

2025 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE BILL NO. 1

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER AND REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

ELECTION CODE. Provides for adjustments regarding certain elections held in calendar year 2026. (Item #1) (gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:419.1 and 419.2, relative to the conduct of elections in 2026; to provide for dates for spring elections in 2026; to provide for qualifying spring elections in 2026; to provide for nominating petitions for spring elections in 2026; to provide for election campaign finance disclosure filing deadlines for 2026; to provide certain authorizations to the secretary of state; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 18:419.1 and 419.2, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

PART I-B. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR

CERTAIN ELECTIONS HELD IN 2026

§419.1. Applicability of Part

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the provisions contained in this Part shall be applicable in 2026 to the spring elections for municipal and ward officers, for candidates in a party primary

election for a party primary office, and for other elections held at the same time.

It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana that the spring primary election occur on May 16, 2026, instead of April 18, 2026, and that the spring general election occur on June 27, 2026, instead of May 30, 2026. All other dates and deadlines related to the spring elections as provided for in this Code and not otherwise specifically provided for in this Part shall be calculated based upon the dates provided for in this Part.

§419.2. Spring elections in 2026

A. Notwithstanding R.S. 18:402(C)(1) or 410.10 or any other provision of law to the contrary, the following dates shall apply for the spring elections in 2026:

(1) There shall be a spring primary election held on May 16, 2026, for municipal and ward officers elected in the spring of a nonpresidential congressional election year and for candidates in a party primary election for a party primary office to be elected in that year. Any contest, proposition, question, or constitutional amendment scheduled to appear on the ballot for the April 18, 2026, election shall instead appear on the ballot for the May 16, 2026, election.

(2) There shall be a spring general election held on June 27, 2026, for municipal and ward officers and, if necessary, a second party primary for candidates in a party primary election for a party primary office to be elected that year. Any contest, proposition, or question scheduled to appear on the ballot for the May 30, 2026, election shall instead appear on the ballot for the June 27, 2026, election.

B.(1) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:467 or any other provision of law to the contrary, the qualifying period for candidates for the spring primary election in 2026 and for all candidates for a party primary office to be elected in 2026, and those in any special primary election to be held at the same time, shall open on February 11, 2026.

1 (2)(a) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:410.5 and 465(B) or any other provision
2 of law to the contrary, any signature collected on or after September 16, 2025,
3 on a nominating petition for an office for which qualifying opens on February
4 11, 2026, shall be considered timely.

5 (b) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:465(C)(3)(b), the number of qualified voters
6 who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for United States
7 representative in Congress to be elected in 2026, is seven hundred fifty from
8 within the state.

9 (c) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:465(C)(1), the number of qualified voters
10 who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for United States
11 senator to be elected in 2026, is two thousand five hundred from within the
12 state.

13 C.(1) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:1491.6(B)(1), each committee which is
14 participating in the election of a candidate for major office in the May 16, 2026,
15 election, excluding a candidate for party primary office, shall file a report as
16 required by R.S. 18:1491.6 no later than November 20, 2025, which shall be
17 complete through the one hundred ninetieth day prior to the May 16, 2026,
18 election. However, it shall not be a violation of Chapter 11 of this Title for a
19 committee to fail to file such a report prior to November 20, 2025.

20 (2) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(1), each candidate for major office
21 in the May 16, 2026, election, excluding a candidate for party primary office,
22 shall file a report as required by R.S. 18:1495.4 no later than November 20,
23 2025, which shall be complete through the one hundred ninetieth day prior to
24 the May 16, 2026, election. However, it shall not be a violation of Chapter 11 of
25 this Title for a candidate to fail to file such a report prior to November 20, 2025.

26 (3) A candidate who is required to file a supplemental report by
27 February 15, 2026, pursuant to R.S. 18:1495.4(D)(3)(b) shall instead file the
28 supplemental report by March 2, 2026.

29 (4) A candidate who is required to file an annual report by February 15,

2026, pursuant to R.S. 18:1495.4(E) shall instead file the annual report by March 2, 2026.

D.(1) The secretary of state may make necessary changes to any rules, regulations, forms, instructions, statements, ballots, nominating petitions, early voting ballot instructions, or absentee by mail ballot envelopes, instructions, certificates, or other balloting paraphernalia to reflect the dates and deadlines provided for in this Part without approval as otherwise required by R.S. 18:18, 423, 431, 552, or 1306.

(2) The secretary of state may proceed with emergency rulemaking pursuant to R.S. 49:962 if necessary to implement the provisions of this Part.

Section 2. The change of election dates as provided in this Act shall not be construed to invalidate any action undertaken by the governing authority of a political subdivision in an effort to place a bond, debt, tax, or proposition election or other question to be presented to the voters on either the April 18, 2026, or May 30, 2026, ballot. Any notice, resolution, proclamation, or certification that states either the April 18, 2026, or May 30, 2026, election date shall not be invalidated for failure to state the May 16, 2026, or June 27, 2026, election date as provided for in this Act.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 1 Reengrossed

2025 First Extraordinary Session

Kleinpeter

Proposed law changes to certain provisions in the Louisiana Election Code applicable to 2026 spring elections for municipal and ward officers, for candidates in a party primary election for a party primary office, and for other elections held at the same time.

Provides for 2026 calendar year spring primary elections to occur on May 16, 2026, instead

of April 18, 2026; and for the spring general election to occur on June 27, 2026, instead of May 30, 2026.

Present law effective January 1, 2026, provides for a spring primary election held April 18, 2026, for municipal and ward officers elected in the spring of a nonpresidential congressional election year and for candidates in a party primary election for a party primary office to be elected in that year.

Proposed law retains these provisions but changes the date for the spring primary election to May 16, 2026, and requires that any contest, proposition, or question scheduled to appear on the April 18, 2026, ballot shall instead appear on the ballot for May 16, 2026. Provides that any contest, proposition, question, or constitutional amendment scheduled to appear on the ballot for the April 18, 2026, election shall instead appear on the ballot for the May 16, 2026, election.

Proposed law provides for a spring general election held on June 27, 2026, for municipal and ward officers and, if necessary, a second party primary for candidates in a party primary election for a party primary office to be elected that year. Any contest, proposition, or question scheduled to appear on the ballot for the May 30, 2026, election.

Proposed law provides that qualifying period for the spring primary election in 2026 and for all candidates for a party primary office to be elected in 2026, and those in any special primary election to be held at the same time, shall open on February 11, 2026.

Proposed law provides that any signature collected on or after September 16, 2025, on a nominating petition for an office that will appear on the ballot for the May 16, 2026, election, shall be considered timely.

Proposed law provides that the number of qualified voters who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for United States representative in Congress for the May 16, 2026, election is 750 from within the state.

Provides that the number of qualified voters who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for United States senator for the May 16, 2026, election is 2,500 from within the state.

Proposed law requires that each committee participating in the election of a candidate for major office in the May 16, 2026, election, excluding a candidate for party primary office, is to file a report as required by R.S. 18:1491.6 no later than November 20, 2025, which shall be complete through the 190th day prior to the May 16, 2026, election. Provides that it is not a violation of Chapter 11 of this Title for a committee to fail to file the report prior to November 20, 2025.

Requires that each candidate for major office in the May 16, 2026, election, excluding a candidate for party primary office, is to file a report as required by R.S. 18:1495.4 no later than November 20, 2025, which shall be complete through the 190th day prior to the May 16, 2026, election. Provides that it is not a violation of Chapter 11 of this Title for a candidate to fail to file such a report prior to November 20, 2025.

Proposed law provides that candidates required to file a supplemental report by February 15, 2026, pursuant to R.S. 18:1495.4(D)(3)(b) shall instead file the supplemental report by March 2, 2026.

Candidates required to file an annual report by February 15, 2026, pursuant to R.S. 18:1495.4(E) shall instead file the annual report by March 2, 2026.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of state to may make necessary changes to any rules, regulations, forms, instructions, statements, ballots, nominating petitions, early voting ballot

instructions, or absentee by mail ballot envelopes, instructions, certificates, or other balloting paraphernalia to reflect the dates provided for in this Part without approval as otherwise required by R.S. 18:18, 423, 431, 552, or 1306. Authorizes the secretary of state to proceed with emergency rulemaking if necessary to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that changes of election dates shall not be construed to invalidate any action undertaken by the governing authority of a political subdivision in an effort to place a bond, debt, tax, or proposition election or other question to be presented to the voters on either the April 18, 2026, or May 30, 2026, ballot. Provides that any notice, resolution, proclamation, or certification that states either the April 18, 2026, or May 30, 2026, election date shall not be invalidated for failure to state the May 16, 2026, or June 27, 2026, election date.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:419.1-419.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds language regarding submission of a bond, debt, tax, proposition, or other question submitted by governing authority of a political subdivision.