

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 842

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(9), 53(B)(2)(b), 55(D), 59(F), 62, 108(A), 110(B)(3), 154(C)(1)(h) and (D)(1) and (3) and (F)(8), 192(B)(1)(a), 193(A), 196(B) and (C)(2)(a), 197, 401.1(H), 402(A)(1), 433(B)(1), 465(B) and (D), 469(A), 491(B), 493, 495(B), 501(C), 532(F), 532.1(C)(1) and (4), 551(B)(2)(introductory paragraph), 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)(introductory paragraph), 1300.2(C)(1), 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)(introductory paragraph), (B), and (D)(2), 1317, 1333(B) and (G)(1) and (7), 1367.2(F), 1367.11(A), 1371(A)(1) and (2)(introductory paragraph), 1401(G), 1402(B)(1)(a), 1405, 1413, and 1922.2(B)(2) and to enact R.S. 18:106.2, 107(H), 110(B)(1)(c), 192(C), 465(E)(3), 1310(A)(3), 1316(D), 1401(H), and 1922.2(B)(3), relative to the Louisiana Election Code; to make revisions to the Louisiana Election Code; to provide for duties of the secretary of state and registrars of voters; to provide for the raising of allegations against a registrar of voters; to provide for the payment of the parish portion of the salary of a registrar of voters, chief deputy registrar, and confidential assistant; to provide for political activities of unclassified registrars, deputy registrars, and other employees; to provide for the cancellation of prior voter registration; to provide for change of registration address; to provide for the cancellation of registration; to provide for the registration of unaffiliated registrants; to provide for the registration

1 information of a person who is seventeen years of age; to provide for voters  
2 incapable of making a mark; to provide for the confidentiality of registration  
3 information of law enforcement officers; to provide for the annual canvass in certain  
4 years; to provide for use of an address confirmation form; to provide for the  
5 calculation of dates and computation of time; to provide for meetings of a parish  
6 board of election supervisors; to provide for the information required on a  
7 nominating petition; to provide for the certification of signatures on a nominating  
8 petition; to provide for procedures related to changing precincts and boundaries; to  
9 provide for the completion of voter assistance forms; to provide for the statement of  
10 election returns; to provide for notification of a special election to fill a vacancy; to  
11 provide for vacancies in certain party primary offices; to provide for the contents of  
12 a nominating petition for presidential elector; to provide for the arrangement of the  
13 ballot; to provide for certifying employment for purposes of early voting; to provide  
14 for early voting commissioner qualifications; to provide for filing the list of early  
15 voting watchers; to provide for casting a vote on an absentee by mail ballot; to  
16 provide for the timing to challenge a person applying to vote during early voting; to  
17 provide for grounds to challenge an absentee by mail ballot; to authorize the  
18 secretary of state to promulgate rules related to distinguishing marks; to provide for  
19 the duration of the nursing home early voting program; to provide for procurement  
20 methods for the delivery of voting machines and equipment; to provide relative to  
21 legal remedies related to the procurement of voting machines; to provide for election  
22 contests; to provide for objections to candidacy; to provide for a cause of action, the  
23 proper parties, and the preemptive period for objecting to the placement of a  
24 constitutional amendment on a ballot; to provide for the time for the commencement  
25 of objections to candidacy and election contests; to provide for the designation of  
26 statewide elections for the purpose of the consideration of constitutional  
27 amendments; to provide relative to the secretary of state's duties related to recall  
28 petitions; to provide for the designation of party primary offices; to provide for the  
29 election of candidates for representative in the United States Congress in 2026; to  
30 provide that votes cast for candidates for representative in the United States Congress

1 in the May 16, 2026, and June 27, 2026, party primary election be void and not  
 2 counted; to provide that cancelled votes are not subject to the Public Records Law;  
 3 to provide for the conduct of the 2026 fall elections; to provide for qualifying for the  
 4 2026 fall open primary elections; to provide for nominating petitions for candidates  
 5 for representative in the United States Congress for the 2026 fall open primary  
 6 elections; to correct terminology; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for  
 7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:53(B)(2)(b), 55(D), 59(F), 62, 108(A), 110(B)(3), 154(D)(1) and  
 10 (3), 192(B)(1)(a), 193(A), 196(B) and (C)(2)(a), 197, 401.1(H), 402(A)(1), 433(B)(1),  
 11 465(B) and (D), 469(A), 491(B), 493, 495(B), 501(C), 532(F), 532.1(C)(1) and (4),  
 12 551(B)(2)(introductory paragraph), 562(B)(2), 564(B)(5)(b), 565(B) and (C), 571(A)(8),  
 13 573(E), 574(A)(2) and (3), 602(E)(2)(d), 604(B)(2)(c), 621(B), 1254(C),  
 14 1259(B)(2)(introductory paragraph), 1300.2(C)(1), 1300.3(A)(1)(b), 1303(K) and (L),  
 15 1309(D)(2), (K), and (N)(5), 1309.3(B)(4)(b), 1313(C)(1) and (H)(3) and (5), 1313.1(C)(2)  
 16 and (I)(2), 1314(B)(2) and (C)(2)(a) and (3), 1315(A)(1) and (2)(introductory paragraph),  
 17 (B), and (D)(2), 1317, 1333(B) and (G)(1) and (7), 1367.2(F), 1367.11(A), 1371(A)(1) and  
 18 (2)(introductory paragraph), 1401(G), 1402(B)(1)(a), 1405, 1413, and 1922.2(B)(2) are  
 19 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:106.2, 110(B)(1)(c), 192(C), 465(E)(3),  
 20 1310(A)(3), 1316(D), 1401(H), and 1922.2(B)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

22 \* \* \*

23 B.

24 \* \* \*

25 (2)

26 \* \* \*

27 (b) If the commissioner of elections raises allegations that the parish registrar  
 28 has engaged in any conduct set forth in Paragraphs (A)(1) through (7) of this Section,  
 29 the board shall schedule a hearing on the allegations brought by the commissioner  
 30 of elections within thirty days of the receipt of the ~~accusations~~ allegations. If the

1 commissioner of elections serves as a regular member of the board, he shall not serve  
2 for the purposes of such hearings, and the secretary of state shall designate a member  
3 of the Registrars of Voters Association to serve in the commissioner's place and shall  
4 notify the board in writing of any such designation as provided in R.S. 18:23.

5 \* \* \*

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

8 \* \* \*

9 D. The state portion of each salary shall be paid biweekly by the state  
10 through the secretary of state, and the parish portion of each salary shall be paid  
11 biweekly, semimonthly, or monthly by the parish governing authority on the warrant  
12 of the respective registrars. The funds for the parish portion of the salary shall be  
13 annually appropriated by the parish governing authority and the funds for the state  
14 portion of the salary shall be annually appropriated to the secretary of state.

15 \* \* \*

16 §59. Deputies, confidential assistants, and other permanent office employees;  
17 temporary employees; appointment and compensation; prohibited increase  
18 in compensation

19 \* \* \*

20 F. The state portion of the salary of each chief deputy registrar of voters and  
21 confidential assistant shall be paid biweekly by the state through the secretary of  
22 state, and the parish portion of the salary shall be paid biweekly, semimonthly, or  
23 monthly by the parish governing authority on the warrant of each chief deputy and  
24 confidential assistant. The funds for the parish portion of the salary shall be annually  
25 appropriated by the parish governing authority and the funds for the state portion of  
26 the salary shall be annually appropriated by the legislature to the secretary of state.

27 \* \* \*

28 §62. Political activities prohibited

29 A. No registrar of voters, ~~and~~ or deputy registrar, or other employee of a  
30 registrar who is in the unclassified ~~state~~ civil service shall participate or engage in:

1 political activity, including his own or any other candidacy for election to public  
 2 office; membership on any national, state, or local committee of a political party or  
 3 faction; making or soliciting contributions for any political party, faction, or  
 4 candidate; or taking active part in the management of the affairs of a political party,  
 5 faction, candidate, or any political campaign, except to exercise his right as a citizen  
 6 to express his opinion privately and to cast his vote as he desires. As used in this  
 7 Section, the term "political activity" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Article  
 8 X, Section 9(C) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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

13 \* \* \*

14 §106.2. Voter incapable of signing his name or making a mark

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

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



1 effective the day after the general election or special general election when a special  
2 primary election is held in conjunction with a general election except as follows:

3 \* \* \*

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

7 \* \* \*

8 (3) However, in a regularly scheduled general election where the only  
9 candidate's election appearing on any ballot in the parish is a special primary  
10 election, then in such instance, ~~the~~ a change made prior to the close of registration  
11 for the general election shall become effective prior to the special primary election.

12 In a regularly scheduled or special general election, where the change of registration  
13 was made prior to the close of registration for the general election and does not  
14 change any issues or candidate offices upon which the voter was entitled to vote  
15 prior to the change, the change shall become effective prior to the regularly  
16 scheduled or special general election.

17 \* \* \*

18 §154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

19 \* \* \*

20 D.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, the registrar, the clerk  
21 of court, and the Department of State shall not disclose the name and address of a  
22 law enforcement officer if the registrar has received certification from the law  
23 enforcement agency employing the officer that the officer is engaging in hazardous  
24 activities ~~to the extent that it is~~ making it necessary for his name and address to be  
25 kept confidential. The registrar shall indicate such certification in the state voter  
26 registration computer system upon receipt of the certification.

27 \* \* \*

28 (3)(a) Any agency employing a law enforcement officer availing himself of  
29 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall ~~also~~ issue a decertification notice to the  
30 registrar of voters when the officer is no longer engaging in hazardous activities ~~to~~

1           ~~the extent that it is~~ making it necessary for his name and address to be kept  
2           confidential.

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

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

9                                           \*       \*       \*

10           §192. Annual canvass; costs

11                                           \*       \*       \*

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

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

19                                           \*       \*       \*

20                                   C. The Department of State is not required to conduct a canvass as provided  
21                   for in Subsection A or B of this Section in a calendar year when there is less than  
22                   sixty days between a regularly scheduled or special election date and the opening of  
23                   qualifying for a regularly scheduled or special primary election.

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

25                   A. When the registrar has reason to believe that a registrant no longer is  
26                   qualified to be registered, or that a registrant has changed his residence, the registrar  
27                   shall immediately notify the person by sending the address confirmation notice to the  
28                   registrant and place the voter on the inactive list of voters. However, a person shall  
29                   not be placed on the inactive list of voters if there is address information available

1 to the registrar ~~from the United States Postal Service or its licensee~~ which indicates  
2 the voter has moved to another address within the parish.

3 \* \* \*

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

5 \* \* \*

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

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

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

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

21 (4) If the registrant has moved to an address outside of the parish, at the  
22 polling place of the registrant's last address on file at the office of the registrar of  
23 voters for that election only upon affirming in writing that the registrant has moved  
24 within the last three months and no longer resides in the parish by completing an  
25 address confirmation ~~notice~~ form affirming the new address outside of the parish and  
26 that the length of time since the move has not exceeded three months. If the  
27 registrant does not affirm that he has moved within the last three months, the  
28 registrant shall not be permitted to vote.

29 C.

30 \* \* \*





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

5 \* \* \*

6 §465. Nominating petitions

7 \* \* \*

8 B. Method of nominating candidates. A person may ~~only~~ be nominated as  
 9 a candidate in a primary election only by persons who are registered to vote on the  
 10 office he seeks who sign a nominating petition for him no more than one hundred  
 11 twenty days before the qualifying period opens for candidates in the primary  
 12 election. In addition to his signature, each voter who signs a nominating petition  
 13 shall provide the information required by R.S. 18:3 ~~date his signature and shall~~  
 14 ~~provide the ward and precinct in which he is registered to vote, his residence address,~~  
 15 ~~including the municipal number, the apartment number, if any, the rural route and~~  
 16 ~~box number, or any other physical description that will identify his actual place of~~  
 17 ~~residence.~~ Once a voter has signed a nominating petition, he may not withdraw the  
 18 nomination. The secretary of state shall prepare forms which may be used by any  
 19 person who seeks nomination as a candidate by nominating petition. The secretary  
 20 of state shall furnish copies of the forms to each clerk of court, and the forms shall  
 21 be available, upon request, at the office of the secretary of state or at the office of the  
 22 clerk of court. Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require nominating  
 23 petitions to be filed only on forms prepared by the secretary of state.

24 \* \* \*

25 D. Form. In addition to the requirements of R.S. 18:3, each ~~Each~~ sheet of  
 26 the nominating petition shall set forth the candidate's name, the address of his  
 27 domicile, the office for which the signers nominate him, the political party with  
 28 which he is affiliated, if any, and the date of the primary election for which he seeks  
 29 to qualify. ~~The name of each voter who signed the nominating petition shall be~~  
 30 ~~typed or legibly written on the petition, and each signature on the nominating petition~~



1 establishes grounds for objecting to such candidacy and if the district attorney makes  
2 such a determination he may file an action objecting to candidacy within the time  
3 limitation provided in R.S. ~~18:493~~ 18:1405(A).

4 \* \* \*

5 §493. ~~Time for objecting to candidacy~~ Subpoena and testimony; Department of  
6 Revenue

7 A. ~~An action objecting to candidacy shall be commenced in a court of~~  
8 ~~competent jurisdiction within seven days after the close of qualifications for~~  
9 ~~candidates in the primary election. However, if the time interval ends on a Saturday,~~  
10 ~~Sunday, or other legal holiday, then noon of the next day which is not a Saturday,~~  
11 ~~Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the end of the time interval. After the~~  
12 ~~expiration of the time period set forth in this Section, no action shall be commenced~~  
13 ~~objecting to candidacy based on the grounds for objections to candidacy contained~~  
14 ~~in R.S. 18:492.~~

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

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

23 \* \* \*

24 §495. Initiation of action by district attorney; attorney general; court costs and  
25 attorney fees

26 \* \* \*

27 B. The district attorney shall have standing to bring such an action pursuant  
28 to this Subpart. In addition, if requested in accordance with Subsection A of this  
29 Section, the attorney general shall have standing to bring such an action pursuant to  
30 this Subpart. The time limitation to commence an action objecting to candidacy

1 prescribed by R.S. ~~18:493~~ 18:1405(A) shall apply to such actions brought by the  
2 district attorney or the attorney general.

3 \* \* \*

4 §501. Procedure for withdrawal

5 \* \* \*

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

13 \* \* \*

14 §532. Establishment of precincts

15 \* \* \*

16 F. Prior to the adoption of an ordinance to establish the boundaries of  
17 precincts pursuant to this Section, the parish governing authority shall submit the  
18 proposed precincts and boundaries to the clerk of court and registrar of voters for  
19 their review to confirm in writing the ability to conduct an election utilizing the  
20 proposed boundaries. The parish governing authority shall submit to the secretary  
21 of state in accordance with timetables in this Section, the written confirmation  
22 received by the parish governing authority.

23 §532.1. Changing boundaries

24 \* \* \*

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

27 \* \* \*

28 (4) In addition to the requirements of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, when  
29 the proposed precinct change involves dividing a precinct, prior to the adoption of  
30 the ordinance, the parish governing authority shall submit proposed changes to the

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

5 \* \* \*

6 §551. Ballots

7 \* \* \*

8 B. Titles of offices.

9 \* \* \*

10 (2) ~~Below any party primary offices, the~~ Except as provided in Paragraph (1)  
 11 of this Subsection, titles of the offices to be voted on in a primary or general election  
 12 shall be listed on the ballot in the following order:

13 \* \* \*

14 §562. Prerequisites to voting

15 \* \* \*

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

17 \* \* \*

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

25 \* \* \*

26 §564. Assistance in voting on election day

27 \* \* \*

1 B. Persons prohibited from assisting voters.

2 \* \* \*

3 (5)

4 \* \* \*

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

12 \* \* \*

13 §565. Challenge of voters

14 \* \* \*

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

21 C. Disposition of the challenge. The commissioners present shall determine  
22 the validity of the challenge. If they determine by majority vote that the challenge  
23 is valid, the applicant shall not be permitted to vote. However, if the valid challenge  
24 has determined that the applicant has moved within the parish or has moved outside  
25 of the parish within the last three months, the voter shall be allowed to vote upon  
26 completing an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form. If a majority of the commissioners  
27 determine that the challenge is invalid, the applicant shall be permitted to vote.

28 \* \* \*

1 §571. Procedures for commissioners after termination of voting

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

5 \* \* \*

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

14 \* \* \*

15 §573. Evidence of election results

16 \* \* \*

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

26 (2) The registrar shall utilize the procedures set forth in Part V of Chapter  
27 4 of this Code to determine the validity of the registration of each challenged voter  
28 who did not submit an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form. In any instance where an  
29 address confirmation ~~notice~~ form was received that stated an address different from  
30 the address on file in the registrar's office for a registrant, the registrar shall change

1 the registrant’s address to the address on the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form if the  
 2 change of address is in the parish; transfer the registrant’s registration to another  
 3 parish if the address on the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form is in another parish; or  
 4 cancel the registration if the address on the address confirmation ~~notice~~ form is in  
 5 another state. If an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form was received that affirmed the  
 6 address on file in the registrar's office, the registrar shall reinstate the registrant to  
 7 the official list of voters if the registrant appears on the inactive list of voters. If the  
 8 address confirmation ~~notice~~ form was a result of a valid challenge, the registrar shall  
 9 so inform the district attorney and shall transmit to him the address confirmation  
 10 ~~notice~~ form of that person.

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

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

25 §574. Compilation and promulgation of returns

26 A.

27 \* \* \*

28 (2) Immediately after the completion of the verification by the clerk of court  
 29 and the counting and tabulation of provisional ballots for federal office, if applicable,  
 30 the board shall publicly prepare ~~two~~ a compiled ~~statements~~ statement of the election

1 returns as shown by the record of the votes made by the clerk of court. The compiled  
 2 ~~statements~~ statement shall separately show the machine votes for each candidate and  
 3 for and against each proposition in each precinct, the total absentee by mail and early  
 4 voting votes for each candidate and for and against each proposition in the parish,  
 5 the total provisional votes for each candidate for federal office, and the total of all  
 6 votes for each candidate and for and against each proposition in the parish.

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

20 \* \* \*

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

22 \* \* \*

23 E.

24 \* \* \*

25 (2)

26 \* \* \*

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

5 \* \* \*

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

7 \* \* \*

8 B.

9 \* \* \*

10 (2)

11 \* \* \*

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

18 §621. Vacancy in office of judge

19 \* \* \*

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

28 \* \* \*

1           §1254. Slates of candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party;  
2                           nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

3                                           \*       \*       \*

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

25                                           \*       \*       \*

26           §1259. Arrangement of ballot; designation of party candidates

27                                           \*       \*       \*

28           B.

29                                           \*       \*       \*

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

3                                           \*       \*       \*

4                   §1300.2. Petition for recall election; campaign finance disclosure

5                                           \*       \*       \*

6                   C.(1) Prior to the entering of any signatures on a petition, the chairman  
7                   designated to represent the petitioners shall file with the secretary of state a copy of  
8                   the recall petition which will be used and copies of a picture identification that  
9                   contain the name and signature of the chairman and vice chairman, respectively, or  
10                  copies of current utility bills, bank statements, government checks, paychecks, or  
11                  other government documents that show the name and address of the chairman and  
12                  vice chairman, respectively. Upon receipt of the recall petition, the secretary of state  
13                  shall provide to the chairman and vice chairman, respectively, a document prepared  
14                  by the secretary of state in conjunction with the Louisiana Registrars of Voters  
15                  Association, subject to approval as to content by the attorney general, providing  
16                  general information on petition requirements and deadlines. Upon receipt of the  
17                  recall petition, the secretary of state shall ~~endorse~~ certify thereon the fact and the date  
18                  of filing, and this unsigned copy of the recall petition shall be a public record. A  
19                  copy shall be transmitted by the secretary of state to the registrar of voters for each  
20                  parish in which the recall election is to be held. The chairman shall list on the  
21                  petition every parish that is wholly or partially within the voting area where the  
22                  recall election is to be held. The petition shall be considered filed when it is received  
23                  in the office of the secretary of state. Upon receipt of the recall petition, the  
24                  secretary of state shall produce a report of the number of qualified electors in the  
25                  voting area wherein the recall election is sought effective on the date of receipt of the  
26                  recall petition and shall notify the registrar of voters in each parish in the voting area  
27                  of the number of qualified electors of the voting area in the parish for issuance of the  
28                  certification.

29                                           \*       \*       \*

1 §1300.3. Certification of registrar of voters; addition or withdrawal of signatures;  
2 designation as a public record; form of names

3 A.(1)

4 \* \* \*

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

10 \* \* \*

11 §1303. Persons entitled to vote in compliance with this Chapter

12 \* \* \*

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

19 L. Employees of the registrar. An employee of the registrar of voters who  
20 is a qualified voter registered to vote in a parish other than his parish of employment  
21 and who submits to the registrar of voters of the parish where he is registered to vote  
22 a letter from his employing registrar of voters confirming his employment, a paystub,  
23 or a copy of an identification card showing employment with the registrar of voters  
24 may vote absentee by mail upon meeting the requirements of this Chapter.

25 \* \* \*

26 §1309. Early voting; verification

27 \* \* \*

28 D.

29 \* \* \*

1 (2) If the voter's name is found in the state voter registration computer  
2 system on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall be required to complete an  
3 address confirmation ~~card~~ form to determine his eligibility to vote.

4 \* \* \*

5 K.(1) A ~~person~~ qualified voter who is able to perform the essential duties of  
6 a commissioner may serve as an early voting commissioner only if he has received  
7 a certificate of instruction as provided in R.S. 18:431(A) and has attended a course  
8 of instruction for early voting commissioners and received a certificate of instruction  
9 from the registrar of voters.

10 (2) An early voting commissioner shall meet the same qualifications of a  
11 commissioner as provided in R.S. 18:425(B). ~~A person to whom one or more of the~~  
12 ~~following applies shall not serve as an early voting commissioner:~~

13 ~~(a) The person is a candidate in the election.~~

14 ~~(b) An immediate family member of the person is a candidate for election~~  
15 ~~to public office in the election.~~

16 ~~(c) The person is marked for assistance in voting in the precinct register or~~  
17 ~~requires the use of the audio ballot in voting.~~

18 ~~(d) The person has been convicted of an election offense enumerated in~~  
19 ~~Chapter 10 of this Title.~~

20 ~~(e) The person is required to register as a sex offender or child predator~~  
21 ~~pursuant to R.S. 15:542.~~

22 \* \* \*

23 N.

24 \* \* \*

25 (5) A list of early voting watchers shall be filed with the registrar of voters  
26 by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the  
27 ~~fourteenth~~ tenth business day before the first day of early voting for the party  
28 primary, primary, or general election; however, if the ~~fourteenth~~ tenth business day  
29 before the first day of early voting for the party primary, primary, or general election  
30 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next

1 day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. For purposes of this  
2 Paragraph, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S.  
3 13:3204(D).

4 \* \* \*

5 §1309.3. Assistance in voting during early voting

6 \* \* \*

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

8 \* \* \*

9 (4)

10 \* \* \*

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

17 \* \* \*

18 §1310. Execution of certificate; marking of ballot; casting vote; assistance

19 A.

20 \* \* \*

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

28 \* \* \*

1 §1313. Tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots

2 \* \* \*

3 C.(1) Absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a public  
4 facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the  
5 parish board of election supervisors, which time shall be on election day no later than  
6 8:00 p.m. If the time selected by the parish board of election supervisors to count  
7 absentee by mail and early voting ballots is after 4:00 p.m. on election day, the  
8 starttime shall be submitted to the commissioner of elections for approval no later  
9 than the fourth day prior to election day.

10 \* \* \*

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

13 \* \* \*

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

17 \* \* \*

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

20 \* \* \*

21 §1313.1. Preparation, verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and  
22 early voting ballots

23 \* \* \*

24 C.

25 \* \* \*

26 (2) Absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a public  
27 facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the  
28 parish board of election supervisors, which time shall be on election day no later than  
29 8:00 p.m. If the time selected by the parish board of election supervisors to count  
30 absentee by mail and early voting ballots is after 4:00 p.m. on election day, the start

1 time shall be submitted to the commissioner of elections for approval no later than  
2 the fourth day prior to election day.

3 \* \* \*

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

6 \* \* \*

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

10 \* \* \*

11 §1314. Parish board commissioners

12 \* \* \*

13 B. Selection for primary election.

14 \* \* \*

15 (2) The parish board of election supervisors shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m.~~ on the  
16 fifth day before a primary election and shall select the parish board commissioners  
17 and alternate parish board commissioners for the parish in the manner provided by  
18 law for the selection of commissioners and alternate commissioners. If there are not  
19 enough certified commissioners to select the appropriate number of parish board  
20 commissioners and alternate parish board commissioners, the board of election  
21 supervisors may select a qualified elector of the parish to serve; however, no such  
22 elector shall serve as a parish board commissioner if a certified commissioner has  
23 been selected as an alternate parish board commissioner.

24 \* \* \*

25 C. Selection for general election.

26 \* \* \*

27 (2)(a) If the parish board determines that the number of parish board  
28 commissioners can be reduced, it shall notify each person who served as a parish  
29 board commissioner or alternate parish board commissioner in the primary election  
30 of its decision to reduce the number of parish board commissioners and of the date

1 and time of the meeting to select the parish board commissioners for the general  
 2 election. The parish board shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m.~~ on the fifth day before a general  
 3 election and shall select the parish board commissioners and alternate parish board  
 4 commissioners to serve in the general election for the parish.

5 \* \* \*

6 (3) If the parish board and the secretary of state or his designee determine  
 7 that the number of parish board commissioners should be increased, the parish board  
 8 shall meet ~~at 10:00 a.m.~~ on the fifth day before a general election and shall select the  
 9 additional parish board commissioners and alternate parish board commissioners to  
 10 serve in the general election for that parish from the list of certified commissioners  
 11 who have not been chosen to serve in the general election as a  
 12 commissioner-in-charge, commissioner, or, if applicable, parish board commissioner  
 13 in the manner provided by law for the selection of commissioners and alternate  
 14 commissioners. If there are not enough certified commissioners to select the  
 15 appropriate number of parish board commissioners and alternate parish board  
 16 commissioners, the board of election supervisors may select a qualified elector of the  
 17 parish to serve; however, no such elector shall serve as a parish board commissioner  
 18 if a certified commissioner has been selected as an alternate parish board  
 19 commissioner.

20 \* \* \*

21 §1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

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

27 (b) A candidate or his representative, a member of the board, an early voting  
 28 watcher, or a qualified elector may challenge a person applying to early vote on the  
 29 grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A), prior to the person casting an early voting  
 30 ballot. The challenged early voter shall not cast his ballot on an early voting

1           machine, but shall be provided a paper ballot in accordance with R.S.  
2           18:1309(E)(5)(b).

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

5                                                           \*       \*       \*

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

14                                                           \*       \*       \*

15                   D.

16                                                           \*       \*       \*

17                   (2) If a challenge in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this  
18          Section is sustained, the vote shall not be counted; the ballot or early voting  
19          confirmation sheet shall be placed in the special, secure absentee by mail and early  
20          voting ballot container; and the board shall notify the voter in writing of the  
21          challenge and the cause therefor. This notification shall be on a form provided by  
22          the secretary of state and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the  
23          board. The notice of the challenge and the cause therefor shall be given within four  
24          business days by mail, addressed to the voter at his place of residence. The board  
25          shall retain a copy of the notification. However, if the challenge is based upon a  
26          change of residence within the parish or is based upon a change of residence outside  
27          of the parish that has occurred within the last three months, the ballot shall be  
28          counted, provided that the voter confirmed his current address as shown by the  
29          affidavit of the absentee by mail ballot certificate or early voting confirmation sheet

1 or, if the voter is on the inactive list of voters, as shown by the information provided  
2 on an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form.

3 \* \* \*

4 §1316. Rejection of ballot having distinguishing marks

5 \* \* \*

6 D. The secretary of state may promulgate rules in accordance with the  
7 Administrative Procedure Act necessary to effectuate the provisions and purposes  
8 of this Section.

9 §1317. Curing absentee by mail ballot deficiencies; rejection of deficient ballots

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

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

16 B. The secretary of state shall maintain records of all ballots rejected  
17 pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:1315(D)(3)(a); and shall include information  
18 detailing the total number of ballots rejected per parish and the reasons for their  
19 rejection in the post-election statistical data published to the website of the secretary  
20 of state.

21 \* \* \*

22 §1333. Nursing home early voting program; voting by persons residing in a nursing  
23 home

24 \* \* \*

25 B. A qualified voter who resides in a nursing home within the parish in  
26 which the voter is entitled to vote may vote early as provided in this Section during  
27 the period extending at least two weeks prior to the beginning day for early voting

1 through four days before election day ~~the last day for early voting established by R.S.~~  
2 ~~18:1309.~~

3 \* \* \*

4 G. The voting by each voter shall be accomplished in the following manner:

5 (1) The voter shall present to the registrar the letter the voter received from  
6 the registrar that bears the reply number assigned as provided in Subsection E of this  
7 Section. The registrar shall compare the number on the letter with the number on the  
8 absentee by mail ballot envelope in his possession and, if they are identical, the  
9 registrar shall hand the envelope containing the absentee by mail ballot to the voter.  
10 However, if the voter is on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall complete an  
11 address confirmation ~~notice~~ form prior to receiving the envelope containing the  
12 absentee by mail ballot.

13 \* \* \*

14 (7) Upon receipt of an address confirmation ~~notice~~ form, the registrar shall  
15 reinstate the voter to the official list of voters.

16 \* \* \*

17 §1367.2. Authority to resolve protested solicitations and awards

18 \* \* \*

19 ~~F. Stay of procurements during protests. In the event of a timely protest~~  
20 ~~under Subsection A of this Section, the state shall not proceed further with the~~  
21 ~~solicitation or with the awarding of the contract unless the chief procurement officer~~  
22 ~~makes a written determination that the awarding of the contract is necessary without~~  
23 ~~delay to protect the substantial interests of the state. Upon such determination by the~~  
24 ~~chief procurement officer, no court shall enjoin progress under the award except~~  
25 ~~after notice and hearing. Protest bond to stay procurement during protest. (1) A~~  
26 ~~protestant who timely protests a solicitation or an award may apply for a stay only~~  
27 ~~during the time period provided in Subsection A of this Section to protest a~~  
28 ~~solicitation or an award.~~



1           may submit bids and be awarded contracts for the drayage of the early voting  
2           machines.

3                   (2) If the secretary of state seeks to award a contract by competitive sealed  
4           bidding, in ~~in~~ addition to all other notices and advertisements for bids required, the  
5           secretary of state shall furnish notice of the invitation for bids at least thirty days  
6           prior to the opening of bids for each contract for the delivery of machines to the early  
7           voting locations or voting precincts for a parish in the following manner:

8                                           \*       \*       \*

9           §1401. Objections to candidacy; contests of elections; contests of certification of  
10           recall petition; parties authorized to institute actions; penalties

11                                           \*       \*       \*

12                   G. A qualified elector may bring an action objecting to the placement of a  
13           constitutional amendment on a ballot.

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

18           §1402. Proper parties

19                                           \*       \*       \*

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

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

25                                           \*       \*       \*

26           §1405. Time for commencement of action

27                   A. An action objecting to candidacy shall be instituted no earlier than the day  
28           the candidate submits his notice of candidacy to the qualifying official and no ~~not~~  
29           later than 4:30 p.m. of the seventh day after the close of qualifications for candidates  
30           in the primary election. After the expiration of the time period set forth in this

1 Section, no further action shall be commenced objecting to candidacy based on the  
2 grounds for objections to candidacy contained in R.S. 18:492.

3 B. An action contesting any election involving election to office shall be  
4 instituted no earlier than the day after the date of the election and no ~~not~~ later than  
5 4:30 p.m. of the ninth day after the date of the election, and no such contest shall be  
6 declared moot because of the performance or nonperformance of a ministerial  
7 function including but not limited to matters relating to the printing of ballots for the  
8 general election.

9 C.(1) An action contesting an election on a proposed constitutional  
10 amendment shall be instituted no earlier than the day after the election and ~~not~~ no  
11 later than 4:30 p.m. of the tenth day after promulgation of the results of the election  
12 by the secretary of state.

13 (2) An action objecting to the placement of a constitutional amendment on  
14 a ballot shall be instituted no earlier than the date of the final passage of the joint  
15 resolution calling the election and no later than 4:30 p.m. of the thirtieth day after  
16 final passage of the legislative instrument calling the election.

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

§1413. Computation of time

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

\* \* \*

§1922.2. Approval of reapportionment plan by local election officials

\* \* \*

B.

\* \* \*

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.

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

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

3 \* \* \*

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

6 Section 3. R.S. 18:154(C)(1)(h) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

8 \* \* \*

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

16 \* \* \*

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

22 \* \* \*

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

26 Section 5. R.S. 18:2(9) and 154(F)(8) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
27 follows:

28 §2. Definitions

29 As used in this Code, the following words and terms shall have the meanings  
30 hereinafter ascribed to each, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning:

31 \* \* \*

1 (9) "Party primary office" means an office of senator ~~or representative~~ in the  
2 United States Congress, justice of the supreme court, the State Board of Elementary  
3 and Secondary Education, and the Public Service Commission.

4 \* \* \*

5 §154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

6 \* \* \*

7 F. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, the  
8 registrar, the clerk of court, and the Department of State shall be prohibited from  
9 disclosing the following:

10 \* \* \*

11 (8) Votes that are void because of the death of a candidate pursuant to R.S.  
12 18:469, withdrawal of a candidate pursuant to R.S. 18:502, resignation of a public  
13 officer subject to a recall election pursuant to R.S. 18:1300.7, ~~or~~ disqualification of  
14 a candidate pursuant to R.S. 18:1410, or cancellation of an election for an office or  
15 proposition.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 6. R.S. 18:2(9) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

18 §2. Definitions

19 As used in this Code, the following words and terms shall have the meanings  
20 hereinafter ascribed to each, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning:

21 \* \* \*

22 (9) "Party primary office" means an office of senator or representative in the  
23 United States Congress, justice of the supreme court, the State Board of Elementary  
24 and Secondary Education, and the Public Service Commission.

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 7.(A)(1) The May 16, 2026, and June 27, 2026, party primary elections for  
27 representative in the United States Congress are hereby cancelled. Notwithstanding any  
28 provision of the Louisiana Election Code to the contrary, votes cast in the May 16, 2026, or  
29 June 27, 2026, party primary election for representative in the United States Congress shall  
30 be void and not counted. No election official, as defined in R.S. 18:1466, shall disclose votes

1 cast in the May 16, 2026, or June 27, 2026, party primary election for representative in the  
2 United States Congress.

3 (2) The secretary of state shall remit to each candidate the state portion of the  
4 qualifying fee, as provided for in R.S. 18:464(B)(1), and the additional qualifying fee, as  
5 provided for in R.S. 18:464(B)(5), that the candidate paid to qualify for the May 16, 2026,  
6 and June 27, 2026, party primary elections for representative in the United States Congress.  
7 The secretary of state shall cancel any nominating petition received for the May 16, 2026,  
8 and June 27, 2026, party primary elections for representative in the United States Congress.

9 (B) Candidates for representative in the United States Congress shall be elected at  
10 the open primary election to be held on November 3, 2026, and the open general election to  
11 be held on December 12, 2026.

12 (C)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:467, the qualifying period for all  
13 candidates in the 2026 fall primary election, including candidates for representative in the  
14 United States Congress, shall begin on August 5, 2026. The qualifying period for such  
15 candidates shall close at 4:30 p.m. on August 7, 2026.

16 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:465(C)(3)(b), the number of qualified  
17 voters who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for representative in the  
18 United States Congress for the 2026 congressional election shall be two hundred fifty.  
19 Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:465(D), the nominating petition shall not be  
20 required to set forth the congressional district for which a candidate for representative in the  
21 United States Congress seeks to qualify until the petition is submitted to the registrar of  
22 voters. A qualified voter may sign the nominating petition beginning on the effective date  
23 of this Section. The nominating petition shall be submitted to the registrar of voters no later  
24 than July 9, 2026.

25 Section 8.(A) Section 1 of this Act shall become effective August 1, 2026.

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

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

28 (D) Section 6 of this Act shall become effective January 1, 2027.

1           (E) Sections 4, 5, and 7 and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon  
2 signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for  
3 bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section  
4 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved  
5 by the legislature, Sections 4, 5, and 7 and this Section of this Act shall become effective on  
6 the day following such approval.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_