or during a regularly
 28 scheduled or special election, the secretary of state may issue a certification of a state
 29 of emergency allowing the relocation, or other change, of any such polling place,
 30 including consolidation of polling places or providing for multiple polling places in

a precinct, when such action would allow voting to continue without the necessity of the issuance of an executive order by the governor for a suspension or delay pursuant to R.S. 18:401.1(B). Upon issuance of such a certification, the clerk of court and the presiding officer of the parish governing authority shall ~~relocate~~ implement the necessary change for any such polling place. ~~The~~ If relocated, the polling place shall be relocated to the nearest feasible and accessible location as determined by the secretary of state, upon the recommendation of the clerk of court in conjunction with the presiding officer of the parish governing authority.

B. When a polling place is ~~relocated~~ changed pursuant to Subsection A of this Section, the clerk of court in conjunction with the secretary of state shall give adequate notice of the change of the location to each voter registered to vote at that polling place and to each candidate to be voted on at that polling place, if practicable, in the following manner:

(1) Each candidate shall be given immediate notice by telephone or by electronic means, and by certified mail where reasonable time exists, of the new location of any polling places that have been relocated.

(2) A sign shall be posted at any former polling place directing voters to the new location of the polling place, if applicable and practicable.

(3) An employee of the parish governing authority shall be stationed at any former polling place, if applicable and practicable, for the purpose of directing potential voters to the new location of the polling place. Such employee shall be required to take the constitutional oath or affirmation. The clerk of court shall administer the oath.

* * *

§402. Dates of primary and general elections

* * *

E. Special elections to fill newly created office or vacancy in office. An election to fill a newly created office or vacancy in an existing office, except the office of representative in congress, shall be held on the dates fixed by the appropriate authority in the proclamation ordering a special election as follows:

(1) A special primary election shall be held on the first of the following days that is after the date on which the proclamation calling the special primary election was issued, provided that the proclamation was issued at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the special primary election. If this deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be the following day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday:

* * *

G. Prohibited days. (1) No election of any kind shall be held in this state on any of the days of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, the first two days and the last two days of Passover, Shavuot, Tish'a B'Av, the two days preceding Labor Day, ~~or the three days preceding Easter, or the three days following Thanksgiving Day.~~ If the date of any election falls on any of the above-named days, the election shall be held on the same ~~weekday~~ day of the preceding week.

* * *

§425.1. Consolidation of polling places; reduction of voting machines and election officials

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:424 and 425 or any other provision of law to the contrary, in an election, including the election of any public official, where ~~more than one polling place is within the same location~~ a single location serves as the polling place of more than one precinct, the parish board of election supervisors may consolidate the polling places in that location so that a single polling place may serve every precinct assigned to that location for that election and may reduce the number of voting machines to be used in the election below the number fixed by R.S. 18:1363 and, in such case, shall notify, in accordance with the time line provided in R.S. 18:1363(H), the parish custodian of voting machines and the secretary of state of the number of machines to be prepared and delivered ~~for the polling places so consolidated~~ to the location of the consolidated polling place.

B. When the parish board of election supervisors consolidates polling places as authorized by Subsection A of this Section, it shall appoint a commissioner-in-charge to serve at ~~each such~~ all precincts assigned to the consolidated polling place and may reduce to not less than two the number of commissioners and alternate commissioners to be appointed to serve at ~~each such polling place~~ the location of the consolidated polling place.

* * *

§426. Alternate commissioners; qualifications, powers, and duties; oath and compensation

A. Qualifications. ~~(1) A qualified voter who is not entitled to assistance in voting and is not a candidate in the election may be selected as an alternate commissioner in any precinct of the ward where he is registered to vote, except pursuant to R.S. 18:434(D) in which case he may be selected as a commissioner in any precinct of the parish where he is registered to vote or as otherwise provided in R.S. 18:425(A)(4).~~

~~(2)(a) No person shall be selected as a commissioner in a precinct in which a member of his immediate family is a candidate for election to public office.~~

~~(b) No person who has been convicted of an election offense enumerated in Chapter 10 of this Title shall be selected as an alternate commissioner.~~

~~(c) No person who is required to register as a sex offender or child predator pursuant to R.S. 15:542 may be selected as an alternate commissioner.~~

~~(3) A person shall not be selected as an alternate commissioner unless he has attended a course of instruction for commissioners, has received a certificate of instruction during the term of office of the clerk who conducted the course, and has provided his correct party affiliation to the clerk.~~

~~(4) A person who is at least seventeen years of age, under the age of eighteen, and is not a qualified voter but is otherwise qualified to serve as an alternate commissioner pursuant to this Subsection may be selected to serve as an alternate commissioner in any precinct of the ward where he may register to vote pursuant to R.S. 18:101(A), provided that the person is enrolled in the twelfth grade~~

~~of any Louisiana public high school or state-approved nonpublic high school or is participating at the twelfth grade level in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. An alternate commissioner shall meet the same qualifications of a commissioner as provided in R.S. 18:425(B).~~

B. Powers and duties. An alternate commissioner who replaces an absent or unqualified commissioner shall have the same powers and duties and shall possess the same qualifications as a commissioner. ~~An alternate commissioner who does not replace a commissioner shall have the same powers and duties as a watcher.~~

* * *

§434. Commissioners and alternate commissioners; selection; commission; disqualification; replacement

A. ~~Time and place of Meeting to conduct~~ selection. (1) The parish board of election supervisors shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m. on the twenty-ninth day before a primary election~~ on the second day after the close of the registration records provided in R.S. 18:135(A) to select the commissioners and alternate commissioners for each precinct. However, if the deadline for the close of the registration records provided in R.S. 18:135(A)(1) is moved due to a legal holiday, the meeting to select commissioners and alternate commissioners for each precinct shall be moved to the day after the close of the registration records. If the second day after the close of the registration records falls on a legal holiday, the board shall select commissioners and alternate commissioners on the first day after such holiday that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. The meeting shall be open to the public. The board shall have previously posted a notice on the front courthouse door designating the location within the courthouse where the meeting is to be held.

* * *

§435. Watchers; appointment and commission

A.

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(4)

* * *

(b)(i) In a parish with fewer than fifty thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate one political party super watcher and one alternate political party super watcher.

(ii) In a parish with fifty thousand or more but fewer than one hundred thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate two political party super watchers and two alternate political party super watchers.

(iii) In a parish with one hundred thousand or more but fewer than one hundred fifty thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate three political party super watchers and three alternate political party super watchers.

(iv) In a parish with one hundred fifty thousand or more but fewer than two hundred thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate four political party super watchers and four alternate political party super watchers.

(v) In a parish with two hundred thousand or more registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate five political party super watchers and five alternate political party super watchers.

(c) Each political party super watcher shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided for by R.S. 18:427 and shall be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where a candidate affiliated with his political party is on the ballot, except that not more than one political party super watcher may serve at a single precinct at the same time. Both a political party super watcher and an alternate political party super watcher may serve on election day, except that the political party super watcher and alternate political party super watcher may not serve at the same time and no more political party super watchers and alternate political party super watchers may serve at one time than the number of political party super watchers allowed in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph.

* * *

§531. Places for voting in primary and general elections

* * *

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary, whenever the polling place to which a voter is assigned is inaccessible to him by reason of a physical disability, the voter may cast his vote at the polling place nearest the precinct at which he is registered which is accessible to the voter, provided such polling place is within the same congressional, senatorial, representative, school board, police jury, councilmanic and all other districts as the precinct at which he is registered. To be permitted to cast his vote at another precinct polling place, the voter, not less than ten days before the election, shall produce satisfactory evidence of his disability to the registrar of voters in the parish in which he is registered. If, in the opinion of the registrar, the voter, due to the physical disability, is unable to cast his vote at the polling place for the precinct in which he is registered, the registrar shall issue to the voter special authorization to cast his vote at another specifically named precinct polling place as provided in this Section and shall transfer the registration certificate of such voter to that precinct. The authorization so issued shall be shown by the voter to the commissioners at the polling place. The right of a voter to cast his vote in a precinct within the ward and district other than the one in which he is registered shall remain effective for subsequent elections until the voter no longer is in need of the right to vote in another precinct. The voter shall notify the registrar of voters immediately if for any reason such need no longer exists.

* * *

§533. Establishment and location of polling places; responsibility for acts or omissions

A. Establishment.

* * *

(2) The parish governing authority shall, to the extent possible, locate the polling place of multiple precincts in a the same polling location, if it determines after due consideration that to locate ~~multiple polling places~~ the polling places of

multiple precincts within the same polling location would be efficient, cost-effective, and convenient to voters.

B. Location. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, the polling place for a precinct shall be located in the precinct in a suitable public building and all public bodies are hereby required to allow the use of public buildings as ~~voting precincts~~ polling places without cost or charge when the parish governing authority requires it. If no public building is available, then a ~~precinct~~ polling place may be located on private property. The parish governing authority shall inform the secretary of state as to whether the parish polling places are located in public buildings or on private property.

* * *

§534. Change of polling places

A. Once the location of a polling place is established, it may only be changed by a vote of the parish governing authority.

B.(1) The location of a polling place shall not be changed during the period commencing on the date the qualifying period opens and ending on the date of the general election or, in the case of an election date exclusively for bond, tax, or other propositions or questions, during the period commencing on the forty-sixth day prior to the election and ending on the day of the election unless the ~~polling place~~ location becomes unavailable due to an emergency caused by an act of God or when privately owned property being used as a polling place becomes unavailable through no fault of the governing authority.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, if the locations of a polling place becomes unavailable during the period defined in and due to the reasons provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the parish president may change the location of the polling place. The parish president shall submit written notice of the change as soon as practicable to the secretary of state.

* * *

§553. Inspection and preparation of voting machines at polling places; precinct registers and supplemental list

* * *

E. Maintenance of precinct registers on election day.

* * *

(2) For each name appearing on the list, the commissioners shall write "~~voted by mail~~ absentee" in the place where the voter usually signs the precinct register and initial the precinct register adjacent thereto.

* * *

§571. Procedures for commissioners after termination of voting

A. At the termination of voting in a primary or general election, the commissioners shall announce that voting is terminated. The commissioners in the presence of the watchers shall immediately:

* * *

(8) Place one copy of the official election results reports, one copy of the machine certificates, one of the duplicate poll lists, all original executed challenges of voters, all precinct register corrections, all voter identification affidavits, all ~~physical disability affidavits~~ voter assistance forms, any physicians' certificates, any copies of disability documentation, a copy of each completed notation of irregularities form, and any address confirmation notices in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters", seal it and attach it to the precinct register after the termination of voting, and place a new protective seal on the precinct register.

* * *

§573. Evidence of election results

* * *

E. Transmission and disposition of original challenges, duplicate voters' affidavits, and address confirmation notices. (1) At the opening of the voting machines, the sealed precinct registers shall be immediately returned to the registrar of voters. Upon receipt of the sealed precinct registers, the registrar shall remove any attached original record of challenges of voters made during the election, any

precinct register correction affidavits, any voter identification affidavits made pursuant to R.S. 18:562, any address confirmation notices, any ~~physical disability affidavits~~ voter assistance forms, any certificates, any copies of disability documentation, and any completed voter registration applications.

* * *

(4) The registrar shall scan the address confirmation notice, voter identification affidavit, ~~disability documentation~~ voter assistance form, or voter registration application and add it to the voter's record in the state voter registration computer system after processing.

* * *

§1259. Arrangement of ballot; designation of party candidates

* * *

B.

* * *

(6) In preparing the ballots, the secretary of state shall arrange the names of the candidates of recognized political parties alphabetically, according to the names of the parties, followed by the names of the candidates nominated by nominating petitions and by the filing of notices of candidacy, listed alphabetically by the first word of the political principle designated in the notice of candidacy ~~designation of political principle~~.

C. No candidate nominated other than by a recognized political party shall use the name of any recognized political party in the ~~political or party designation~~ political principle designated in the notice of candidacy of such candidate.

* * *

§1280.21. Presidential preference primary election

* * *

B. Each elector voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the elector, ~~except that the state central committee of a recognized political party may allow in its bylaws, electors who are not affiliated with any political party to cast a vote on the ballot of such recognized political party.~~

* * *

PART IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS§1280.31. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, "recognized political party" means a political party recognized in this state pursuant to R.S. 18:441.

* * *

§1284. Resolution calling election; proposition

* * *

F.(1) ~~The preparation of the proposition to be submitted to the voters at an election shall be the responsibility of the governing authority of the political subdivision ordering the election. The proposition shall include the information required by this Section in simple, unbiased, concise, and easily understood language and be in the form of a question.~~ The proposition shall not exceed two hundred words in length and shall not include words that are struck through, underscored, or in boldface type.

* * *

§1284.1. Proposition language; clear, unbiased, and concise

The preparation of the proposition to be submitted to the voters at an election shall be the responsibility of the governing authority of the political subdivision ordering the election. The proposition shall include the information required by R.S. 18:1284 in simple, unbiased, concise, and easily understood language and be in the form of a question.

§1285. Notice of election

* * *

B.(1)(a) Written notice of the election and the certificate required by Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph shall be transmitted to the secretary of state and each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the election. If the election is to be held on a primary election date, then such notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the primary election. If this deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be the following day which is not

a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. If the election is not to be held on a primary election date, then the notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the fifty-fourth day prior to the election. The secretary of state shall not accept any revisions to propositions, including but not limited to changes in title, text, or numerical designations, after the last day for submission of the notice and certificate to the secretary of state, unless prior to the printing of the ballots the revision will correct a typographical error and the revision has been approved by the governing authority that called the proposition election.

* * *

§1286. Polling places; election officers

* * *

C. When the number of commissioners for each precinct in an election called on a general election date under the provisions of this Chapter is less than the number of commissioners chosen for the primary election date, the appropriate number of commissioners shall be chosen from the list of commissioners who worked at the precinct for the primary election.

* * *

§1286.1. Authority to consolidate polling places; reduction of number of voting machines and election officials

A. Notwithstanding any provision of R.S. 18:1286(A), when an election called under the provisions of this Chapter is not held at the same time as the election of any public official, in cases where ~~more than one polling place is within the same location~~ a single location serves as the polling place of more than one precinct the parish board of election supervisors may consolidate the polling places in that location so that a single polling place may serve each precinct assigned to that location for that election and may reduce the number of voting machines to be used in the election below the number fixed by R.S. 18:1363 and, in such case, shall notify, in accordance with the time line provided in R.S. 18:1363(H), the parish custodian of voting machines and the secretary of state of the number of machines

1 to be prepared and delivered ~~for the polling places so consolidated~~ to the location of
 2 the consolidated polling place.

3 B. ~~Whenever~~ When the parish board of election supervisors consolidates
 4 polling places as authorized by Subsection A of this Section, it shall appoint a
 5 commissioner-in-charge to serve ~~at each such~~ all precincts assigned to the
 6 consolidated polling place and may reduce to not less than two the number of
 7 commissioners and alternate commissioners to be appointed to serve at ~~each such~~
 8 ~~polling place~~ the location of the consolidated polling place.

9 * * *

10 §1299.1. Question or proposition to be voted on; length

11 A. The preparation of a question or proposition to be submitted to the voters
 12 at an election shall be the responsibility of the governing authority or other entity
 13 calling the election or submitting the question or proposition. The proposition shall
 14 be comprised of simple, unbiased, concise, and easily understood language and be
 15 in the form of a question. The proposition shall not exceed two hundred words in
 16 length and shall not include words that are struck through, underscored, or in
 17 boldface type. The governing authority or other entity shall be responsible for
 18 ensuring that the proposition is comprised of simple, unbiased, concise, and easily
 19 understood language.

20 B. The secretary of state shall be responsible for ensuring that the
 21 proposition ~~complies with the requirements of this Section~~ does not exceed two
 22 hundred words in length, does not include words that are struck through,
 23 underscored, or in boldface type, and is in the form of a question.

24 §1300. Procedures; notice of election; expenses

25 * * *

26 C.(1) When an election is called under the provisions of this Chapter, written
 27 notice of the election shall be transmitted to the secretary of state, the commissioner
 28 of elections, and each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the
 29 election. If the election is to be held on a primary election date, then such notice
 30 shall be received by the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to the opening of

the qualifying period for the primary election. If the election is not to be held on a primary election date, then such notice shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the fifty-fourth day prior to the election. If any of these deadlines fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be the following day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

* * *

§1300.2. Petition for recall election; campaign finance disclosure

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C.

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(b) With the recall petition, the chairman shall also submit to the registrar of voters an affidavit verifying the number of signatures submitted along with ~~an attestation~~ a statement that to the best of his knowledge all documents submitted are originals and not photocopies.

* * *

§1300.7. Governor to order election; proclamation; publication

A. If the required number of qualified electors of the voting area sign the petition for recall, the governor shall issue a proclamation ordering an election to be held for the purpose of voting on the question of the recall of the officer. The total number of registered voters in the voting area and the total number of registered voters in the voting area signing the petition shall be calculated from the totals on the certificates of all of the registrars of voters received by the governor. The governor shall issue such proclamation within fifteen days after he receives the certified petitions from all of the registrars of voters in the voting area who have received petitions for certification. If the final day for the governor to issue the proclamation falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the final day for issuing the proclamation. The proclamation shall order the election to be held on the next

available date specified in R.S. 18:402(F). If the election is to be held on a primary election date, the proclamation shall be issued at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the primary election. If the election is not to be held on a primary election date, the proclamation shall be issued on or before the fifty-fourth day prior to the election. If any of these deadlines fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be the following day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

* * *

§1300.11. Preparation of ballots; marking of ballots

~~The ballots at recall elections shall be provided and supplied in the same manner as the ballots for general elections, and in accordance with general election laws, except as provided in this Chapter. The top of the ballot shall provide in large capital letters~~ for the election shall appear as follows:

"SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE RECALL OF (Here state name ~~and~~ title, and election district of the officer whose recall is at issue.)"

~~Then shall follow the number and name of the election district and the location of the polling place. Then shall follow the dates of the election. Then shall follow, in separate lines on the ballot, the following:~~

"FOR the Recall. () _____"

AGAINST the Recall. () _____"

~~After the words "FOR the Recall", shall be a blank square, and after the words "AGAINST the Recall", shall be a blank square. The ballot shall provide instructions for voting.~~

* * *

§1306. Preparation and distribution of absentee by mail and early voting ballots

* * *

E.(1) The secretary of state shall prepare an absentee by mail certificate, the content of which is subject to approval of the attorney general. The certificate shall include but not necessarily be limited to:

* * *

(f) An ~~affidavit~~ attestation followed by a line for the handwritten signature or mark of the voter, certifying that the statements made by him are true and correct and that the voter is aware of the penalties for knowingly making a false statement therein, which penalties shall be stated on the certificate.

* * *

§1309. Early voting; verification

* * *

D.(1)

* * *

(c) If satisfied that the voter has identified himself as the voter registered in the state voter registration computer system ~~or named on the precinct register~~ and that he is qualified to vote, the registrar or his deputy shall initial the ~~precinct register~~ or early voting list register kept by the registrar opposite the voter's signature or mark. The voter then shall be allowed to vote.

(d) A voter who votes without the picture identification required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph is subject to challenge as provided in R.S. 18:1315.

(2) If the voter's name is found in the state voter registration computer system ~~or precinct register~~ on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall be required to complete an address confirmation card to determine his eligibility to vote.

E.(1) The voter's identity having been established as provided in Subsection D of this Section, the voter shall sign or make his mark prior to voting in the ~~precinct register~~ or early voting register.

* * *

H. Prior to delivery of the precinct register to the parish custodian, the registrar shall ensure that the precinct register reflects for each voter whether the voter voted during early voting or voted timely absentee by mail using the words "voted ~~by mail~~ absentee" and, if the register was not used during early voting, "voted early" in the signature line for the voter in the precinct register.

* * *

1 N.

2 * * *

3 (2) A qualified voter of the state who is not a candidate in the election may
4 serve as an early voting watcher; however, no person who is required to register as
5 a sex offender or child predator pursuant to R.S. 15:542 may serve as a watcher.

6 * * *

7 §1309.1. Preparation of machines for early voting; examination by candidate or his
8 representative; sealing machines

9 A. At the time of qualifying, the parish custodian shall notify each candidate
10 to contact the registrar of voters for the time and place at which the voting machines
11 will be prepared for early voting. The registrar of voters shall post at his office
12 adequate notice of the date, time, and place at which the voting machines will be
13 prepared for early voting and shall post the same information on his office's website,
14 if possible. The candidate or his representative may be present to observe the
15 preparation and testing of the machines by the registrar of voters with the assistance
16 of the secretary of state's technicians and to observe the ~~testing and~~ sealing of the
17 machines by the registrar of voters in the presence of the parish board of election
18 supervisors. Each candidate or his representative shall be afforded a reasonable
19 opportunity to view the test vote tape for each machine to see that they are in the
20 proper condition for use in the election, which opportunity shall not be less than
21 thirty minutes beginning at the time designated by the registrar of voters to begin
22 preparation of the machines for sealing. However, no candidate, representative, or
23 citizen shall interfere with the registrar of voters, secretary of state's technicians,
24 parish board of election supervisors, or any employee or technician or assume any
25 of their duties.

26 * * *

27 §1310. Execution of certificate; marking of ballot; casting vote; assistance

28 * * *

29 E. If a voter is notified by the registrar of voters in his parish of a deficiency
30 on his absentee by mail ballot certificate that must be cured, he may obtain a

1 replacement ballot from the registrar. The registrar may make the ballot available
 2 via hand delivery to the voter or an immediate family member of the voter.

3 * * *

4 §1313. Tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots

5 * * *

6 F. The board shall count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and
 7 ~~announce post~~ the results after the closing of the polls as the total number of absentee
 8 by mail and early voting votes cast in the election for each candidate and the total
 9 number cast for and against each proposition.

10 * * *

11 H. The procedure for counting early voting machine ballots and paper ballots
 12 voted during early voting shall be as follows:

13 * * *

14 (3) The board shall ~~announce post~~ the results from each early voting machine
 15 results report for the early voting ballots, unless an early voting ballot has been
 16 challenged pursuant to R.S. 18:1309(E)(6) or R.S. 18:1315.

17 * * *

18 K.(1) Upon completion of the tabulation and counting of the absentee by
 19 mail and early voting ballots, the parish board of election supervisors shall return the
 20 absentee by mail and early voting ballots and electronic results report to the special,
 21 secure absentee by mail and early voting ballot container; shall seal the container;
 22 and shall deliver the container to the registrar of voters. The registrar shall preserve
 23 the container and its contents inviolate and, except upon order of a court of
 24 competent jurisdiction or at the direction of the secretary of state for the purpose of
 25 conducting post-election tabulation audits, shall not allow the absentee by mail and
 26 early voting documents to be inspected by anyone until the delay for filing an action
 27 contesting the election has lapsed. If an action contesting the election is commenced
 28 timely, the registrar shall continue to preserve the container and its contents
 29 inviolate, subject to the orders of the court, until the final judgment in the action has
 30 become definitive.

31 * * *

§1313.1. Preparation, verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots

* * *

F. The board shall count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and ~~announce~~ post the results after the closing of the polls on election day as the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast in the election for each candidate and the total number cast for and against each proposition.

* * *

I. The procedure for counting early voting machine ballots on election day shall be as follows:

* * *

(2) The board shall ~~announce~~ post the results from each early voting machine results report for the early voting ballots, unless an early voting ballot has been challenged pursuant to R.S. 18:1309(E)(6) or R.S. 18:1315.

* * *

L.(1) Upon completion of the tabulation and counting of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, the parish board of election supervisors shall return the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and electronic results report to the special, secure absentee by mail and early voting ballot container; shall seal the container; and shall deliver the container to the registrar of voters. The registrar shall preserve the container and its contents inviolate and, except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or at the direction of the secretary of state for the purpose of conducting post-election tabulation audits, shall not allow the absentee by mail and early voting documents to be inspected by anyone until the delay for filing an action contesting the election has lapsed. If an action contesting the election is commenced timely, the registrar shall continue to preserve the container and its contents inviolate, subject to the orders of the court, until the final judgment in the action has become definitive.

* * *

§1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

* * *

D.(1) During the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots, at least a majority of the members of the board shall hear and determine the validity of any ballot challenged ~~in accordance with the provisions of~~ pursuant to Subsection A or B of this Section ~~or deemed challenged pursuant to Subsection C of this Section.~~

* * *

§1333. Nursing home early voting program; voting by persons residing in a nursing home

* * *

D.

* * *

(2) An application to vote in the nursing home early voting program that satisfies the requirements of this Section shall remain valid indefinitely unless the voter submits a written request to the registrar to be removed from the program, the letter provided for in Subsection E of this Section is returned to the registrar or voters as undeliverable, or the voter no longer resides in the nursing home listed in his application. However, if the voter has become a resident of a different nursing home in the parish and has notified the registrar of voters in writing of the change of nursing home address, his application shall remain valid.

(3) If the letter provided for in Subsection E of this Section is returned to the registrar of voters as undeliverable, the registrar shall mail an address confirmation notice to the voter as provided in R.S. 18:198(A).

E. The registrar shall notify the applicant by letter, at the return nursing home address shown on the request, the day on which a deputy registrar or other qualified person selected by the registrar will be present at the nursing home to permit the applicant to cast his ballot. The registrar shall assign a number to the applicant which ~~shall be stamped or entered in ink on the upper right side of the letter and also shall be entered~~ shall appear in clearly distinguishable figures on the letter and on the absentee by mail ballot envelope that will contain the absentee by mail

ballot to be delivered to that applicant on the day designated in the letter. If the letter is mailed by the registrar prior to his receipt of the absentee by mail ballots for the election, the registrar shall enter the name of the applicant; his address, ward, and precinct; and the number assigned to the applicant on a list that the registrar shall keep for the purpose and, upon receipt of the absentee by mail ballots for the election, the registrar shall enter the number on the absentee by mail ballot envelope as provided in this Subsection.

* * *

§1362.1. Voting System Commission; creation and organization; duties and responsibilities

* * *

L. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the secretary of state shall award no contract for voting systems unless the awarded proposer has provided a sworn affidavit ~~attesting~~ stating that the proposer is not subject to significant ownership or control by a foreign power, and that the proposer is aware that a false ~~attestation~~ statement will be subject to the provisions of R.S. 39:1678 and 1679. For purposes of this Subsection, "significant ownership or control by a foreign power" means ownership, equity, or control which equals or exceeds twenty-five percent of the total outstanding ownership, equity, or control of the proposer, and which is exercised directly or indirectly by, or for the express benefit of, the government of a foreign nation, state, or principality, or any instrumentality or subsidiary thereof. The sworn affidavit required pursuant to this Subsection, and all related information, shall be a public record.

* * *

§1363. Number of machines; allocation to precincts; exception; reserve machines

A. In determining the number of voting machines to be purchased and allocated for each voting precinct in each parish or municipality, the minimum number to be allocated shall be as follows:

* * *

(3) Three machines for each precinct where more than one thousand voters but not more than ~~fourteen~~ eighteen hundred voters were registered to vote thirty days prior to the election.

(4) Four machines for each precinct where more than ~~fourteen~~ eighteen hundred voters were registered to vote thirty days prior to the election.

* * *

§1405. Time for commencement of action

* * *

C. An action contesting an election on a proposed constitutional amendment shall be instituted no earlier than the day after the election and not later than 4:30 p.m. of the tenth day after promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state.

* * *

§1409. Trial; decision; appeal

* * *

K.(1) Neither the secretary of state nor any employee engaged in the administration of or charged with the custody of any records or files of the Department of State shall be subject to subpoena or otherwise required to appear in court for an objection to candidacy filed pursuant to this Chapter.

(2) In lieu of live testimony for any action filed pursuant to this Chapter, a properly executed affidavit issued by the secretary of state or his designee shall serve as sufficient confirmation as to the accuracy of the records and files of the Department of State for such purposes.

* * *

§1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

* * *

E. Any person who intentionally makes a false written statement in an attestation required by this Code shall, upon conviction, be guilty of the crime of perjury and subject to the penalty set forth in R.S. 14:123.

* * *

§1462. Acts prohibited during early voting or on election day; electioneering;
intimidation; exceptions; enforcement; penalties

* * *

F. The duly constituted law enforcement officers of the political subdivision in which any such election is being held shall enforce the provisions of this Section when requested to do so by a clerk of court, registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner. The clerk of court, registrar, deputy registrars, commissioners-in-charge and commissioners likewise shall enforce the provisions of this Section at the polling places. The law enforcement officers, clerk of court, commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, deputy registrars, and registrar are authorized to seize, remove, and destroy any political cards, signs, pictures, or literature being used or displayed in violation of any of the provisions ~~hereof~~ of this Section.

* * *

§1501.3. Gubernatorial transition and inauguration; contribution limits; reports

* * *

C. On or before the sixtieth day after the gubernatorial inauguration and by February fifteenth annually thereafter until all contributions have been expended or used, the governor shall file an all-inclusive report with the supervisory committee. Each report shall be complete through January thirty-first. Each report ~~which~~ shall state:

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 18:192(A)(1), 402(A)(1), (D) and (E)(1), 410.1 through 410.3, 410.4(B), 410.5(A), 410.6(B)(1) and (2), 410.7, 410.8, 410.9(A), 435(B)(1), 501(A)(1), (B)(1), and (C), 551(B), (C)(1)(c)(i) and (2), and (D), 1279, 1285(B)(1)(a), 1307(E), and 1309(N)(5) and (7) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:401.1(H), 1307(L), and 1310(F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§192. Annual canvass; costs

A.(1) No later than July thirty-first, the registrar of voters of each parish in conjunction with the Department of State shall annually canvass the names of the

registrants in all precincts in the parish. Failure of the registrar to conduct an annual canvass as provided in this Subsection shall constitute willful misconduct relating to his official duty for the purposes of R.S. 18:53. The Department of State shall use ~~the United States Postal Service or its licensee~~ address data obtained pursuant to a written agreement from another state or federal governmental agency or private vendor that provides voter registration eligibility or address data to verify the names and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state. A verification ~~by the United States Postal Service or its licensee~~ of address data shall constitute a valid canvass of the registered voter.

* * *

§401.1. Election emergency; purpose; elections emergency contingency plan

* * *

H. For purposes of this Section, a vacancy in a party primary office that may not be filled by appointment, designation, or in accordance with the timeframes required by law shall constitute an emergency. If the vacancy may not be filled in a timely manner in accordance with the election dates provided for in R.S. 18:402, the governor may proclaim a state of emergency for purposes of calling a special election to fill the vacancy. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:401.3, following the issuance of the emergency proclamation, the authority required by law to call a special election to fill the vacancy in office shall, in consultation with and with the certification of the secretary of state, issue a proclamation ordering a special election. The proclamation ordering the special election shall include the dates for qualifying, early voting, the primary election, the general election, and at least one party primary election and make all provisions necessary to conduct an election in a timely manner notwithstanding the dates, timing, and delays otherwise provided by this Code.

* * *

§402. Dates of primary and general elections; prohibited election days

A. Prohibited election days. (1) No election of any kind shall be held in this state on any of the days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret,

1 Simchat Torah, the first two days and the last two days of Passover, Shavuot, Tish'a
 2 B'Av, the two days preceding Labor Day, ~~or~~ the three days preceding Easter, or the
 3 three days following Thanksgiving Day. If the date of any fall election falls on any
 4 of the above-named days, the election shall be held on the same weekday of the
 5 preceding week. If the date of any spring election falls on any of the above-named
 6 days, the election shall be held on the same ~~weekday~~ day of the following week.

7 * * *

8 D. Odd-numbered year election dates in a nongubernatorial election year.

9 (1) Spring elections. (a) There shall be a spring primary election held on the
 10 third Saturday in April for municipal and ward officers elected in the spring of a
 11 nongubernatorial election year. This date shall also serve as the first party primary
 12 election for a special election called to fill a vacancy in a party primary office.

13 (b) There shall be a spring election held on the sixth Saturday after the third
 14 Saturday in April which shall be a general election for municipal and ward officers
 15 elected in the spring of a nongubernatorial election year. This date shall also serve
 16 as the second party primary election, if necessary, for a special election called to fill
 17 a vacancy in a party primary office.

18 (2) Fall elections. (a) There shall be a fall primary election held on the
 19 second Saturday in October for parochial and municipal officers in a parish
 20 containing a municipality with a population of three hundred thousand or more. This
 21 date shall serve as the general election for a special election called to fill a vacancy
 22 in a party primary office.

23 (b) There shall be a fall general election held on the sixth Saturday after the
 24 second Saturday in October of an election year.

25 E.(1) Special elections to fill newly created offices or vacancies in office
 26 shall be held on dates fixed by the appropriate authority in the proclamation issued
 27 in accordance with law. For an election to fill a vacancy, the dates fixed in the
 28 proclamation shall be limited to the dates for primary elections and general elections
 29 established in Subsections B, C, and D of this Section. Except as otherwise provided
 30 by law, a special primary election shall be held on the first of the election dates

established in this Section that is after the date on which the proclamation calling the special primary election is issued, provided that the proclamation is issued at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the special primary election. If this deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be the following day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

The authority issuing the proclamation shall consult with the secretary of state in the establishment of a qualifying period and election dates for special elections.

* * *

§410.1. Party primary elections

Party primary elections for party primary offices as defined in R.S. 18:2 shall be held pursuant to this Part, and any provision of this Code in conflict with these provisions shall not be applicable to elections for party primary offices. Any provision of this Code that is not in conflict with these provisions shall be applicable to these elections unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. For purposes of this Part, the phrase "~~recognized~~ major political party" shall mean a political party recognized pursuant to R.S. 18:441(C).

§410.2. Party primary office; party primary qualifications

~~Recognized~~ Major political parties shall make nominations of candidates for party primary office as provided in this Part. Only candidates affiliated with a ~~recognized~~ major political party may participate in the party primary election of the political party of the candidate's party affiliation.

§410.3. Purpose and nature of party primary elections

A. For general elections, political parties shall make all nominations of candidates for party primary office by direct primary elections held pursuant to this Part. In party primary elections, each voter voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the voter.

B. Voters not affiliated with a political party may vote in a ~~recognized~~ major party primary if a party primary ballot is selected by the voter prior to casting his ballot, but such a voter may vote only in one ~~recognized~~ major party primary. If an unaffiliated voter chooses to vote in the first party primary of one political party, the

1 unaffiliated voter shall not vote in the second party primary of another political
2 party.

3 §410.4. Manner of qualifying for a party primary election

4 * * *

5 B. A person who desires to become a candidate in a party primary election
6 shall be affiliated with a ~~recognized~~ major political party. A person may qualify as
7 a candidate only in a party primary election of the party with which he is affiliated
8 as shown on his voter registration at the time of qualifying for that office. No
9 candidate shall change his political party affiliation after he has qualified for an
10 election until the deadline for an election contest has passed.

11 §410.5. Nominating petitions

12 A. A person may be nominated as a candidate in a party primary election
13 only by persons who are affiliated with the same ~~recognized~~ major political party,
14 who are qualified to vote on the office he seeks, and who sign a nominating petition
15 for him no more than one hundred twenty days before the qualifying period opens
16 for candidates in the party primary election. The registrar of voters shall reject any
17 signature on a nominating petition not in compliance with this Section.

18 * * *

19 §410.6. Death of a candidate; procedure; selection of party nominee

20 * * *

21 B.(1) If as the result of the death of a candidate in a party primary election,
22 a ~~recognized~~ major political party has no party nominee qualified for the general
23 election, the ~~recognized~~ major political party shall select, in the manner provided in
24 its bylaws, the party nominee who shall meet all of the qualifications for the party
25 primary office.

26 (2) The chairman of the state central committee of the ~~recognized~~ major
27 political party shall transmit an attestation to the secretary of state containing the
28 name of the party nominee, the signature of the chairman of the state central
29 committee, the signature of the party nominee, and any other information required

by the form of the attestation prescribed by the secretary of state. The attestation shall be filed as soon as possible after the death of the party's candidate, but no later than noon on the seventh day prior to the general election day. If the attestation is received no later than 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day after the close of the qualifying period for nonparty primary offices for the fall primary election, the secretary of state shall print the name of the selected party nominee on the ballot. If the attestation is filed in accordance with this Paragraph, but the name of the selected party nominee is not placed on the ballot, there shall be a notice regarding the selected party nominee posted at each polling place and on the website of the secretary of state. If the selected party nominee's name is not placed on the ballot, all votes cast for the party's deceased candidate shall be attributed to the party nominee.

* * *

§410.7. Party candidates who qualify for a general election

A. The candidate who receives the majority of votes in the party primary qualifies for the general election as the party's nominee for the office. All candidate nominations for a party primary office by ~~recognized~~ major political parties for the general election shall be made in this manner, except as otherwise provided in R.S. 18:410.6(B).

B.(1) In the event that no candidate receives the majority of votes in the first party primary, the two candidates from each political party who received the greatest number of votes in the first party primary shall be voted on in the second party primary.

~~(1)~~ (2) In the case of a tie vote for first place in the first party primary of a ~~recognized~~ major political party, all of the candidates affiliated with the same political party who received the same highest number of votes qualify for the second party primary.

~~(2)~~ (3) In the case of a tie vote for second place in the first party primary of a ~~recognized~~ major political party, all of the candidates affiliated with the same

1 political party who received the same second highest number of votes and the
2 candidate affiliated with the same political party who received the highest number
3 of votes qualify for the second party primary.

4 ~~(3)~~ (4) If one of the persons receiving the highest number of votes in the first
5 party primary withdraws his candidacy, dies, or is otherwise disqualified, thereby
6 leaving only one candidate from the same political party in the race, the remaining
7 candidate who has received the highest number of votes for the office for which he
8 was a candidate shall be declared the nominee of the party.

9 C. There shall be no third party primary. In the case of a tie vote in the
10 second party primary of a ~~recognized~~ major political party, none of the candidates
11 qualify as the party nominee for the general election, and the party nominee shall
12 be selected by a public drawing of lots conducted by the State Board of Election
13 Supervisors from among the candidates who received the highest number of votes
14 in the second party primary election. The public drawing of lots shall be conducted
15 at the state capitol on a day and at a time fixed by the board within one week after
16 the results of the election become official. The candidates involved shall be given
17 at least three days' written notice of the time and place of the public drawing of lots.
18 §410.8. Candidates not affiliated with a ~~recognized~~ major political party; qualifying
19 for the general election

20 A. Any person who desires to become a candidate in a general election for
21 a party primary office and who is not registered as being affiliated with a ~~recognized~~
22 major political party shall file his notice of candidacy, which shall be accompanied
23 by a nominating petition as provided in R.S. 18:465, with the appropriate qualifying
24 official during the qualifying period established for the party primary election. The
25 number of signatures required on such a nominating petition shall be as set forth in
26 R.S. 18:465.

27 B. A person filing a notice of candidacy as provided in Subsection A of this
28 Section may be nominated only by persons who are qualified to vote on the office
29 he seeks, who sign a nominating petition for him, and who are not affiliated with a
30 ~~recognized~~ major political party. The registrar of voters shall reject any signature

on a nominating petition not in compliance with this Subsection.

§410.9. Nomination of candidates in a party primary election; general election; unopposed candidate

A. If, after the close of the qualifying period for candidates in a party primary election, only one candidate qualified for the ~~recognized~~ major political party or only one candidate for the ~~recognized~~ major political party remains after the withdrawal of one or more candidates, the candidate is declared the nominee of the party, and his name shall not appear on the ballot in a party primary election but shall be on the ballot for the general election. If a party primary election ballot was printed with the name of a candidate who withdrew on it, any votes received by a candidate who withdrew shall be void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever.

* * *

§435. Watchers; appointment and commission

* * *

B.(1)(a) A list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the party primary, primary, or general election; however, if the tenth business day before the party primary, 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. For purposes of this Paragraph, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). If the office that the candidate seeks is voted on in more than one parish, a list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court in each parish where the candidate will have watchers.

(b) A list of watchers submitted by a candidate for the party primary or primary election may be used for the second party primary, primary, or 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 he wants to use the same list of watchers.

(c) A list of political party super watchers submitted by a party for the party primary or primary election may be used for the second party primary, primary, or general election only if the chairman of the parish executive committee or the 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 the chairman wants to use the same list of political party super watchers.

* * *

§501. Procedure for withdrawal

A.(1)(a) A candidate in a primary election may withdraw from the election by filing notice of his withdrawal with the secretary of state prior to 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day after the close of the qualifying period.

(b) A candidate in a first party primary election may withdraw from the election by filing notice of his withdrawal with the secretary of state prior to 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day after the close of the qualifying period.

(c) The notice of withdrawal shall be signed by the candidate and duly acknowledged by him before an officer authorized to administer oaths.

* * *

B.(1)(a) A candidate in a general election may withdraw from the election by filing notice of his withdrawal with the secretary of state prior to 4:30 p.m. on the ninth day after the date of the primary election.

(b) A candidate in a general election for a party primary office may withdraw from the election by filing notice of his withdrawal with the secretary of state prior to 4:30 p.m. on the ninth day after the second party primary election date, regardless of whether a second party primary election is held.

(c) The notice of withdrawal shall be signed by the candidate and duly acknowledged by him before an officer authorized to administer oaths.

* * *

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section, if the number of candidates remaining in a primary election, second party primary election, or general election for a public office is one more than the number of

persons to be elected to the office, the secretary of state shall accept a notice of withdrawal that is filed prior to 4:30 p.m. on the second day prior to the ~~election~~ first day of early voting. The candidate or candidates remaining after the withdrawal shall be declared elected by the people.

* * *

§551. Ballots

* * *

B. Titles of offices. (1) In any primary election for a party primary office, the parties shall be arranged alphabetically, and under such party affiliation, the titles of the party primary offices to be voted on shall be listed in the order provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. The names of the candidates for each party primary office shall be listed alphabetically by surname within each party and printed below the title of the party primary office.

(2) Below any party primary offices, the ~~The~~ titles of the offices to be voted on in a primary or general election shall be listed on the ballot ~~in capital letters~~ in the following order:

(a) President and vice president.

(b) Presidential nominees in a presidential preference primary. If an election for presidential nominees in a presidential preference primary appears on the same ballot with an election for a party primary office, the secretary of state may place the presidential nominees above the party primary office candidates of the same party.

(c) State offices--governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of insurance, United States senator, United States representative, justice of the supreme court, judge of a court of appeal, member of the public service commission, member of another state board or commission, and any other state office.

(d) Local offices--state senator, state representative, district judge, district attorney, judge of a parish court, sheriff, clerk of court, assessor, coroner, police juror, judge and marshal of a city court, member of a school board, member of other local boards and commissions, justice of the peace, and other local offices.

(e) Municipal offices--mayor, chief of police or marshal, alderman or member of a city council, member of a municipal board or commission, and other municipal offices.

(f) Political party offices--member of a state central committee, member-at-large of a parish executive committee, and member of a parish executive committee from a political subdivision. If an election for a political party office appears on the same ballot with an election for presidential nominees in a presidential preference primary election, the secretary of state may place the political party office ~~immediately following the office of presidential nominees of the same political party~~ after party primary offices or after all other offices.

~~(2)~~ (3) When a special election to fill a newly created office or a vacancy in an existing office is held at the same time as a regularly scheduled election, the secretary of state may list the titles of the offices to be voted on in the special election at the end of the ballot. However, when the geographic area of an office in the regularly scheduled election and in the special election are the same and when the candidates in the regularly scheduled election and in the special election for such office are the same, the title of the office and the names of the candidates shall appear only once on the ballot as provided in this Section and the ballot shall state that the election is being held to fill both the vacancy and the full term for the office. Each elector shall cast the same vote for both the regular and the special election for the office, and the candidates who qualify for the general election shall qualify for the general election for both the regular and the special election for the office, and the candidate who is elected shall be elected to fill both the vacancy and the full term for the office.

~~(3)~~ (4) The titles of offices not specifically provided for in this Section shall be listed on the ballot in the order determined by the secretary of state.

C. Names and numbers of candidates. The names of the candidates in a primary or general election shall be listed on the ballot as follows:

(1)

* * *

1 (c)(i) The names of the candidates for each office shall be arranged
2 alphabetically by surname and shall be listed below the title of the office, ~~in smaller~~
3 ~~capital letters~~. The names of the candidates shall be numbered from first to last.
4 Once the secretary of state has assigned numbers to the candidates on the primary
5 election ballot, the numbers shall not be changed.

6 * * *

7 (2) In a general election only the names of the candidates who qualified for
8 election shall be listed on the ballot, and the names shall be listed in the same form
9 as they were listed on the ballot for the primary election. The names of candidates
10 who were elected in the primary election shall not be listed on the ballot. The names
11 of the candidates for each office shall be arranged alphabetically by surname, and
12 shall be listed below the title of the office, ~~in smaller capital letters~~. The names of
13 the candidates shall be given the same number assigned to them on the primary
14 election ballot.

15 D. Political party designation. (1) The political party designation of a
16 candidate who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall
17 be listed on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately
18 after or below the candidate's name. If a candidate is affiliated with a political party,
19 but such party is not a recognized political party, the word "other" shall be placed
20 after his name. If a candidate is not affiliated with any political party, the words "no
21 party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name. The secretary of
22 state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to effectuate the provisions and
23 purposes of this Subsection.

24 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the
25 political party designation of a candidate in a party primary election shall appear on
26 the ballot according to Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section.

27 * * *

28 §1279. Vacancies; representatives in congress

29 When a vacancy occurs in the office of representative in congress, the
30 governor shall determine the dates on which the special elections shall be held and

1 the dates of the qualifying period in accordance with R.S. 18:402 and shall issue a
2 proclamation ordering a special election and specifying the dates on which the first
3 party primary, second primary, if necessary, and general elections will be held and
4 the dates of the qualifying period for the election. Within twenty-four hours after
5 issuing the proclamation, the governor shall send a copy of the proclamation to the
6 secretary of state, who shall within twenty-four hours of receipt of the information
7 notify all election officials having any duty to perform in connection with a special
8 election to fill such vacancy, including the parish boards of election supervisors for
9 the parish or parishes in which the vacancy occurred. Immediately thereafter the
10 secretary of state shall publish the proclamation in the official journal of each parish
11 in which the election is to be held. The election shall be conducted in the same
12 manner and at the same places and the returns shall be certified as in regular
13 congressional elections. If at a primary or general election in a congressional district
14 one representative in congress is to be elected for a full term and another to fill a
15 vacancy, the ballots containing the names of the candidates shall, as a part of the title
16 of the office, designate the term for which the candidates are respectively nominated.

17 * * *

18 §1285. Notice of election

19 * * *

20 B.(1)(a) Written notice of the election and the certificate required by
21 Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph shall be transmitted to the secretary of state and
22 each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the election. If the
23 election is to be held on a primary election date, then such notice and certificate shall
24 be received by the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to the opening of the
25 qualifying period for the primary election. If this deadline falls on a Saturday,
26 Sunday, or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be the following day which is not
27 a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. If the election is not to be held on a primary
28 election date, then the notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state
29 on or before the sixty-first day prior to the election. The secretary of state shall not
30 accept any revisions to propositions, including but not limited to changes in title,

text, or numerical designations, after the last day for submission of the notice and certificate to the secretary of state, unless prior to the printing of the ballots, the revision will correct a typographical error and the revision has been approved by the governing authority that called the proposition election.

* * *

§1307. Application by mail

* * *

E. A person entitled to vote absentee by mail may request in his application for an absentee ballot for a primary election that an absentee ballot for the succeeding general election be sent to him when such ballots become available for distribution; however, in such case, the applicant shall declare in writing to the registrar that he will be eligible to vote absentee by mail in the general election. For purposes of this Subsection, a party primary election and the succeeding general election for a party primary office are two separate elections. Separate requests shall be made to vote absentee by mail for the party primary election and for the succeeding general election.

* * *

L. The registrar shall not send an absentee ballot for a closed party primary election for which the voter is not eligible.

* * *

§1309. Early voting; verification

* * *

N.

* * *

(5) 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 the party primary, primary, or general election; however, if the fourteenth business day before the first day of early voting for the party primary, 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. For purposes of this Paragraph,
"commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 13:3204(D).

* * *

(7) A list of early voting watchers submitted for the party primary or primary
election may be used for the second party primary, primary, or general election only
if the chairman of the parish executive committee of the political 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 second party primary, primary, or general election that the
chairman wants to use the same list of early voting watchers.

* * *

§1310. Execution of certificate; marking of ballot; casting vote; assistance

* * *

F. If a voter who is not affiliated with a political party receives an absentee
ballot for the first party primary for a certain major political party in an election for
a party primary office and would like to choose the ballot for the first party primary
of a different major political party before his ballot has been cast and returned to the
registrar, he may obtain a replacement ballot from the registrar.

Section 3. Section 2 of Act No. 1 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the
Legislature is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

"Section 2. ~~This~~ (A) Solely for the purposes of qualifying for
elections in 2026 and for other activities and requirements related to the
conduct of elections in 2026, the provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall
become effective on June 12, 2025.

(B) For all other purposes, the provisions of this Act shall become
effective on January 1, 2026."

Section 4. Section 5 of Act No. 640 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature
is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

"Section 5.(A) Solely for the purposes of qualifying for elections in
2026 and for other activities and requirements related to the conduct of
elections in 2026, the provisions of this Act shall become effective on ~~August~~
~~1, 2025~~ June 12, 2025.

1 (B) For all other purposes, the provisions of this Act shall become
2 effective on January 1, 2026."

3 Section 5.(A)(1) R.S. 18:467 as amended and reenacted by Act No. 640 of the 2024
4 Regular Session of the Legislature shall supersede R.S. 18:467(introductory paragraph) as
5 amended and reenacted by Act No. 1 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the
6 Legislature.

7 (2) R.S. 18:410.6 as amended and reenacted by Act No. 640 of the 2024 Regular
8 Session of the Legislature shall supersede R.S. 18:410.6 as enacted by Act No. 1 of the 2024
9 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature.

10 (3) R.S. 18:410.10 as amended and reenacted by Act No. 640 of the 2024 Regular
11 Session of the Legislature shall supersede R.S. 18:410.10 as enacted by Act No. 1 of the
12 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature.

13 (B) R.S. 18:192(A)(1) and (2), 402(A)(1), (D), and (E)(1), 410.1 through 410.3,
14 410.4(B), 410.5(A), 410.6(B)(1) and (2), 410.7(A), (B)(1) and (2), and (C), 410.8, 410.9(A),
15 and 1285(B)(1)(a) as amended and reenacted by this Act shall supersede those provisions
16 as amended and reenacted in Act No. 1 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the
17 Legislature and Act No. 640 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature.

18 (C) R.S. 18:192(A)(1), 402(E)(1), and 1285(B)(1)(a) as amended and reenacted in
19 Section 2 of this Act shall, on the effective date of Section 2 of this Act, supersede those
20 provisions as amended and reenacted in Section 1 of this Act.

21 Section 6. R.S. 18:1280.21(C) and (D), 1280.21.1, and 1371(A)(2)(c) are hereby
22 repealed in their entirety.

23 Section 7. Section 2 of Act No. 640 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature
24 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

25 Section 8.(A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is authorized and directed to arrange
26 in alphabetical order and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 18:2 and to correct any
27 cross-references to the renumbered Paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions
28 of this Act.

29 (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is authorized and directed to redesignate the
30 references to R.S. 18:402(B) and (C) that appear in R.S. 18:513(A)(5), R.S. 33:383(A), and
31 R.S. 33:1885 to reference R.S. 18:402.

1 Section 9.(A) Sections 1, 6, and 8 of this Act shall become effective August 1, 2025.

2 (B)(1) Solely for the purposes of qualifying for elections in 2026 and for other
3 activities and requirements related to the conduct of elections in 2026, Section 2 of this Act
4 shall become effective June 12, 2025.

5 (2) For all other purposes, the provisions of Section 2 of this Act shall become
6 effective January 1, 2026.

7 (C) This Section and Sections 3, 4, 5, and 7 of this Act shall become effective upon
8 signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for
9 bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section
10 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved
11 by the legislature, this Section and Sections 3, 4, 5, and 7 of this Act shall become effective
12 on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

ACT No. 495

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 342

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:464(B)(1) and 465(C)(1) and (3)(b), relative to qualifying for
3 elections; to increase qualifying fees of certain candidates; to provide for nominating
4 petitions; to provide for the number of required signatures for nominating petitions
5 of certain state candidates; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:464(B)(1) and 465(C)(1) and (3)(b) are hereby amended and
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 §464. Qualifying fees; additional fees imposed by political party committees;
11 financial statements

12 * * *

13 B. Amount of qualifying fees. The qualifying fees for candidates in primary
14 elections are:

15 (1) For state candidates -- ~~seven hundred fifty dollars for governor; two~~
16 thousand five hundred dollars for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,
17 attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and commissioner of
18 insurance; three thousand five hundred dollars for United States senator; and one
19 thousand five hundred dollars for United States representative; four hundred fifty
20 dollars for justice of the supreme court, judge of a court of appeal, and member of
21 the public service commission, and six hundred dollars for all other state candidates.

22 * * *

1 §465. Nominating petitions

2 * *

3 C. Number of signatures required. The number of qualified voters who must
4 timely sign a nominating petition is:

(1) For a candidate for an office voted on throughout the state--~~five thousand~~
two thousand five hundred, not less than ~~five hundred~~ two hundred fifty of which
shall be from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided.

8 * * *

9 (3) For a candidate for any of the following offices:

10 * * *

(b) United States Representatives in Congress--~~one thousand~~ seven hundred
fifty from within that district.

13 * * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To repeal the Department of State rule (LAC 31:III.303(B)(1)(j)), which provides relative to password protection and authentication on devices used for tabulation as part of a voting system to be tested and certified for use in Louisiana, and to direct the office of the state register to incorporate the repeal into the Louisiana Administrative Code.

WHEREAS, LAC 31:III.303(B)(1)(j) requires any new voting system to be tested and certified for use in Louisiana to provide password protection and multi-factor user authentication on every device used for tabulation; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:969 provides that the legislature, by concurrent resolution, may suspend, amend, or repeal any rule adopted by a state department, agency, board, or commission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that LAC 31:III.303(B)(1)(j) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the office of the state register.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the state register is hereby directed to have the repeal of LAC 31:III.303(B)(1)(j) incorporated into the Louisiana Administrative Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective on June 12, 2025.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Department of State's policies, procedures, and practices regarding the integrity of elections in Louisiana, including but not limited to a comparison of policies, procedures, and best practices used by other states.

WHEREAS, most states require some type of post-election audit to review the accuracy of the election results and the election process and these types of post-election audits include traditional post-election audits, risk-limiting audits, and procedural audits; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Louisiana require assurance that the entire election process administered and conducted by the Department of State and our election officials, including the secretary of state, clerks of court, registrars of voters, and other election officials across the state, is sufficient to provide for the integrity and security of all elections held within the state; and

WHEREAS, if the legislative auditor requests sensitive data elements, as outlined in R.S. 18:154(C)(1), the Department of State shall utilize cryptography to protect the data.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Department of State's policies, procedures, and practices and those of election officials in this state regarding the integrity of elections in Louisiana, including but not limited to a comparison of policies, procedures, and best practices used by other states, during the conduct of the performance audit of the Department of State every four years, following the 2028 presidential election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state legislative auditor and the secretary of state.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Ensuring Voter Participation in the Political Process; to provide for membership of the task force; to provide that the task force study mechanisms to encourage and promote voter participation in the political process; and to require the task force to make written recommendations to the legislature prior to the 2026 Regular Session.

WHEREAS, voting is the cornerstone of American democracy; and

WHEREAS, the resiliency of Louisiana's political institutions relies on the robust political participation of the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, voter turnout in the 2024 election cycle dropped to the lowest numbers recorded in the past four presidential election cycles; and

WHEREAS, voter turnout for local elections, often lower than 25 percent statewide, has dropped to single digits in recent off-cycle elections and has declined at times to near negligible numbers in some precincts; and

WHEREAS, from January 2020 to January 2025, there have been 25 elections held in our state while during the same five-year period, neighboring states held nearly the same amount of elections combined, averaging only a fraction of the total number of elections in each state; and

WHEREAS, the multitude of elections in Louisiana has created voter fatigue with a further reduction in voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, the expense and cost to taxpayers with frequent elections can be substantially reduced by election consolidation or other cost efficiency considerations; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that consolidation of elections increases voter turnout across the board and leads to more engaged local officials, while not granting advantage to any political party; and

WHEREAS, every election is important and every vote has unique, invaluable weight in the maintenance of our democracy and the intrinsic worth of voter participation in elections if valuable in the legislative process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby establishes the Task Force on Ensuring Voter Participation in the Political Process to study mechanisms to encourage and support voter participation, including but not limited to supporting development of partnerships for civic engagement, policies supporting voter registration and turnout, and recommendations for consolidation or streamlining of elections in our state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that its primary objective is to deliberate on all applicable facts, circumstances, policies, and procedures that contribute to our state's rates of voter participation and present legislation to increase engagement of the electorate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is encouraged to actively solicit broad community feedback, including via online surveys or remote participation opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall be selected from the following entities:

(1) The person representing State Senate District 5, or his designee, who shall serve as chairman of the task force.

(2) The Louisiana Secretary of State, or her designee.

(3) The president of the Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association, or his designee.

(4) The president of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, or her designee.

(5) The president of the Executive Board of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, or his designee.

(6) The chair of the Legislative Democratic Caucus, or his designee.

(7) The chair of the Legislative Republican Delegation, or his designee.

(8) The chair of the Legislative Rural Caucus, or his designee.

(9) The chair of Senate and Governmental Affairs, or his designee.

(10) The president of the League of Women Voters of Louisiana, or her designee.

(11) The executive director of the Voice of the Experienced (V.O.T.E.), or his designee.

(12) The president of Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, or her designee.

(13) The president of the Board of Directors of the Pelican Institute, or his designee.

(14) The president of the Louisiana State Conference of the NAACP, or his designee.

(15) The executive director of Disability Rights Louisiana, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each entity shall submit the names of its appointees or designees to the task force chairman no later than August 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force shall preside over the first meeting and the task force may elect from among its membership such other positions as deemed necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force and that any official action by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting by August 1, 2025, and shall meet at least three times and as frequently as it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature and shall provide a copy of the report to the Senate and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2026 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the legislative staff, including the staff of the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE