

1 to provide for the registration information of a person who is seventeen years of age;
2 to provide for voters incapable of making a mark; to provide for registrar office
3 hours and attendance; to provide for the confidentiality of registration information
4 of law enforcement officers; to provide for the annual canvass in certain years; to
5 provide for use of an address confirmation form; to provide for the calculation of
6 dates and computation of time; to provide for meetings of a parish board of election
7 supervisors; to provide for the information required on a nominating petition; to
8 provide for the certification of signatures on a nominating petition; to provide for
9 procedures related to the changing precincts and boundaries; to provide for the
10 completion of voter assistance forms; to provide for the statement of election returns;
11 to provide for notification of a special election to fill a vacancy; to provide for the
12 contents of a nominating petition for presidential elector; to provide for the
13 arrangement of the ballot; to provide for certifying employment for purposes of
14 early voting; to provide for early voting commissioner qualifications; to provide for
15 filing the list of early voting watchers; to provide for casting a vote on an absentee
16 by mail ballot; to provide for the timing to challenge a person applying to vote
17 during early voting; to provide for grounds to challenge an absentee by mail ballot;
18 to authorize the secretary of state to promulgate rules related to distinguishing marks;
19 to provide for the duration of the nursing home early voting program; to provide for
20 procurement methods for the delivery of voting machines and equipment; to provide
21 for election contests; to provide for objections to candidacy; to authorize the
22 secretary of state to bring an action contesting an election on certain grounds; to
23 provide for a cause of action, the proper parties, and the preemptive period for
24 objecting to the placement of a constitutional amendment on a ballot; to provide for
25 the time for the commencement of objections to candidacy and election contests; to
26 provide for the designation of statewide elections for the purpose of the consideration
27 of constitutional amendments; to correct terminology; to provide for effectiveness;
28 and to provide for related matters.

29 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

1 Section 1. R.S. 18:53(B)(2)(b), 55(D), 59(F), 62, 108(A), 134(E), 154(D)(1) and (3),
 2 192(B)(1)(a), 193(A), 196(B) and (C)(2)(a), 197, 402(A)(1), 433(B)(1), 465(B) and (D),
 3 469(A), 491(B), 493, 501(C), 532(F), 532.1(C)(1) and (4), 562(B)(2), 564(B)(5)(b), 565(B)
 4 and (C), 571(A)(8), 573(E), 574(A)(2) and (3), 602(E)(2)(d), 604(B)(2)(c), 621(B), 1254(C),
 5 1259(B)(2)(introductory paragraph), 1300.3(A)(1)(b), 1303(K) and (L), 1309(D)(2), (K), and
 6 (N)(5), 1309.3(B)(4)(b), 1313(C)(1) and (H)(3) and (5), 1313.1(C)(2) and (I)(2), 1314(B)(2)
 7 and (C)(2)(a) and (3), 1315(A)(1) and (2)(introductory paragraph), (B), and (D)(2), 1317,
 8 1333(B) and (G)(1) and (7), 1371(A)(1) and (2)(introductory paragraph), 1401(G), 1402(B),
 9 1405, 1413, and 1922.2 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:106.2, 110(B)(1)(c),
 10 192(C), 465(E)(3), 1310(A)(3), 1316(D), and 1401(H) and (I) are hereby enacted to read as
 11 follows:

12 §53. Removal from office; may not be own immediate successor

13 * * *

14 B.

15 * * *

16 (2)

17 * * *

18 (b) If the commissioner of elections raises allegations that the parish registrar
 19 has engaged in any conduct set forth in Paragraphs (A)(1) through (7) of this Section,
 20 the board shall schedule a hearing on the allegations brought by the commissioner
 21 of elections within thirty days of the receipt of the ~~accusations~~ allegations. If the
 22 commissioner of elections serves as a regular member of the board, he shall not serve
 23 for the purposes of such hearings, and the secretary of state shall designate a member
 24 of the Registrars of Voters Association to serve in the commissioner's place and shall
 25 notify the board in writing of any such designation as provided in R.S. 18:23.

26 * * *

27 §55. Compensation of registrar of voters; amount and manner of payment; reduction
 28 during tenure prohibited; prohibited increase

29 * * *

1 Section, the term "political activity" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Article
2 X, Section 9(C) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

3 B. All deputy registrars and other employees of a registrar who are in the
4 classified ~~state~~ civil service shall be subject to the constitution and laws, and the
5 regulations adopted pursuant thereto, affecting political activities by persons in the
6 classified ~~state~~ civil service.

7 * * *

8 §106.2. Voter incapable of signing his name or making a mark

9 A. If a registered voter, subsequent to his registration, is no longer capable
10 of signing his name or making a mark due to a physical disability, he shall file with
11 the registrar of voters an alternative signature attestation to authorize another person
12 to sign documents required by this Title on his behalf, along with a letter signed by
13 a physician stating that the voter is unable to provide his signature or mark due to a
14 physical disability and that the voter is capable of providing consent for another
15 person to sign on his behalf.

16 B. The individual assisting a voter who has filed the attestation provided for
17 in Subsection A of this Section shall complete and sign a form, at the voter's
18 direction and in the presence of the voter and at least one witness, indicating that the
19 voter is unable to sign his name or make a mark due to a physical disability, that the
20 voter has verbally or otherwise attested that the individual has been given the
21 authority to sign on the voter's behalf, and that all information supplied on the form
22 is true and correct under penalty of perjury. The form shall also contain the
23 individual's printed name, signature, and residence address, as well as the printed
24 name and signature of the witness.

25 C. The individual authorized to assist the voter shall be an elector of the state
26 and shall not be a candidate, the voter's employer or employer's agent, or the voter's
27 union agent.

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* * *

(c) A change of registration based upon a change of residence within a parish received after the closing of registration for a closed party primary election shall become effective the day after the second party primary election.

* * *

§134. Office hours

* * *

E.(1) On election days the principal office of the registrar shall remain open from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., or until all precinct results have been submitted to the clerk of court and the absentee by mail and early voting results have been submitted to the registrar of voters, whichever is earlier. The registrar, chief ~~or a deputy registrar, or confidential assistant designated by him~~ shall remain in the office during that time.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, on days when a regularly scheduled congressional primary election is held, the principal office of the registrar shall remain open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., or until all precinct results have been submitted to the clerk of court and the absentee by mail and early voting results have been submitted to the registrar of voters, whichever is earlier. The registrar, chief ~~or a deputy registrar, or confidential assistant designated by him~~ shall remain in the office during that time.

* * *

§154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

* * *

D.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, the registrar, the clerk of court, and the Department of State shall not disclose the name and address of a law enforcement officer if the registrar has received certification from the law enforcement agency employing the officer that the officer is engaging in hazardous activities ~~to the extent that it is~~ making it necessary for his name and address to be

1 kept confidential. The registrar shall indicate such certification in the state voter
2 registration computer system upon receipt of the certification.

3 * * *

4 (3)(a) Any agency employing a law enforcement officer availing himself of
5 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall ~~also~~ issue a decertification notice to the
6 registrar of voters when the officer is no longer engaging in hazardous activities ~~to~~
7 ~~the extent that it is~~ making it necessary for his name and address to be kept
8 confidential.

9 (b) Any time after certification by the employing agency, the law
10 enforcement officer may submit written notice to the registrar of voters that it is no
11 longer necessary for his name and address to be kept confidential.

12 (c) Upon receipt of a notice provided for in this Paragraph, the registrar shall
13 remove the indication of certification for the affected law enforcement officer from
14 the state voter registration computer system.

15 * * *

16 §192. Annual canvass; costs

17 * * *

18 B.(1) No later than June thirtieth, the Department of State shall conduct an
19 annual canvass as provided in this Subsection. Using information available in the
20 state voter registration computer system, the secretary of state shall identify
21 registrants who meet all of the following criteria:

22 (a) The registrant's name did not appear with a corrected address provided
23 ~~by the United States Postal Service or its licensee~~ pursuant to Subsection A of this
24 Section.

25 * * *

26 C. The Department of State is not required to conduct a canvass as provided
27 for in Subsection A or B of this Section in a calendar year when there is less than
28 sixty days between the spring general election dates and the opening of qualifying
29 for the fall election cycle.

1 §193. Challenge and cancellation of registration; notice; procedures

2 A. When the registrar has reason to believe that a registrant no longer is
3 qualified to be registered, or that a registrant has changed his residence, the registrar
4 shall immediately notify the person by sending the address confirmation notice to the
5 registrant and place the voter on the inactive list of voters. However, a person shall
6 not be placed on the inactive list of voters if there is address information available
7 to the registrar ~~from the United States Postal Service or its licensee~~ as provided in
8 R.S. 18:192 which indicates the voter has moved to another address within the
9 parish.

10 * * *

11 §196. Inactive list of voters; procedure for voting

12 * * *

13 B. A registrant whose name is on the inactive list of voters may vote:

14 (1) If the registrant has not changed residence, at the polling place of the
15 registrant's last address upon affirming in writing by completing an address
16 confirmation ~~notice form~~ form affirming that the registrant still resides at the address on
17 file at the office of the registrar of voters.

18 (2) If the registrant has moved to an address within the parish in the same
19 precinct, at the polling place of the registrant's last address on file at the office of the
20 registrar of voters upon affirming in writing that the registrant resides in the precinct
21 by completing an address confirmation ~~notice form~~ form affirming the new address within
22 the precinct.

23 (3) If the registrant has moved to an address within the parish in a different
24 precinct, at the polling place of the registrant's last address on file at the office of the
25 registrar of voters for that election only upon affirming in writing that the registrant
26 still resides in the parish by completing an address confirmation ~~notice form~~ form
27 affirming the new address within the parish.

28 (4) If the registrant has moved to an address outside of the parish, at the
29 polling place of the registrant's last address on file at the office of the registrar of

1 voters for that election only upon affirming in writing that the registrant has moved
2 within the last three months and no longer resides in the parish by completing an
3 address confirmation ~~notice form~~ affirming the new address outside of the parish and
4 that the length of time since the move has not exceeded three months. If the
5 registrant does not affirm that he has moved within the last three months, the
6 registrant shall not be permitted to vote.

7 C.

8 * * *

9 (2)(a) If a registrant whose name is on the inactive list of voters applies to
10 vote absentee by mail or votes absentee by mail or during early voting, the registrar
11 shall transfer the registrant's name to the official list of voters and make any
12 necessary corrections in the registrant's registration records if the information on the
13 address confirmation ~~notice form~~, as required by R.S. 18:1309, or the residence
14 address provided in an application to vote by mail so indicates. The registrar shall
15 change the registrant's registration address to the residence address provided on the
16 address confirmation form or application to vote by mail.

17 * * *

18 §197. Registration; cancellation

19 No registrar of voters shall cancel the registration of any voter in his parish
20 between any open primary election and the subsequent general election occurring in
21 that parish as a result of any of the processes authorized by this Part, except in the
22 case of a person whose registration is cancelled pursuant to R.S. 18:193(G) or who
23 ~~has been fraudulently placed upon the registration records or in the case of a person~~
24 ~~whose registration is canceled~~ pursuant to the annual canvass conducted by the
25 registrar.

26 * * *

27 §402. Dates of primary and general elections; prohibited election days

28 A. Prohibited election days. (1) No election of any kind shall be held in this
29 state on any of the days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret,

1 Simchat Torah, the first two days and the last two days of Passover, Shavuot, Tish'a
2 B'Av, the two days preceding Labor Day, the three days preceding Easter, or the
3 three days following Thanksgiving Day. If the date of any fall election falls on any
4 of the above-named days, the election shall be held on the same ~~weekday~~ day of the
5 preceding week. If the date of any spring election falls on any of the above-named
6 days, the election shall be held on the same day of the following week.

7 * * *

8 §433. Commissioners-in-charge; course of instruction; selection; commission;
9 disqualification; replacement

10 * * *

11 B. Selection. (1)(a) The parish board of election supervisors shall meet ~~at~~
12 ~~10:00 a.m. by~~ on or before the second Friday in January of each year to select a
13 commissioner-in-charge to serve at each precinct in the parish. The meeting shall
14 be open to the public. The board shall have previously posted a notice on the front
15 door of the courthouse stating the location within the courthouse where the meeting
16 is to be held. The selection of commissioners-in-charge shall be made from the
17 certified list furnished by the clerk as required by Paragraph (A)(5) of this Section
18 and in the manner provided for in this Subsection.

19 (b) If the course of instruction for commissioners-in-charge is delayed due
20 to a gubernatorially declared state of emergency as provided by Paragraph (A)(1) of
21 this Section, the parish board of election supervisors shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m.~~ on or
22 before the fifth day after completion of the course of instruction.

23 * * *

24 §465. Nominating petitions

25 * * *

26 B. Method of nominating candidates. A person may only be nominated as
27 a candidate in a primary election by persons who are registered to vote on the office
28 he seeks who sign a nominating petition for him no more than one hundred twenty
29 days before the qualifying period opens for candidates in the primary election. In

1 addition to his signature, each voter who signs a nominating petition shall provide
 2 the information required by R.S. 18:3 ~~date his signature and shall provide the ward~~
 3 ~~and precinct in which he is registered to vote, his residence address, including the~~
 4 ~~municipal number, the apartment number, if any, the rural route and box number, or~~
 5 ~~any other physical description that will identify his actual place of residence.~~ Once
 6 a voter has signed a nominating petition, he may not withdraw the nomination. The
 7 secretary of state shall prepare forms which may be used by any person who seeks
 8 nomination as a candidate by nominating petition. The secretary of state shall
 9 furnish copies of the forms to each clerk of court, and the forms shall be available,
 10 upon request, at the office of the secretary of state or at the office of the clerk of
 11 court. Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require nominating petitions
 12 to be filed only on forms prepared by the secretary of state.

13 * * *

14 D. Form. In addition to the requirements of R.S. 18:3, each ~~Each~~ sheet of
 15 the nominating petition shall set forth the candidate's name, the address of his
 16 domicile, the office for which the signers nominate him, the political party with
 17 which he is affiliated, if any, and the date of the primary election for which he seeks
 18 to qualify. ~~The name of each voter who signed the nominating petition shall be~~
 19 ~~typed or legibly written on the petition, and each signature on the nominating petition~~
 20 ~~shall be dated and witnessed by the candidate or the person who obtained the~~
 21 ~~signature on his behalf.~~ The candidate and all persons who obtained signatures on
 22 his behalf shall certify on the nominating petition that to the best of their knowledge,
 23 information, and belief all of the signatures on the nominating petition are genuine
 24 and all of the statements contained in the nominating petition are true and correct.

25 E. Certification.

26 * * *

27 (3) The registrar of voters for each parish may request and accept the
 28 assistance of employees of the Department of State and registrars and deputy

1 registrars of voters from other parishes to complete the certification of the
2 nominating petition.

3 * * *
4 §469. Reopening of qualifying period; effect

5 A. When a person who qualified as a candidate and has opposition in a
6 primary election for a public office dies after the close of the qualifying period and
7 before the time for closing the polls on the day of the primary election, the qualifying
8 period for candidates in the primary election for that office shall reopen for
9 candidates on the day after the secretary of state receives actual notice of the death
10 and shall close at 4:30 p.m. on the third day after notice of the death or, if that day
11 is a legal holiday, at 4:30 p.m. on the next day which is not a legal holiday. The
12 name of the deceased candidate shall not be printed on the primary election ballot.
13 If the primary election ballot was printed with the deceased candidate's name on it,
14 any votes received by the deceased candidate shall be void and shall not be counted
15 for any purpose whatsoever.

16 * * *
17 §491. Standing to object to candidacy

18 * * *
19 B. A registered voter may present evidence that a candidate has illegally
20 qualified for elective office. The evidence may be presented to the respective parish
21 district attorney, who may determine whether or not the evidence presented
22 establishes grounds for objecting to such candidacy and if the district attorney makes
23 such a determination he may file an action objecting to candidacy within the time
24 limitation provided in R.S. ~~18:493~~ 18:1405(A).

25 * * *
26 ~~§493. Time for objecting to candidacy~~ Subpoena and testimony; Department of
27 Revenue

28 A. ~~An action objecting to candidacy shall be commenced in a court of~~
29 ~~competent jurisdiction within seven days after the close of qualifications for~~

1 candidates in the primary election. However, if the time interval ends on a Saturday,
 2 Sunday, or other legal holiday, then noon of the next day which is not a Saturday,
 3 Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the end of the time interval. After the
 4 expiration of the time period set forth in this Section, no action shall be commenced
 5 objecting to candidacy based on the grounds for objections to candidacy contained
 6 in R.S. 18:492.

7 B.(1) Neither the secretary of the Department of Revenue nor any employee
 8 engaged in the administration or charged with the custody of any records or files of
 9 the Department of Revenue shall be subject to subpoena or otherwise required to
 10 appear in court for any matter filed pursuant to this Section.

11 (2) B. In lieu of live testimony, a properly executed affidavit issued by the
 12 secretary of the Department of Revenue or his designee shall serve as sufficient
 13 confirmation as to the accuracy of the records and files of the secretary of the
 14 Department of Revenue for such purposes.

15 * * *

16 §501. Procedure for withdrawal

17 * * *

18 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section,
 19 if the number of candidates remaining in a primary election, second party primary
 20 election, or general election for a public office is one more than the number of
 21 persons to be elected to the office, the secretary of state shall accept a notice of
 22 withdrawal that is filed prior to 4:30 p.m. on the second business day prior to the first
 23 day of early voting. The candidate or candidates remaining after the withdrawal
 24 shall be declared elected by the people.

25 * * *

26 §532. Establishment of precincts

27 * * *

28 F. Prior to the adoption of an ordinance to establish the boundaries of
 29 precincts pursuant to this Section, the parish governing authority shall submit the

1 proposed precincts and boundaries to the clerk of court and registrar of voters for
2 their review to confirm in writing the ability to conduct an election utilizing the
3 proposed boundaries. The parish governing authority shall submit to the secretary
4 of state in accordance with timetables in this Section, the written confirmation
5 received by the parish governing authority.

6 §532.1. Changing boundaries

7 * * *

8 C.(1) The parish governing authority shall comply with the provisions of
9 R.S. 18:532(A), (B), (C), ~~and (E), and (F)~~ when changing any precinct boundary.

10 * * *

11 (4) In addition to the requirements of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, when
12 the proposed precinct change involves dividing a precinct, prior to the adoption of
13 the ordinance, the parish governing authority shall submit proposed changes to the
14 clerk of court and registrar of voters to confirm in writing the ability to conduct an
15 election utilizing the proposed boundaries. The parish governing authority shall
16 submit to the secretary of state in accordance with timetables in this Section, the
17 written confirmation received by the parish governing authority.

18 * * *

19 §562. Prerequisites to voting

20 * * *

21 B. Review of precinct register. The commissioners shall then determine:

22 * * *

23 (2) If the applicant's name is found in the precinct register on the inactive list
24 of voters and the applicant has not voted absentee by mail or during early voting, the
25 applicant may vote after complying with provisions of R.S. 18:196(B). After such
26 compliance, one of the commissioners shall announce the applicant's name again and
27 shall preserve the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form received from the voter by
28 placing the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form in the envelope marked "Registrar of
29 Voters" and attaching the envelope to the precinct register.

1 * * *

2 §564. Assistance in voting on election day

3 * * *

4 B. Persons prohibited from assisting voters.

5 * * *

6 (5)

7 * * *

8 (b) The ~~voter, along with the~~ person assisting the voter; shall complete a
9 voter assistance form and provide the name, address, and relationship to the voter of
10 the person, ~~including a commissioner,~~ assisting the voter and attest whether the
11 person, other than a commissioner, assisting the voter was paid to provide assistance.
12 If the voter is not marked for assistance in voting in the precinct register, the voter
13 shall attest on the voter assistance form that the voter has a physical disability or is
14 unable to read and requires assistance in voting.

15 * * *

16 §565. Challenge of voters

17 * * *

18 B. Disposition of record of challenge and address confirmation ~~notice~~ form.

19 The original record of the challenge, signed by the challenger, and the address
20 confirmation ~~notice~~ form shall be placed in the envelope marked "Registrar of
21 Voters". A duplicate record of the challenge shall be placed in the clear plastic
22 zipper bag and returned to the clerk of court on election night. A duplicate record of
23 the challenge shall be given to the voter being challenged.

24 C. Disposition of the challenge. The commissioners present shall determine
25 the validity of the challenge. If they determine by majority vote that the challenge
26 is valid, the applicant shall not be permitted to vote. However, if the valid challenge
27 has determined that the applicant has moved within the parish or has moved outside
28 of the parish within the last three months, the voter shall be allowed to vote upon

1 completing an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form. If a majority of the commissioners
2 determine that the challenge is invalid, the applicant shall be permitted to vote.

3 * * *

4 §571. Procedures for commissioners after termination of voting

5 A. At the termination of voting in a primary or general election, the
6 commissioners shall announce that voting is terminated. The commissioners in the
7 presence of the watchers shall immediately:

8 * * *

9 (8) Place one copy of the official election results reports, one copy of the
10 machine certificates, one of the duplicate poll lists, all original executed challenges
11 of voters, all precinct register corrections, all voter identification affidavits, all voter
12 assistance forms, any physicians' certificates, any copies of disability documentation,
13 a copy of each completed notation of irregularities form, and any address
14 confirmation ~~notices~~ forms in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters", seal it and
15 attach it to the precinct register after the termination of voting, and place a new
16 protective seal on the precinct register.

17 * * *

18 §573. Evidence of election results

19 * * *

20 E. Transmission and disposition of original challenges, duplicate voters'
21 affidavits, and address confirmation ~~notices~~ forms. (1) At the opening of the voting
22 machines, the sealed precinct registers shall be immediately returned to the registrar
23 of voters. Upon receipt of the sealed precinct registers, the registrar shall remove
24 any attached original record of challenges of voters made during the election, any
25 precinct register correction affidavits, any voter identification affidavits made
26 pursuant to R.S. 18:562, any address confirmation ~~notices~~ forms, any voter
27 assistance forms, any certificates, any copies of disability documentation, and any
28 completed voter registration applications.

1 (2) The registrar shall utilize the procedures set forth in Part V of Chapter
2 4 of this Code to determine the validity of the registration of each challenged voter
3 who did not submit an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form. In any instance where an
4 address confirmation ~~notice~~ form was received that stated an address different from
5 the address on file in the registrar's office for a registrant, the registrar shall change
6 the registrant's address to the address on the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form if the
7 change of address is in the parish; transfer the registrant's registration to another
8 parish if the address on the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form is in another parish; or
9 cancel the registration if the address on the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form is in
10 another state. If an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form was received that affirmed the
11 address on file in the registrar's office, the registrar shall reinstate the registrant to
12 the official list of voters if the registrant appears on the inactive list of voters. If the
13 address confirmation ~~notice~~ form was a result of a valid challenge, the registrar shall
14 so inform the district attorney and shall transmit to him the address confirmation
15 ~~notice~~ form of that person.

16 (3) The registrar also shall proceed to determine if each voter submitting a
17 voter identification affidavit made pursuant to R.S. 18:562 attesting that he is a
18 qualified registered voter is in fact a registered voter qualified to vote in the election
19 by comparing the information provided by the voter with the information on file in
20 the registrar's office and by reasonably comparing the signature on the affidavit with
21 any signature on file for the voter in the registrar's office. If the registrar determines
22 that any person who has voted in the election by virtue of his submission of such an
23 affidavit was not a registered voter qualified to vote in the election, the registrar shall
24 so inform the elections compliance unit and shall transmit to it the affidavit of that
25 person.

26 (4) The registrar shall scan the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form, voter
27 identification affidavit, voter assistance form, or voter registration application and
28 add it to the voter's record in the state voter registration computer system after
29 processing.

1 §574. Compilation and promulgation of returns

2 A.

3 * * *

4 (2) Immediately after the completion of the verification by the clerk of court
5 and the counting and tabulation of provisional ballots for federal office, if applicable,
6 the board shall publicly prepare ~~two a~~ compiled statements statement of the election
7 returns as shown by the record of the votes made by the clerk of court. The compiled
8 ~~statements statement~~ shall separately show the machine votes for each candidate and
9 for and against each proposition in each precinct, the total absentee by mail and early
10 voting votes for each candidate and for and against each proposition in the parish,
11 the total provisional votes for each candidate for federal office, and the total of all
12 votes for each candidate and for and against each proposition in the parish.

13 (3) The board shall complete the compilation of the election returns and file
14 ~~one copy of~~ the compiled statement with the clerk of court no later than 4:00 p.m. on
15 the fifth day after the election. ~~One copy of the compiled statement shall be~~
16 ~~postmarked~~ The clerk of court shall transmit an electronic copy of the compiled
17 statement to the secretary of state no later than noon on the sixth day after the
18 election and mailed to the secretary of state. ~~The clerk of court shall transmit the~~
19 ~~election returns as shown by the compiled statement from the parish board of~~
20 ~~election supervisors to the secretary of state no later than noon on the sixth day after~~
21 ~~the election.~~ In a parish containing a municipality with a population of three hundred
22 thousand or more, the parish board of election supervisors shall transmit the election
23 returns as shown by their compiled statement to the secretary of state no later than
24 noon on the sixth day after the election. Failure to comply with these time limits
25 shall not void the election.

26 * * *

27 §602. Vacancies in certain local and municipal offices; exceptions

28 * * *

29 E.

1 * * *

2 (2)

3 * * *

4 (d) ~~Within twenty-four hours~~ Immediately after he receives the copy, the
5 secretary of state shall notify all election officials having any duty to perform in
6 connection with a special election to fill such vacancy, including the parish boards
7 of election supervisors for the parish or parishes in which the vacancy occurred.

8 * * *

9 §604. Marshal of city or municipal court; temporary absence; vacancy

10 * * *

11 B.

12 * * *

13 (2)

14 * * *

15 (c) A copy of the proclamation shall also be mailed to the secretary of state
16 who shall ~~within twenty-four hours~~ immediately after receipt of the information
17 notify all election officials having any duty to perform in connection with a special
18 election to fill such vacancy, including the parish board of election supervisors.
19 When a special election is required, the appointee shall serve only until the successor
20 is elected and takes office.

21 §621. Vacancy in office of judge

22 * * *

23 B. Immediately after issuance of the proclamation, the secretary of state shall
24 publish the proclamation in the official journal of each parish in which the election
25 is to be held. Within twenty-four hours after its issuance, the governor shall send a
26 copy of the proclamation to the secretary of state. ~~Within twenty-four hours~~
27 Immediately after he receives the copy, the secretary of state shall notify all election
28 officials having any duty to perform in connection with a special election to fill such

1 vacancy, including the parish boards of election supervisors for the parish or parishes
2 in which the vacancy occurred.

3 * * *

4 §1254. Slates of candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party;
5 nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

6 * * *

7 C. Nominating petitions for the office of presidential elector shall be in the
8 form prescribed by R.S. 18:465(D), except that in lieu of including the recognized
9 political party with which the candidates are affiliated, the petition shall contain, in
10 not more than three words, the political principle which the candidates represent.
11 Also, in lieu of the date of the primary election for which the candidates seek to
12 qualify, the petition shall include the date of the general election. ~~The~~ Each sheet of
13 the petition also shall include the names of the candidate for president and the
14 candidate for vice president whom the candidates for elector support in lieu of the
15 candidate's name and domicile address; however, neither the candidate for president
16 nor the candidate for vice president supported by the slate of candidates for electors
17 shall be a candidate for that office supported by a recognized political party or by a
18 slate of candidates for elector who have previously filed a nominating petition or
19 qualified by the payment of a qualifying fee for that election. Each petition shall
20 contain a full slate of candidates for elector, one from each congressional district and
21 two from the state at large. In designating the office for which the candidate is
22 nominated, the petition shall designate the particular office of presidential elector,
23 that is, the district in which the candidate is a qualified elector if he is nominated for
24 the office for that district, or the designation "At large" in the case of the two offices
25 to be filled at large. Each nominating petition shall be accompanied by the notice
26 of candidacy and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying that the
27 certificate constitutes his acceptance of the nomination.

28 * * *

29 §1259. Arrangement of ballot; designation of party candidates

1 * * *

2 B.

3 * * *

4 (2) ~~Directly to the left of~~ In addition to the names of the presidential and vice
5 presidential candidates, the following shall appear:

6 * * *

7 §1300.3. Certification of registrar of voters; addition or withdrawal of signatures;
8 designation as a public record; form of names

9 A.(1)

10 * * *

11 (b) The registrar of voters for each parish in the voting area may request and
12 accept the assistance of employees of the Department of State and registrars and
13 deputy registrars of voters from other parishes to complete the certification of the
14 recall petition. ~~Each person offering such assistance shall be considered a deputy~~
15 ~~registrar of the requesting parish registrar for that purpose only.~~

16 * * *

17 §1303. Persons entitled to vote in compliance with this Chapter

18 * * *

19 K. Secretary of state and employees. The secretary of state or an employee
20 of the ~~secretary of state~~ Department of State who is a qualified voter and who
21 submits to the registrar of voters of the parish where he is registered to vote a letter
22 from his supervisor on secretary of state letterhead confirming his employment, a
23 paystub, or a copy of a state employee identification card may vote absentee by mail
24 upon meeting the requirements of this Chapter.

25 L. Employees of the registrar. An employee of the registrar of voters who
26 is a qualified voter registered to vote in a parish other than his parish of employment
27 and who submits to the registrar of voters of the parish where he is registered to vote
28 a letter from his employing registrar of voters confirming his employment, a paystub,

1 N.

2 * * *

3 (5) A list of early voting watchers shall be filed with the registrar of voters
4 by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the
5 ~~fourteenth~~ tenth business day before the first day of early voting for the party
6 primary, primary, or general election; however, if the ~~fourteenth~~ tenth business day
7 before the first day of early voting for the party primary, primary, or general election
8 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next
9 day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. For purposes of this
10 Paragraph, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S.
11 13:3204(D).

12 * * *

13 §1309.3. Assistance in voting during early voting

14 * * *

15 B. Persons prohibited from assisting voters during early voting.

16 * * *

17 (4)

18 * * *

19 (b) ~~The voter, along with the~~ person assisting the voter, shall complete a
20 voter assistance form and provide the name of the person assisting the voter and
21 attest whether the person, other than a commissioner, providing assistance was paid
22 to assist the voter. If the voter is not marked for assistance in voting in the statewide
23 voter registration database, the voter shall attest on the voter assistance form that the
24 voter has a physical disability or is unable to read and requires assistance in voting.

25 * * *

26 §1310. Execution of certificate; marking of ballot; casting vote; assistance

27 A.

28 * * *

1 (3) In order to cast a vote on an absentee by mail ballot, a voter shall make
 2 a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by completely filling in the
 3 oval to the right of a selection and returning the ballot to the registrar of voters as
 4 provided in this Section within the applicable deadline set forth by law. If a voter
 5 makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office
 6 or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that
 7 office or proposition shall be void.

* * *

9 §1313. Tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots

* * *

11 C.(1) Absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a public
 12 facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the
 13 parish board of election supervisors, which time shall be on election day no later than
 14 8:00 p.m. If the time selected by the parish board of election supervisors to count
 15 absentee by mail and early voting ballots is after 4:00 p.m. on election day, the start
 16 time shall be submitted to the commissioner of elections for approval no later than
 17 the fourth day prior to election day.

* * *

19 H. The procedure for counting early voting machine ballots and paper ballots
 20 voted during early voting shall be as follows:

* * *

22 (3) The board shall post the results from each early voting machine results
 23 report for the early voting ballots, unless an early voting machine ballot has been
 24 challenged pursuant to R.S. 18:1309(E)(6) ~~or 1315~~.

* * *

26 (5) The board shall determine the validity of challenges to early voters who
 27 cast a paper ballot made in accordance with R.S. 18:1315.

* * *

1 §1313.1. Preparation, verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and
2 early voting ballots

3 * * *

4 C.

5 * * *

6 (2) Absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a public
7 facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the
8 parish board of election supervisors, which time shall be on election day no later than
9 8:00 p.m. If the time selected by the parish board of election supervisors to count
10 absentee by mail and early voting ballots is after 4:00 p.m. on election day, the start
11 time shall be submitted to the commissioner of elections for approval no later than
12 the fourth day prior to election day.

13 * * *

14 I. The procedure for counting early voting machine ballots on election day
15 shall be as follows:

16 * * *

17 (2) The board shall post the results from each early voting machine results
18 report for the early voting ballots, unless an early voting ballot has been challenged
19 pursuant to R.S. 18:1309(E)(6) ~~or 1315~~.

20 * * *

21 §1314. Parish board commissioners

22 * * *

23 B. Selection for primary election.

24 * * *

25 (2) The parish board of election supervisors shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m.~~ on the
26 fifth day before a primary election and shall select the parish board commissioners
27 and alternate parish board commissioners for the parish in the manner provided by
28 law for the selection of commissioners and alternate commissioners. If there are not
29 enough certified commissioners to select the appropriate number of parish board

1 commissioners and alternate parish board commissioners, the board of election
2 supervisors may select a qualified elector of the parish to serve; however, no such
3 elector shall serve as a parish board commissioner if a certified commissioner has
4 been selected as an alternate parish board commissioner.

5 * * *

6 C. Selection for general election.

7 * * *

8 (2)(a) If the parish board determines that the number of parish board
9 commissioners can be reduced, it shall notify each person who served as a parish
10 board commissioner or alternate parish board commissioner in the primary election
11 of its decision to reduce the number of parish board commissioners and of the date
12 and time of the meeting to select the parish board commissioners for the general
13 election. The parish board shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m.~~ on the fifth day before a general
14 election and shall select the parish board commissioners and alternate parish board
15 commissioners to serve in the general election for the parish.

16 * * *

17 (3) If the parish board and the secretary of state or his designee determine
18 that the number of parish board commissioners should be increased, the parish board
19 shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m.~~ on the fifth day before a general election and shall select the
20 additional parish board commissioners and alternate parish board commissioners to
21 serve in the general election for that parish from the list of certified commissioners
22 who have not been chosen to serve in the general election as a
23 commissioner-in-charge, commissioner, or, if applicable, parish board commissioner
24 in the manner provided by law for the selection of commissioners and alternate
25 commissioners. If there are not enough certified commissioners to select the
26 appropriate number of parish board commissioners and alternate parish board
27 commissioners, the board of election supervisors may select a qualified elector of the
28 parish to serve; however, no such elector shall serve as a parish board commissioner

1 if a certified commissioner has been selected as an alternate parish board
2 commissioner.

3 * * *

4 §1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

5 A.(1)(a) A candidate or his representative, a member of the board, or a
6 qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail ~~or early voting~~ ballot for the
7 grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A), by personally filing his written challenge with
8 the registrar no later than the fourth day before the election for which the ballot is
9 challenged. ~~Such challenge shall be on a form provided by the secretary of state.~~

10 (b) A candidate or his representative, a member of the board, an early voting
11 watcher, or a qualified elector may challenge a person applying to early vote on the
12 grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A), prior to the person casting an early voting
13 ballot. The challenged early voter shall not cast his ballot on an early voting
14 machine, but shall be provided a paper ballot in accordance with R.S.
15 18:1309(E)(5)(b).

16 (2) A challenge made pursuant to this Section shall be on a form provided
17 by the secretary of state which ~~The form~~ shall include:

18 * * *

19 B. During the preparation and verification process for the counting of
20 absentee by mail and early voting ballots before the election, as applicable, or the
21 counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any candidate
22 or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may challenge an
23 absentee by mail or early voting paper ballot for cause, other than those grounds
24 specified in R.S. 18:565(A). Failure to include a witness's printed name or mailing
25 address on an absentee ballot certificate shall not be grounds to challenge an
26 absentee by mail ballot.

27 * * *

28 D.

29 * * *

1 (2) If a challenge in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this
2 Section is sustained, the vote shall not be counted; the ballot or early voting
3 confirmation sheet shall be placed in the special, secure absentee by mail and early
4 voting ballot container; and the board shall notify the voter in writing of the
5 challenge and the cause therefor. This notification shall be on a form provided by
6 the secretary of state and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the
7 board. The notice of the challenge and the cause therefor shall be given within four
8 business days by mail, addressed to the voter at his place of residence. The board
9 shall retain a copy of the notification. However, if the challenge is based upon a
10 change of residence within the parish or is based upon a change of residence outside
11 of the parish that has occurred within the last three months, the ballot shall be
12 counted, provided that the voter confirmed his current address as shown by the
13 affidavit of the absentee by mail ballot certificate or early voting confirmation sheet
14 or, if the voter is on the inactive list of voters, as shown by the information provided
15 on an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form.

* * *

17 §1316. Rejection of ballot having distinguishing marks

* * *

19 D. The secretary of state may promulgate rules and regulations in accordance
20 with the Administrative Procedure Act necessary to effectuate the provisions and
21 purposes of this Section.

22 §1317. Curing absentee by mail ballot deficiencies; rejection of deficient ballots

23 A.(1) The secretary of state shall promulgate ~~and adopt~~ rules in accordance
24 with the Administrative Procedure Act as necessary to effectuate uniform and
25 standardized processes for the review and curing or rejection of deficient absentee
26 by mail ballots by the parish board of election supervisors;

27 (2) The failure of a witness to provide his printed name or address on the
28 absentee by mail certificate shall not be deemed a deficiency requiring cure.

1 §1401. Objections to candidacy; contests of elections; contests of certification of
2 recall petition; parties authorized to institute actions; penalties

3 * * *

4 G. The secretary of state may bring an action contesting any election if he
5 alleges irregularities in the conduct of the election may have effected the outcome
6 of the election and those irregularities were reported to him by an election official
7 or noted by a commissioner or the parish board of election supervisors in a notation
8 of irregularities. The cause of action shall be filed no later than the compilation and
9 verification or the promulgation of election results as provided in R.S. 18:574.

10 H. A qualified elector may bring an action objecting to the placement of a
11 constitutional amendment on a ballot.

12 I. Upon a determination that a candidate knowingly attested to false
13 information in a notice of candidacy, the court shall assess court costs and attorney
14 fees, and the court may impose any other sanctions the court deems appropriate
15 against the candidate.

16 §1402. Proper parties

17 * * *

18 B.(1) The following persons are the proper parties against whom election
19 contests shall be instituted:

20 (a) The secretary of state, in his official capacity, when contesting an
21 election on any proposed amendment to the constitution or when contesting the
22 placement of a constitutional amendment on a ballot.

23 (b) The governing authority which called the election, when contesting an
24 election on a proposition.

25 (c) The person or persons whose eligibility to be a candidate in a general
26 election or whose election to office is contested.

27 (2) Any candidate in an election which is contested shall be a proper party
28 to and shall have standing to intervene in the action contesting the election.

1 resolution calling the election and no later than 4:30 p.m. of the thirtieth day after
2 final passage of the legislative instrument calling the election.

3 D. An action contesting an election submitting a proposition to the voters,
4 except a constitutional amendment or a proposition covered by Subsection (C)(2) or
5 E of this Section, shall be instituted no earlier than the day after the date of the
6 election and no ~~not~~ later than 4:30 p.m. of the thirtieth day after the official
7 promulgation of the results of the election.

8 E. An action contesting an election on a proposition submitted to the voters
9 relating to the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, assuming an indebtedness, or
10 levying a tax shall be instituted no earlier than the day after the date of the election
11 and no ~~not~~ later than 4:30 p.m. of the sixtieth day after official promulgation of the
12 results. If the legality of the election, the bond issue provided for, the tax authorized,
13 or the assumption of indebtedness is not contested within the sixty days herein
14 prescribed, the authority to incur the debt, levy the tax, or issue the bonds, the
15 legality thereof, and the taxes and other revenues necessary to pay the same shall be
16 conclusively presumed to be valid and no court thereafter shall have authority to
17 inquire into such matters.

18 F. An action contesting the certification of a recall petition shall be instituted
19 after the certification of the recall petition as provided in R.S. 18:1300.3 and not later
20 than 4:30 p.m. of the fifteenth day after the governor has issued the proclamation
21 ordering the recall election or not later than 4:30 p.m. of the fifteenth day after the
22 last day for the governor to call the election if no recall election is called.

23 G. Except as provided in Paragraph (C)(1) of this Section, an ~~An~~ action
24 objecting to the calling of a special election shall be instituted no earlier than the day
25 after the date the election is called and no ~~not~~ later than 4:30 p.m. of the fourteenth
26 day after the ~~calling of the election~~ date the election is called.

27 H. An action contesting any election involving the recall of a public officer
28 shall be instituted no earlier than the day after the date of the election and no ~~not~~ later
29 than 4:30 p.m. of the ninth day after the date of the election.

1 * * *

2 §1413. Computation of time

3 Computation of all time intervals in this Chapter shall include Sundays and
4 other legal holidays. However, if the time interval ends on a Sunday or other legal
5 holiday, then ~~noon~~ 4:30 p.m. of the next legal day shall be deemed to be the end of
6 the time interval.

7 * * *

8 §1922.2. Approval of reapportionment plan by local election officials

9 A. Prior to the adoption of any local redistricting or reapportionment plan,
10 a local governing body shall submit the proposed plan to the parish registrar of voters
11 and clerk of court for review. If the local governing body utilizes a demographer to
12 produce the proposed plan, the demographer shall be available to the registrar of
13 voters and clerk of court to conduct their review. If the local governing body utilizes
14 a geographic information system to develop its redistricting plan, it shall submit the
15 proposed plan to the registrar of voters and clerk of court electronically in a
16 geospatial shape file or an ASCII, comma delimited block equivalency import file
17 which indicates the census block assignments in accordance with its redistricting
18 plan.

19 B.(1) The registrar of voters shall review and confirm that each district of the
20 proposed plan assigns all of the geography of the affected area without omission or
21 duplication. If the proposed plan utilizes precincts, the registrar shall confirm the
22 proposed plan utilizes the most current precincts established by the parish governing
23 authority pursuant to R.S. 18:532 and 532.1.

24 (2) The registrar of voters and clerk of court shall review and confirm in
25 writing the ability to conduct an election utilizing the proposed plan.

26 (3) The local governing body shall submit to the secretary of state in
27 accordance with timetables in this Section, the written report received by the local
28 governing body.

29 Section 2. R.S. 18:107(H) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

30 §107. Party affiliation for registration; change in party affiliation

1 * * *

2 H. A person who is registered as or who applies for registration as
3 "unaffiliated" shall have his party affiliation changed to "no party".

4 Section 3. R.S. 18:154(C)(1)(h) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
5 §154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

6 * * *

7 C.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, the
8 registrar, the clerk of court, the Department of State, the office of motor vehicles of
9 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and any entity that contracts with
10 the office, each voter registration agency and any entity that contracts with a voter
11 registration agency, and any person who handles the voter registration application
12 form of another person shall be prohibited from circulating on a commercial list or
13 otherwise disclosing the following:

14 * * *

15 (h) The voter registration application and any information contained on the
16 voter registration application of any person who is sixteen or seventeen years of age,
17 except that the voter registration information of a person who is seventeen years of
18 age may appear in a precinct register when that person will be eighteen years of age
19 within seven days before an election day.

20 * * *

21 Section 4. R.S. 18:402(G)(1) as amended and reenacted by Act No. 640 of the 2024
22 Regular Session of the Legislature shall supercede R.S. 18:402(G)(1) as amended and
23 reenacted by Act No. 386 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature.

24 Section 5. (A) Section 1 of this Act shall become effective August 1, 2026.

25 (B) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective September 1, 2026.

26 (C) Section 3 of this Act shall become effective February 1, 2027.

27 (D) Section 4 and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon signature by
28 the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to
29 become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the
30 Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

- 1 legislature, Section 4 and this Section of this Act shall become effective on the day following
2 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 842 Original

2026 Regular Session

Beaullieu

Abstract: Makes revisions to the La. Election Code.

Registrars of voters

Present law (R.S. 18:53) provides grounds for removal of a registrar of voters. Provides that if the commissioner of elections raises allegations that the parish registrar has engaged in conduct for which a registrar may be removed, the State Board of Election Supervisors shall schedule a hearing on the allegations brought by the commissioner of elections within 30 days of the receipt thereof. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:55 and 59) provides that the parish portion of the salary for each registrar of voters, chief deputy registrar, and confidential assistant shall be paid monthly by the parish governing authority.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the parish portion of the salary may also be paid biweekly or semimonthly.

Present law (R.S. 18:62) provides that no registrar of voters, deputy registrar, or other employee of a registrar who is in the unclassified *state* service shall participate or engage in certain political activity.

Proposed law retains present law and further extends the prohibition to registrars of voters, deputy registrars, and other employees of a registrar who are in the unclassified civil service of *any* civil service system.

Present law further provides that all deputy registrars and other employees of a registrar who are in the classified *state* service shall be subject to the constitution and laws, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, affecting political activities by persons in the classified state service.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that deputy registrars and other employees of a registrar who are in the classified civil service of *any* civil service system shall be subject to the constitution and laws, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, affecting political activities by persons in the classified civil service.

Present law (R.S. 18:134) requires that the registrar or a deputy registrar designated by him shall remain in the registrar's office during the time that the office is open on election day.

Proposed law instead specifically requires that the registrar, chief deputy registrar, or confidential assistant remain in the office during such time.

Voter registration

Present law (R.S. 18:108) provides that if a registrant's application for registration indicates that the applicant previously registered as a voter in any other parish, and if the previous notice of registration is available, then before making a new registration the registrar shall

require the applicant to surrender his previous notice for cancellation and the registrar shall promptly notify the registrar of the parish in which the applicant has registered previously of the present registration.

Proposed law removes the requirement that the applicant surrender his previous notice for cancellation.

Present law provides that in such instances, the other registrar shall verify the cancellation of the voter's registration in the other parish. Proposed law removes the requirement that the other registrar verify the cancellation and instead requires the registrar to cancel the prior registration in the other parish.

Present law (R.S. 18:110) provides that a change of registration based upon a change of residence within a parish received after the closing of registration for a primary election shall become effective the day after the general election or special general election when a special primary election is held in conjunction with a general election. Present law provides exceptions for when registration is cancelled or changed under certain specific circumstances.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that a change of registration based upon a change of residence within a parish received after the closing of registration for a closed party primary election shall become effective the day after the second party primary election.

Proposed law (R.S. 18:106.1) provides that if a registered voter, subsequent to his registration, is no longer capable of signing his name or making a mark due to a physical disability, he shall file with the registrar of voters an alternative signature attestation to authorize another person to sign documents required by the Election Code on his behalf. Requires the voter to include a letter signed by a physician stating that the voter is unable to provide his signature or mark due to a physical disability and that the voter is capable of providing consent for another person to sign on his behalf.

Proposed law imposes requirements on the individual assisting the applicant and provides for information that shall be included on the form.

Proposed law provides that the individual authorized to assist the voter shall be an elector of the state and shall not be a candidate, the voter's employer or employer's agent, or the voter's union agent. Provides that the individual authorized to assist the applicant shall also sign and print his own name and residential address on any document for which the individual assists the applicant.

Proposed law further provides that if a registered voter who is no longer capable of signing his name or making a mark due to a physical disability appears in person to vote on election day or during early voting, he shall verbally or otherwise convey his consent for the commissioner or deputy registrar to sign the precinct register, early voting register, and any other forms required by the Election Code and the commissioner or deputy registrar shall sign on behalf of the voter in the presence of at least one witness.

Present law (R.S. 18:154) provides, generally, that the records of each registrar are public records and at all times during office hours shall be open to inspection, except the early voting confirmation sheets of voters. Further provides that the name and address of a law enforcement officer shall not be subject to disclosure if the registrar has received certification from the law enforcement agency employing the officer that the officer is engaging in hazardous activities and it is necessary for his name and address to be kept confidential. Provides that any agency employing a law enforcement officer whose records are made confidential shall also issue a decertification notice to the registrar of voters when the officer is no longer engaging in hazardous activities.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that the law enforcement officer may submit written notice to the registrar of voters that it is no longer necessary for his name and address to be kept confidential.

Proposed law provides that upon receipt of a notification from either the employing agency or the law enforcement officer, the registrar shall remove the indication of certification for the affected law enforcement officer from the state voter registration computer system.

Present law (R.S. 18:192), requires the Dept. of State to conduct two separate annual canvasses of registered voters, one occurring no later than July 31st, and another occurring no later than June 30th. Proposed law provides that the department is not required to conduct either canvass in a calendar year when there is less than sixty days between the spring general election date and opening of qualifying for the fall election cycle.

When conducting the annual canvass, present law requires the Dept. of State to use address data obtained pursuant to a written agreement from another state or federal governmental agency or private vendor that provides voter registration eligibility or address data to verify the names and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the Dept. of State to use information available in the state voter registration computer system to conduct the annual canvass and identify registrants whose name does not appear with a corrected address provided by the United States Postal Service (USPS) or its licensee.

Proposed law provides that the Dept. of State shall use information provided pursuant to the written agreement provided for in present law, instead of information provided by the USPS or its licensee.

Present law (R.S. 18:193) provides for the placement of registrants on the inactive list of voters when the registrar has reason to believe that the registrant is no longer qualified to be registered, or that a registrant has changed his residence. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the registrant shall not be placed on the inactive list of voters if there is address information available to the registrar from the USPS or its licensee. Proposed law instead provides the registrant shall not be placed on the inactive list of voters if there is address information available to the registrar as provided in present law (R.S. 18:192).

Present law provides for the use of an address confirmation notice to confirm the address of a registered voter. Present law (R.S. 18:191.1) provides that the address confirmation notice shall include a postage prepaid and preaddressed return notice sent by forwardable mail and shall inform the registrant about his voting rights under the address confirmation process.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires registered voters who appear at a polling location on election day to confirm their address using an address confirmation notice. Proposed law (R.S. 18:196(B), 562(B), 565(B), 571, 573, 1315(D)(2), and 1333) instead requires such voters to confirm their address using an address confirmation *form*.

Present law provides that if a registrant whose name is on the inactive list of voters votes absentee by mail or during early voting, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's name to the official list of voters and make any necessary corrections in the registrant's registration records if the information on the address confirmation notice or the residence address provided in an application to vote by mail so indicates.

Proposed law requires the same if a registrant whose name is on the inactive list of voters applies to vote absentee by mail. Further requires the registrar to change the registrant's

registration address to the residence address provided on the address confirmation form or application to vote by mail.

Present law (R.S. 18:197) provides that no registrar shall cancel the registration of any voter in his parish between any primary election and the subsequent general election occurring in that parish, except for those fraudulently placed upon the registration records or canceled pursuant to the annual canvass conducted by the registrar.

Proposed law instead places a limitation on cancellations between any *open* primary and subsequent general election, except for if the registration was illegally or fraudulently placed upon the registration records, the registrant is no longer qualified to be registered for a reason other than a change of residence or address, or the registrant has deliberately given an incorrect address.

Present law (R.S. 18:107) provides that an applicant for registration who declares party affiliation as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party" shall have his party affiliation entered as "No Party".

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that on and after Sept. 1, 2026, that a person who is registered as or who applies for registration as "unaffiliated" shall have his party affiliation changed to "no party".

Present law (R.S. 18:154) prohibits circulating on a commercial list or otherwise disclosing the voter registration application and any information contained on the voter registration application of any person who is 16 or 17 years of age.

Proposed law retains present law except to provide that the voter registration information of a person who is 17 years of age may appear in a precinct register when that person will be 18 years of age within seven days before an election day.

Present law (R.S. 18:13003.3) provides procedures for the certification of signatures on a recall petition. Present law provides that the registrar of voters for each parish in the voting area may request and accept the assistance of employees of the Dept. of State and registrars and deputy registrars of voters from other parishes to complete the certification of the recall petition. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that each person offering such assistance shall be considered a deputy registrar of the requesting parish registrar for that purpose only. Proposed law repeals present law.

Election administration, generally

Present law (R.S. 18:402) provides for prohibited election days. Provides that if the date of any fall election falls on any prohibited day, the election shall be held on the same *weekday* of the preceding week. Proposed law instead provides that the election shall be held on the same *day* of the preceding week.

Present law (R.S. 18:402(G)(1)) as amended and reenacted by Act No. 640 of the 2024 R.S. of the Legislature of La. provides that the fall gubernatorial and congressional election dates shall be the regularly scheduled statewide elections for purposes of voting on constitutional amendments. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:433) provides that the parish board of election supervisors shall meet at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Friday in January of each year to select commissioners-in-charge, or if the course of instruction for commissioners-in-charge is delayed, at 10:00 a.m. on or before the 5th day after completion of the course.

Proposed law instead requires that the parish board meet on or before the 2nd Friday in January and removes the requirement that the parish board meet at 10:00 a.m. in either circumstance.

Present law (R.S. 18:1314) provides that the parish board of election supervisors shall meet at 10:00 a.m. on the 5th day before a primary election and at 10:00 a.m. on the 5th day before a general election to select parish board commissioners necessary to count absentee and early voting ballots. Proposed law removes the requirement that the parish board meet at 10:00 a.m. in either circumstance and allows the board to meet on or before the 5th day for each circumstance.

Present law (R.S. 18:564 and 1309.3) provides that a voter needing assistance on election day or early voting, along with the person assisting the voter, shall complete a voter assistance form and provide the name, address, and relationship to the voter of the person, including a commissioner, assisting the voter and attest whether the person, other than a commissioner, assisting the voter was paid to provide assistance.

Proposed law provides that only the person assisting the voter, and not the voter, shall complete the voter assistance form.

Present law (R.S. 18:574) requires the parish board of election supervisors, immediately after the completion of the verification by the clerk of court and the counting and tabulation of provisional ballots for federal office, to publicly prepare two compiled statements of the election returns as shown by the record of the votes made by the clerk of court. Requires that the parish board mail one copy of the compiled statement to the secretary of state and that the clerk transmit the other copy to the secretary of state.

Proposed law instead requires the parish board to prepare one compiled statement and requires the clerk to transmit an electronic copy to the secretary of state.

Present law (R.S. 18:602, 604, 621) requires the secretary of state, within 24 hours of receiving a proclamation ordering a special election to fill a vacancy, to notify all election officials having any duty in connection with a special election to fill such vacancy, including the parish boards of election supervisors for the parish or parishes in which the vacancy occurred.

Proposed law instead requires the secretary of state to provide the notice immediately.

Present law (R.S. 18:532, 532.1, and 1922.2) provides for the establishment of precincts and changing of boundaries and other reapportionment plans. Requires the parish governing authority or local governing body, prior to adoption, to submit proposed precincts or boundaries to the clerk and registrar to confirm the ability to conduct an election on the proposed plan.

Proposed law requires the clerk and registrar to submit their confirmation in writing and requires the parish governing authority or local governing body to submit the confirmation to the secretary.

Present law (R.S. 18:1259) prescribes the arrangement of the ballot. Provides that certain information shall appear directly to the left of the names of the presidential and vice presidential candidates. Proposed law requires that the information instead appear in addition to the names of the candidates.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309) provides for early voting commissioners. Provides that a person may serve as an early voting commissioner only if he has received a certificate of instruction and attended a course of instruction for early voting commissioners.

Proposed law also requires that a person serving as early voting commissioner to be a qualified voter who is able to perform the essential duties of a commissioner.

Present law further provides specific criteria for which a person is disqualified from serving as an early voting commissioner.

Proposed law instead provides that an early voting commissioner shall meet the same qualifications as an election day commissioner.

Present law provides that a list of early voting watchers shall be filed with the registrar of voters before 4:30 p.m. on the 14th business day before the first day of early voting. Proposed law instead requires the list to be filed before 4:30 p.m. on the 10th business day before the first day of early voting.

Present law (R.S. 18:1371) provides for the secretary of state to contract for the delivery of voting machines and equipment through the method of advertising and letting according to the La. Procurement Code.

Proposed law instead authorizes the secretary of state to contract for such services in accordance with the La. Procurement Code, without regard to a specific method of procurement.

Present law requires the secretary of state to provide notice of invitations to be in a specific manner not otherwise provided for in the La. Procurement Code when seeking to award a contract by competitive sealed bid. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1413) provides that if a time interval provided in the Election Code ends on a Sunday or other legal holiday, then noon of the next legal day shall be deemed to be the end of the time interval.

Proposed law changes the end of the time interval to 4:30 p.m. of the next legal day.

Candidate qualifying and withdrawal

Present law (R.S. 18:465) provides that each voter who signs a nominating petition shall date his signature and shall provide the ward and precinct in which he is registered to vote, his residence address, including the municipal number, the apartment number, if any, the rural route and box number, or any other physical description that will identify his actual place of residence. Additionally requires that the name of each voter who signed the nominating petition to be typed or legibly written on the petition, and each signature on the nominating petition to be dated and witnessed by the candidate or the person who obtained the signature on his behalf.

Proposed law instead requires each voter who signs the petition to provide the information generally required for petitions submitted to the registrar, which includes the voter's signature or mark, the date that the voter signed the petition, his year of birth, the address at which he is registered to vote, his name either typed or legibly written, the printed name of the person who witnessed and who obtained the signature either typed or legibly written, and the month, day, and year on which the person witnessed and obtained the signature.

Proposed law authorizes the registrar for each parish that is required to certify a nominating petition to request and accept the assistance of employees of the Dept. of State and registrars and deputy registrars of voters from other parishes to complete the certification of the nominating petition.

Present law (R.S. 18:469) provides that when a candidate that has opposition in a primary election for a public office dies after the close of the qualifying period and before the time for closing the polls on the day of the primary election, the qualifying period for candidates in the primary election for that office shall reopen for candidates on the day after the death and shall close on the third day after notice of the death.

Proposed law provides that the qualifying period shall reopen on the day after the secretary of state receives actual notice of the death.

Present law (R.S. 18:1405 and 1413) provides that an action objecting to candidacy shall be instituted not later than 4:30 p.m. of the 7th day after the close of qualifications for

candidates in the primary election. After the expiration of the time period, no further action shall be commenced objecting to candidacy based on the grounds for objections to candidacy. Provides that computation of time intervals shall include Sundays and other legal holidays. However, if the time interval ends on a Sunday or other legal holiday, then noon of the next legal day shall be deemed to be the end of the time interval. Present law (R.S. 18:493) reiterates the same provisions.

Proposed law retains present law as it appears in R.S. 18:1405 and 1413, and repeals the reiteration of present law contained in R.S. 18:493.

Present law (R.S. 18:501) provides that if the number of candidates remaining in a primary election, second party primary election, or general election for a public office is one more than the number of persons to be elected to the office, the secretary of state shall accept a notice of withdrawal that is filed prior to 4:30 p.m. on the second day prior to the first day of early voting.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of state shall accept a notice received on the second *business* day prior to the first day of early voting.

Present law (R.S. 18:1254) provides for nominating petitions for the office of presidential elector. Requires that petitions shall be in the form prescribed for nominating petitions generally, which requires that each sheet of the petition include the candidate's name and domiciliary address. Further requires that the petition for presidential elector include the names of the candidate for president and the candidate for vice president whom the candidates for elector support.

Proposed law removes the requirement that each sheet include the candidate's name and domiciliary address and instead provides that each sheet of the petition include the names of the candidate for president and the candidate for vice president whom the candidates for elector support.

Absentee by mail and early voting

Present law (R.S. 18:1303) authorizes certain persons to vote absentee by mail. Provides that qualified voters who are employees of the secretary of state or a registrar of voters for a parish other than the parish where the person is registered to vote may vote absentee by mail if he submits to his parish registrar of voters a copy of a state employee identification card or identification card showing employment with the registrar of voters.

Proposed law additionally authorizes such qualified voters employed by the Dept. of State to submit a letter from his supervisor on secretary of state letterhead confirming his employment, or a paystub; and a qualified voter employed by a registrar of voters to submit a letter from the registrar of voters confirming his employment, or a paystub.

Present law (R.S. 18:1310) provides for the marking of an absentee by mail ballot. Proposed law provides that in order to cast a vote on an absentee by mail ballot, a voter must make a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by completely filling in the oval to the right of a selection and returning the ballot to the registrar of voters as provided in this Section within the applicable deadline set forth by law. If a voter makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that office or proposition will be void.

Present law (R.S. 18:1313 and 1313.1) provides that absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors which shall be on election day no later than 8:00 p.m.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that if the time selected by the parish board of election supervisors to count absentee by mail and early voting ballots is after 4:00 p.m. on election day, the start time must be submitted to the commissioner of elections for approval no later than the fourth day prior to election day.

Present law (R.S. 18:1315(A)) provides for the challenge of an absentee by mail or early voting ballot may be filed with the registrar no later than the 4th day before the election. Proposed law limits present law to apply only to the challenge of absentee by mail ballots, and instead provides that early voting ballots may be challenged prior to the person casting an early voting ballot, in which case the voter shall cast his vote on a paper ballot instead of on an early voting machine.

Present law (R.S. 18:1315(B)) provides that failure to include a witness's mailing address on an absentee ballot certificate shall not be grounds to challenge an absentee by mail ballot.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that failure to include a witness's printed name shall not be grounds to challenge an absentee by mail ballot.

Present law (R.S. 18:1316) provides for the parish board to reject an absentee by mail or early voting ballot having distinguishing marks; provides for circumstances that shall lead to the rejection of a ballot and for certain ballots that shall not be considered as having distinguishing marks.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the secretary of state to adopt rules necessary to effectuate present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1317) provides for the curing of absentee mail ballot deficiencies. Proposed law retains present law and provides that the failure of a witness to provide his printed name or address on the absentee by mail certificate shall not be deemed a deficiency requiring cure.

Present law (R.S. 18:1333) provides for the nursing home early voting program authorizing qualified voters who reside in a nursing home to vote early during the period extending two weeks prior to the beginning day for early voting through the last day for early voting, which is seven days prior to the scheduled election.

Proposed law extends the nursing home early voting period to end on the fourth day before election day.

Election contests

Present law (R.S. 18:1401) provides for election contests and challenges, including actions objecting to candidacy, actions brought by a candidate or person in interest contesting an election, actions objecting to the calling of a special election to fill a vacancy, actions contesting the certification of a recall petition, and actions contesting a recall election.

Proposed law retains present law and further authorizes the secretary of state to bring an action contesting any election if he alleges irregularities in the conduct of the election may have effected the outcome of the election and those irregularities were reported to him by an election official or noted by a commissioner or the parish board of election supervisors in a notation of irregularities. Provides that the cause of action shall be filed no later than the compilation and verification or the promulgation of election results.

Proposed law further authorizes a qualified elector to bring an action objecting to the placement of a constitutional amendment on a ballot.

Present law (R.S. 18:1402) provides for the proper parties to the various actions contesting an election.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that in any action brought pursuant to proposed law by the secretary of state contesting an election on a proposition, the proper party shall be the governing authority which called the election. In any action brought by the secretary of state pursuant to proposed law contesting an election for public office, the proper parties shall be the candidates for the office in question. In any action brought by the

secretary of state pursuant to proposed law contesting a recall election, the proper parties shall be the public officer who is the subject a recall election.

Proposed law further provides that the secretary of state is a proper party, in his official capacity, in an action objecting to the placement of a constitutional amendment on the ballot.

Present law (R.S. 18:1405) provides for the timing for the commencement of election contests.

Present law provides for the deadlines to file an action objecting to candidacy, an action contesting any election involving election to office, an action contesting an election submitting certain propositions to the voters, an action objecting to the calling of a special election, and an action contesting any election involving the recall of a public officer, but does not provide for the first day such actions can be filed.

Proposed law provides that an action objecting to candidacy shall be instituted no earlier than the day the candidate submits his notice of candidacy to the qualifying official.

Proposed law provides that an action contesting any election involving election to office, an action contesting an election submitting certain propositions to the voters, or an action contesting any election involving the recall of a public officer shall be instituted no earlier than the day after the date of the election.

Proposed law provides that an action objecting to the calling of a special election shall be instituted no earlier than the date the election is called.

Proposed law provides that an action objecting to the placement of a constitutional amendment on the ballot shall be instituted no earlier than the date of the final passage of the joint resolution calling the election and no later than 4:30 p.m. of the 30th day after final passage of the legislative instrument calling the election.

(Amends R.S. 18:53(B)(2)(b), 55(D), 59(F), 62, 108(A), 134(E)(1), 154(C)(1)(h) and (D)(1) and (3), 192(B)(1)(a), 193(A), 196(B) and (C)(2)(a), 197, 402(A)(1), 433(B)(1), 465(B) and (D), 469(A), 491(B), 493, 501(C), 532(F), 532.1(C)(1) and (4), 562(B)(2), 564(B)(5)(b), 565(B) and (C), 571(A)(8), 573(E), 574(A)(2) and (3), 602(E)(2)(d), 604(B)(2)(c), 621(B), 1254(C), 1259(B)(2)(intro. para.), 1300.3(A)(1)(b), 1303(K) and (L), 1309(D)(2), (K), and (N)(5), 1309.3(B)(4)(b), 1313(C)(1) and (H)(3) and (5), 1313.1(C)(2) and (I)(2), 1314(B)(2) and (C)(2)(a) and (3), 1315(A)(1) and (2)(intro. para.), (B), and (D)(2), 1317, 1333(B) and (G)(1) and (7), 1371(A)(1) and (2)(intro. para.), 1401(G), 1402(B), 1405, 1413, and 1922.2; Adds R.S. 18:106.2, 107(H), 110(B)(1)(c), 192(C), 465(E)(3), 1310(A)(3), 1316(D), and 1401(H) and (I))