

2025 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

ELECTIONS/DATES: Provides for the conduct of fall elections for party primary offices in 2026 (Item #1)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 18:419, relative to the conduct of fall elections for party primary
4 offices in 2026; to provide for the fall primary election to serve as a primary election
5 for a party primary office to be elected in 2026; to provide for the fall general
6 election to serve as a general election for a party primary office to be elected in
7 2026; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
10 1950, comprised of R.S. 18:419, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 PART I-B. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN ELECTIONS HELD IN 2026

12 §419. Fall elections in 2026

13 A. Notwithstanding R.S. 18:402(C)(2)(a), the fall primary election held on
14 the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in 2026 for officers elected at
15 the same time as members of congress in 2026 shall serve as a primary election date
16 for a party primary office to be elected in 2026. A candidate for a party primary
17 office in the primary election shall be elected as provided in R.S. 18:511.

18 B. Notwithstanding R.S. 18:402(C)(2)(b), the fall general election held on
19 the sixth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of 2026
20 shall serve as a general election date for a party primary office to be elected in 2026.

1 A candidate for a party primary office in the general election shall be elected as
2 provided in R.S. 18:512.

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 4 Original

2025 First Extraordinary Session

Bayham

Abstract: Provides for the 2026 fall primary election to serve as a primary election for party primary offices and for the 2026 fall general election to serve as a general election for party primary offices.

Present law effective January 1, 2026, provides that there shall be a fall primary election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November for officers elected at the same time as members of congress in that year. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the fall primary election date shall also serve as the *general* election date for a party primary office to be elected in a congressional election year and provides that the candidate who receives the most votes cast for a party primary office in the general election is elected.

Proposed law instead provides that the 2026 fall primary election shall serve as a *primary* election date for a party primary office to be elected in 2026 and provides that a party primary office candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast for the office in the primary election is elected.

Present law effective January 1, 2026, provides that there shall be a fall general election held on the sixth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of a congressional election year and does not include party primary offices in the fall general election.

Proposed law provides that the 2026 fall general election shall also serve as a *general* election date for a party primary office to be elected in 2026 and provides that a party primary office candidate who receives the most votes cast for the office in the general election is elected.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 18:419)