

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 323

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:52(A) and R.S. 33:383(A)(1) and (2)(a) and (c) and to enact  
3 R.S. 33:383(A)(3), relative to election dates for municipal and school board  
4 elections; to authorize the election of school board members to occur at the same  
5 time as the gubernatorial elections; to authorize municipal elections to occur at the  
6 same time as gubernatorial elections; to provide for terms of office; and to provide  
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:52(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §52. Election and qualification of members; term of office

11 A.(1) There shall be elected by the qualified voters of each parish police jury  
12 ward, or the equivalent thereof, of each parish of the state a member of the school  
13 board of the parish for each police juror in said ward, or the members of a parish  
14 school board shall be elected by the qualified voters in accordance with the school  
15 board reapportionment plan then in effect as authorized by law, or the members of  
16 a parish school board shall be elected in accordance with any special law applicable  
17 to the board, as the case may be. Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this  
18 Subsection, members ~~Members~~ of parish school boards shall be elected at the  
19 congressional elections. Members elected in 1986 and thereafter shall serve four-  
20 year concurrent terms beginning January 1 following their election. ~~In order to~~  
21 ~~implement the concurrent terms provided for herein, those members of the parish~~  
22 ~~school boards who are elected in 1980 shall serve six-year terms beginning January~~

1 first following their election, those members of the parish school boards who are  
2 elected in 1982 shall serve four-year terms beginning January first following their  
3 election, and those members of the parish school boards who are elected in 1984  
4 shall serve two-year terms beginning January first following their election.

5 For purposes of the election of school board members in the election years  
6 1980, 1982, and 1984 the parish school boards of the several parishes, as occasion  
7 may arise on account of the increase in the membership by the creation of additional  
8 wards or the increase of membership for any single ward, shall by proper resolution  
9 maintain the three divisions of the membership of the school boards existing on July  
10 28, 1948, as nearly equal as possible by allotting such new members to one of the  
11 three divisions, and when so allotted the term of office of such new member or  
12 members shall expire at the same time as the terms of the other members of the said  
13 division. Thereafter, the election of additional school board members shall be in  
14 accordance with the provisions herein made applicable to the election of school  
15 board members in the election year 1986.

16 (2)(a) Any school board may, by resolution, adopt a plan for holding school  
17 board elections at the same time as the fall gubernatorial election in accordance with  
18 R.S. 18:402. No such plan shall be revocable by the school board.

19 (b) Any plan adopted pursuant to this Paragraph shall be filed with the  
20 secretary of state no later than July 1, 2026.

21 (c) Any school board that complies with the provisions of this Paragraph  
22 may hold its elections at the fall gubernatorial election in accordance with R.S.  
23 18:402. The first election under the plan shall be held at the 2031 fall gubernatorial  
24 election.

25 (d) The members elected under the plan shall take office on the first day of  
26 January following their election and shall hold their office for four years. However,  
27 the members of a school board that complies with this Paragraph who are elected at  
28 school board elections held at the same time as the 2026 congressional election, as  
29 provided by R.S. 18:402, shall serve until their successors elected under the plan take  
30 office on January 1, 2032.

1 (e) If no election is held on the day authorized by the plan adopted by a  
 2 school board or if a vacancy in any school board office elective by the people occurs  
 3 or if a member elected fails to qualify, such vacancy shall be filled in accordance  
 4 with the provisions of Article VI, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana or as  
 5 otherwise provided by law.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 2. R.S. 33:383(A)(1) and (2)(a) and (c) are hereby amended and reenacted  
 8 and R.S. 33:383(A)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §383. Municipal elections; term of office; filling vacancies; officers holding over  
 10 under new form of government

11 A.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection and R.S. 33:383.2,  
 12 municipal elections shall be held every four years on the date for municipal and ward  
 13 elections in accordance with ~~R.S. 18:402(C)~~ R.S. 18:402(D). The officers elected  
 14 shall take office on the first day of July following their election and shall hold their  
 15 office for four years.

16 (2)(a) Any municipality by ordinance of the governing authority may adopt  
 17 a plan for holding municipal elections at the congressional elections in accordance  
 18 with ~~R.S. 18:402(B)~~ R.S. 18:402(C)(2). Any plan so adopted shall be filed with the  
 19 secretary of state not less than one year prior to the opening of the qualifying period  
 20 for the congressional primary election at which municipal officers shall be elected  
 21 initially under the plan. This election shall be the first congressional primary  
 22 election after termination of the terms of office to which municipal officers in office  
 23 on the effective date of this Subsection were elected.

24 \* \* \*

25 (c) Any municipality that complies with the provisions of this Paragraph may  
 26 hold municipal elections at the congressional elections in accordance with ~~R.S.~~  
 27 ~~18:402(B)~~ R.S. 18:402(C)(2).

28 \* \* \*

29 (3)(a) Any municipality by ordinance of the governing authority may adopt  
 30 a plan for holding municipal elections at the gubernatorial election in accordance

1           with R.S. 18:402. Any plan adopted pursuant to this Paragraph shall be filed with  
2           the secretary of state no later than January 12, 2027.

3                   (b) No such plan shall be revocable by the governing authority of the  
4           municipality.

5                   (c) Any municipality that complies with the provisions of this Paragraph may  
6           hold its municipal elections at the fall gubernatorial election in accordance with R.S.  
7           18:402. The first election under the plan shall be held at the 2031 gubernatorial  
8           election.

9                   (d) The officers elected under the plan shall take office on the first day of  
10          July following their election and shall hold their office for four years. However, the  
11          municipal officers of a municipality that complies with Subsection A of this Section  
12          who are elected at municipal elections held at the same time as the 2027 spring  
13          municipal election, as provided by R.S. 18:402, shall serve until their successors  
14          elected under the plan take office on July 1, 2032.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_