

SENATE BILL NO. 1

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER AND REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

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. 18:419.1 and 419.2, relative to the conduct of elections in 2026;
4 to provide for dates for spring elections in 2026; to provide for qualifying spring
5 elections in 2026; to provide for nominating petitions for spring elections in 2026;
6 to provide for election campaign finance disclosure filing deadlines for 2026; to
7 provide certain authorizations to the secretary of state; to provide for effectiveness;
8 and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
11 1950, comprised of R.S. 18:419.1 and 419.2, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 **PART I-B. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR**

13 **CERTAIN ELECTIONS HELD IN 2026**

14 **§419.1. Applicability of Part**

15 **Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the**
16 **provisions contained in this Part shall be applicable in 2026 to the spring**
17 **elections for municipal and ward officers, for candidates in a party primary**
18 **election for a party primary office, and for other elections held at the same time.**
19 **It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana that the spring primary election**
20 **occur on May 16, 2026, instead of April 18, 2026, and that the spring general**
21 **election occur on June 27, 2026, instead of May 30, 2026. All other dates and**
22 **deadlines related to the spring elections as provided for in this Code and not**
23 **otherwise specifically provided for in this Part shall be calculated based upon**
24 **the dates provided for in this Part.**

25 **§419.2. Spring elections in 2026**

1 A. Notwithstanding R.S. 18:402(C)(1) or 410.10 or any other provision
2 of law to the contrary, the following dates shall apply for the spring elections in
3 2026:

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

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

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

22 (2)(a) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:410.5 and 465(B) or any other provision
23 of law to the contrary, any signature collected on or after September 16, 2025,
24 on a nominating petition for an office for which qualifying opens on February
25 11, 2026, shall be considered timely.

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

30 (c) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:465(C)(1), the number of qualified voters

1 who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for United States
2 senator to be elected in 2026, is two thousand five hundred from within the
3 state.

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

11 (2) Notwithstanding R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(1), each candidate for major office
12 in the May 16, 2026, election, excluding a candidate for party primary office,
13 shall file a report as required by R.S. 18:1495.4 no later than November 20,
14 2025, which shall be complete through the one hundred ninetieth day prior to
15 the May 16, 2026, election. However, it shall not be a violation of Chapter 11 of
16 this Title for a candidate to fail to file such a report prior to November 20, 2025.

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

20 (4) A candidate who is required to file an annual report by February 15,
21 2026, pursuant to R.S. 18:1495.4(E) shall instead file the annual report by
22 March 2, 2026.

23 D.(1) The secretary of state may make necessary changes to any rules,
24 regulations, forms, instructions, statements, ballots, nominating petitions, early
25 voting ballot instructions, or absentee by mail ballot envelopes, instructions,
26 certificates, or other balloting paraphernalia to reflect the dates and deadlines
27 provided for in this Part without approval as otherwise required by R.S. 18:18,
28 423, 431, 552, or 1306.

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

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____