

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

VOTERS/VOTING. Creates the Task Force on Ensuring Voter Participation in the Political Process to study mechanisms to ensure and promote voter participation in the political process.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

7 WHEREAS, voting is the cornerstone of American democracy; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30           (5) The president of the Executive Board of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana,

1 or his designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve

