

2024 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 12

BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

ELECTIONS: Provides for party primary elections (Items #7 and #10)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:401(B) and to enact R.S. 18:401(C) and (D), relative to party
3 primary elections; to provide for the nature of primary elections; to mandate the
4 legislature to provide for party primary elections for certain offices; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:401(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:401(C) and
8 (D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §401. Purpose and nature of primary and general elections

10 * * *

11 B. Nature. ~~All~~ Until January 1, 2026, qualified voters of this state may vote
12 on candidates for public office in primary ~~and general~~ elections without regard to the
13 voter's party affiliation or lack of it, and all candidates for public office who qualify
14 for a primary ~~or general~~ election may be voted on without regard to the candidate's
15 party affiliation or lack of it.

16 C. Nature of primary elections. (1) Except as otherwise provided pursuant
17 to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, all qualified voters of this state may vote on
18 candidates for public office in primary elections without regard to the voter's party
19 affiliation or lack of it, and all candidates for public office who qualify for a primary

1 election may be voted on without regard to the candidate's party affiliation or lack
2 of it.

3 (2) By January 1, 2026, the legislature shall provide by law for a system of
4 elections in which all recognized political parties shall make nominations of
5 candidates for congressional office, statewide elective office, and office of state
6 representative or state senator by direct primary elections.

7 D. Nature of general elections. All qualified voters of this state may vote on
8 candidates for public office in general elections without regard to the voter's party
9 affiliation or lack of it, and all candidates for public office who qualify for a general
10 election may be voted on without regard to the candidate's party affiliation or lack
11 of it.

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 12 Original

2024 First Extraordinary Session

Wright

Abstract: Mandates the legislature to provide for a party primary system for congressional office, statewide office, and state legislative office by Jan. 1, 2026.

Present law provides that all qualified voters may vote on candidates in primary and general elections without regard to the voter's party affiliation or lack of it, and all candidates for public office may be voted on without regard to the candidate's party affiliation or lack of it.

Proposed law retains present law for most public offices, but mandates the legislature to provide for a system of elections in which all recognized political parties shall make nominations of candidates for congressional office, statewide office, and state legislative office by direct primary elections by Jan. 1, 2026. Proposed law retains present law for general elections.

(Amends R.S. 18:401(B); Adds R.S. 18:401(C) and (D))