

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 319

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT. Provides for instructions to elections commissioners.  
(8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(b)(iii) and (B)(1), 433(A)(3), 562(A)(2),  
3 571(A)(8), 573(E), and 1309(D); to provide for course of instruction for  
4 commissioners; to provide for instructions to voters without picture identification;  
5 to provide for identification documentation requirements for voters; to provide for  
6 voting termination procedures; to provide for election result evidence; to provide for  
7 early voting voter verification identification; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(b)(iii) and (B)(1), 433(A)(3), 562(A), 571(A)(8),  
10 573(E), and 1309(D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §431. Commissioners; courses of instruction; certificates; reports; list of certified  
12 persons furnished by parish board of election supervisors

13 A.(1)(a)

14 \* \* \*

15 (b) The clerk shall provide the following in accordance with minimum  
16 standards issued by the secretary of state to the persons who attend the course of  
17 instruction:

\* \* \*

(iii) Instruction on a commissioner's duty to offer any voter who does not have picture identification ~~an affidavit to sign to that effect~~ as provided in R.S. 18:562(A)(2)(a) **the opportunity to provide identification in accordance with R.S. 18:562(A)(2)(c) and (d).**

\* \* \*

B.(1) The clerk of court shall conduct a course of instruction for commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, and alternate commissioners who are selected to serve in each election. The course shall be held after the selection of these officials but not less than four days prior to each election. The course shall primarily cover the procedures to be used in the election for which the officials were selected. The clerk of court shall instruct the commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, and alternate commissioners that it is their duty to offer any voter who does not have picture identification as provided in R.S. 18:562 ~~an affidavit to sign to that effect~~ **(A)(2)(a) the opportunity to provide identification in accordance with R.S. 18:562(A)(2)(c) and (d).**

\* \* \*

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

A. Course of instruction. (1) \* \* \*

\* \* \*

(3) During the week prior to the date scheduled for the course of instruction, the clerk shall notify each commissioner of the date, time, and place where he will conduct the course of instruction. The course of instruction shall include but shall not necessarily be restricted to instruction in the operating of voting machines, relevant laws and regulations concerning the conduct of elections, and matters pertaining to the powers and duties of commissioners-in-charge. The clerk shall instruct the commissioners-in-charge that it is their duty to ~~offer~~ **inform** any voter who does not have picture identification as provided in R.S. 18:562(A)~~an affidavit to sign to that~~

1 effect**(2)(a) of the opportunity to provide identification in accordance with R.S.**  
2 **18:562(A)(2)(c) and (d).**

3 \* \* \*

4 §562. Prerequisites to voting

5 A. Identification of voters.

6 (1) A person who desires to vote in a primary or general election shall give  
7 his name and address to a commissioner, who shall announce the applicant's name  
8 and address to the persons at the polling place.

9 (2)(a) Each applicant shall identify himself, in the presence and view of the  
10 bystanders, and present to the commissioners one of the following:

11 (i) A Louisiana driver's license;<sub>;</sub>

12 (ii) a A Louisiana special identification card issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1321;  
13 ~~or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and~~  
14 ~~signature of the applicant.;~~

15 **(iii) A United States Passport book;**

16 **(iv) A United States Certificate of Citizenship that contains the**  
17 **applicant's name, picture, and signature;**

18 **(v) A United States Certificate of Naturalization that contains the**  
19 **applicant's name, picture, and signature;**

20 **(vi) A Tribal Identification card issued by a tribe recognized by the State**  
21 **of Louisiana or the federal government that contains the applicant's name,**  
22 **picture, and signature; or**

23 ~~(ii)~~**(vii)** A United States military identification card that contains the  
24 applicant's name and picture.

25 (b) If the applicant does not have one of the forms of identification provided  
26 in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the applicant shall ~~complete and sign an~~  
27 ~~affidavit, which is supplied by the secretary of state, to that effect before the~~  
28 ~~commissioners, which affidavit shall include the applicant's date of birth and~~  
29 ~~mother's maiden name. If the applicant is unable to read or write or is otherwise~~

1 ~~unable to complete the affidavit due to disability, the applicant may receive~~  
 2 ~~assistance in completing the affidavit and the commissioner shall make a notation~~  
 3 ~~on the affidavit. The applicant may receive the assistance of any person of his choice,~~  
 4 ~~including a commissioner, except a candidate, commissioner-in-charge, the~~  
 5 ~~applicant's employer or employer's agent, or the applicant's union agent. The~~  
 6 ~~commissioners shall place the affidavit in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters"~~  
 7 ~~and attach the envelope to the precinct register. However, an applicant who is~~  
 8 ~~allowed to vote without the picture identification required by Subparagraph (a) of~~  
 9 ~~this Paragraph is subject to challenge as provided in R.S. 18:565~~ **present two forms**  
 10 **of identification consisting of either two primary documents listed in**  
 11 **subparagraph (c) or one primary document listed in Subparagraph (c) and one**  
 12 **secondary document listed in Subparagraph (d).**

13 **(c) Primary documents.**

14 **(i) An original or certified domestic birth certificate;**

15 **(ii) Social Security card;**

16 **(iii) United States Passport card;**

17 **(iv) Tribal Identification card issued by a tribe recognized by the State**  
 18 **of Louisiana or the federal government that does not contain the applicant's**  
 19 **picture or signature; and**

20 **(v) A United States Veteran Health Identification card.**

21 **(d) Secondary documents.**

22 **(i) Voter registration certificate;**

23 **(ii) Current utility bill, not more than twelve months old, containing the**  
 24 **name and address of the voter;**

25 **(iii) Bank statement, not more than twelve months old, containing the**  
 26 **name and address of the voter;**

27 **(iv) Government check or document, not more than twelve months old,**  
 28 **containing the name and address of the voter; and**

29 **(v) Paycheck or pay stub, not more than twelve months old, containing**

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**the name and address of the voter.**

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§571. Procedures for commissioners after termination of voting

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

\* \* \*

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

\* \* \*

§573. Evidence of election results

\* \* \*

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

(2) The registrar shall utilize the procedures set forth in Part V of Chapter 4 of this Code to determine the validity of the registration of each challenged voter

1 who did not submit an address confirmation notice. In any instance where an address  
 2 confirmation notice was received that stated an address different from the address  
 3 on file in the registrar's office for a registrant, the registrar shall change the  
 4 registrant's address to the address on the address confirmation notice if the change  
 5 of address is in the parish; transfer the registrant's registration to another parish if the  
 6 address on the address confirmation notice is in another parish; or cancel the  
 7 registration if the address on the address confirmation notice is in another state. If an  
 8 address confirmation notice was received that affirmed the address on file in the  
 9 registrar's office, the registrar shall reinstate the registrant to the official list of voters  
 10 if the registrant appears on the inactive list of voters. If the address confirmation  
 11 notice was a result of a valid challenge, the registrar shall so inform the district  
 12 attorney and shall transmit to him the address confirmation notice of that person.

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

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

\* \* \*

§1309. Early voting; verification

\* \* \*

1 D.(1)(a) Before any voter is allowed to vote during early voting, the registrar  
2 or his deputy shall establish the voter's identity by requiring him to submit one of the  
3 following:

4 (i) A Louisiana driver's license;

5 (ii) a Louisiana special identification card issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1321;  
6 ~~or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and~~  
7 ~~signature of the voter;~~

8 (iii) A United States military identification card that contains the voter's name  
9 and picture;

10 (iv) A United States Passport book;

11 (v) A United States Certificate of Citizenship that contains the  
12 applicant's name, picture, and signature;

13 (vi) A United States Certificate of Naturalization that contains the  
14 applicant's name, picture, and signature; or

15 (vii) A Tribal Identification card issued by a tribe recognized by the state  
16 of Louisiana or the federal government that contains the applicant's name,  
17 picture, and signature.

18 (b) If the voter does not have one of the forms of identification provided in  
19 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the voter shall ~~complete and sign, in the presence~~  
20 ~~of the registrar or his deputy, a voter identification affidavit to that effect provided~~  
21 ~~by the secretary of state, which affidavit shall include the voter's date of birth and~~  
22 ~~mother's maiden name. If the voter is unable to read or write or is otherwise unable~~  
23 ~~to complete the affidavit due to disability, the voter may receive assistance in~~  
24 ~~completing the affidavit, and the registrar or his deputy shall make a notation on the~~  
25 ~~affidavit. The voter may receive the assistance of any person of his choice, including~~  
26 ~~the registrar or his deputy, except a candidate, the voter's employer or employer's~~  
27 ~~agent, or the voter's union agent. The registrar or his deputy shall retain the affidavit~~  
28 ~~in the office of the registrar of voters. present two forms of identification~~  
29 consisting of either two primary documents listed in Subparagraph (c) or one

1 primary document listed in Subparagraph (c) and one secondary document  
2 listed in Subparagraph (d).

3 (c) Primary documents.

4 (i) An original or certified domestic birth certificate;

5 (ii) Social Security card;

6 (iii) United States Passport card;

7 (iv) Tribal Identification card issued by a tribe recognized by the state  
8 of Louisiana or the federal government that does not contain the applicant's  
9 picture or signature; and

10 (v) A United States Veteran Health Identification card.

11 (d) Secondary documents.

12 (i) Voter registration certificate;

13 (ii) Current utility bill, not more than twelve months old, containing the  
14 name and address of the voter;

15 (iii) Bank statement, not more than twelve months old, containing the  
16 name and address of the voter;

17 (iv) Government check or document, not more than twelve months old,  
18 containing the name and address of the voter; and

19 (v) Paycheck or pay stub, not more than twelve months old, containing  
20 the name and address of the voter.

21 ~~(e)~~**(e)** If satisfied that the voter has identified himself as the voter registered  
22 in the state voter registration computer system and that he is qualified to vote, the  
23 registrar or his deputy shall initial the early voting register kept by the registrar  
24 opposite the voter's signature or mark. The voter then shall be allowed to vote.

25 ~~(d) A voter who votes without the picture identification required by~~  
26 ~~Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph is subject to challenge as provided in R.S.~~  
27 ~~18:1315.~~

28 (2) If the voter's name is found in the state voter registration computer system  
29 on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall be required to complete an address

1 confirmation card to determine his eligibility to vote.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SB 319 Original

2026 Regular Session

Pressly

Present law provides instruction for a commissioner to offer any voter that does not have picture identification an affidavit to sign.

Proposed law removes the affidavit option and provides new identification requirements.

Present law provides the information for a clerk to provide the course of instruction to the commissioners during the week prior to an election. This information includes that the commissioners are to offer any voter who does not have picture identification an affidavit to sign to that effect.

Proposed law retains present law but removes language related to affidavits and provides alternative identification options.

Present law provides a list of what qualifies for identification in order to be eligible to vote.

Proposed law retains present law but adds additional methods that qualify as identification in order to be eligible to vote.

Present law provides the procedure to fill out an affidavit for an applicant that does not have one of the forms of identification allowed by law.

Proposed law removes the affidavit process and provides a new procedure for an applicant that does not have one of the forms of identification allowed by law.

Present law provides procedures for commissioners after termination of voting which includes including all voter identification affidavits in the "Registrar of Voters" envelope.

Proposed law removes the voter identification affidavits from the documents that are required to go in the "Registrar of Voters" envelope.

Present law provides the information required as evidence of election results.

Proposed law retains present law but removes voter identification affidavits from the information required as evidence.

Present law provides early voting verification requirements which include what may be submitted to establish the voter's identity.

Proposed law removes the requirement of an identification that is an other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter.

Proposed law adds additional methods that may be used to establish the voter's identity.

Present law provides a process for a voter that does not have one of the forms of identification provided in order to prove their identity which includes an affidavit.

Proposed law removes the affidavit from the process to prove identity but replaces it with

additional documents that will be accepted.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(b)(iii) and (B)(1), 433(A)(3), 562(A)(2), 571(A)(8), 573(E), and 1309(D))