

ELECTION DAY
LOUISIANA VOTERS' BILL OF RIGHTS
AND VOTING INFORMATION

Visit www.GeauxVote.com for all voting information, login to <http://voterportal.sos.la.gov/> to sign up for election email or text reminders, and download the free "GeauxVote" app to your smartphone or tablet to view your sample ballot.

VOTING HOURS

Tuesday elections – Polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday elections – Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voters in line at 8:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

You have the right to vote in a Louisiana election if you are (1) qualified to vote in this election, (2) qualified to vote in this precinct and (3) you are the person whose name is on the precinct register.

Qualifications include:

- * a U. S. citizen
- * a Louisiana resident
- * 18 years old
- * registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the election
- * not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony or not fully interdicted for mental incompetence, or partially interdicted with suspension of voting rights

You may cast your ballot:

- By Voting Machine** (*See, How to Cast Your Ballot on Election Day*).
- By Emergency Paper Ballot**, if the only voting machine in the precinct fails. (*See, How to Cast Your Ballot*).
- By Provisional Paper Ballot, in a Federal Election only**, if you certify that you are eligible to vote in the election and your name does not appear on the precinct register. (*See, Voting During Federal Elections - Provisional Voting*).

VOTERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Know which precinct you are registered to vote in, and its location.
- Be prepared to provide photo identification (Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana special identification card, or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains your name and signature). If you wish to obtain a free Louisiana special identification card, present your voter registration information card to the Office of Motor Vehicles.
- Notify your parish registrar of voters of any changes to your registration. Failure to update your residential address may result in an inactive registration status. Inactive voters must verify their residential addresses prior to voting, which may be done on election day at the precinct, in person at the registrar's office, online at www.GeauxVote.com, or by mail through a voter registration application.
- To restore your voting rights after a felony conviction, you must present proof of completion of sentence to your local registrar of voters in person. If you are disabled and homebound, proof of completion of sentence may be submitted by mail, facsimile or commercial carrier.
- Do not bring or wear any campaign literature to the polls.
- Be aware of the hours that the polls are open.
- Review the Sample Ballot posted at the polling place in order to timely cast your ballot or review online before election day at www.GeauxVote.com or <https://geauxvotemobile.sos.la.gov/MobileLanding.aspx>

- ☑ Download the free “GeauxVote” app in the app store for the latest voting information.
- ☑ Cast your vote within the three minute time limit; or if receiving assistance or using the audio voting keypad, within twenty minutes.
- ☑ Promptly leave the polling place after voting.

VOTERS' RIGHTS

- ☑ **A campaign-free zone** free from solicitation, intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction and undue influence, use of violence, force or threats, or action that impedes your entrance or exit to the polling place.
- ☑ **Vote privately and independently** in an area that is free from any campaign materials.
- ☑ **Vote in a polling place that meets accessibility standards** for individuals with disabilities.
- ☑ **Go to the front of the line**, along with the person who will be assisting you to vote if you have a visible physical disability or have in your possession a current mobility-impaired photo identification card bearing the international symbol of accessibility issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles.
- ☑ Use a **braille booklet** describing the use of the audio ballot or use a **page magnifier** that will magnify the face of the voting machine. Inform the commissioners if these items can be of use to you.
- ☑ **Receive Assistance** in casting your ballot or use the audio ballot if you are unable to read or unable to vote without assistance due to a physical disability, including visual impairment. Voters entitled to assistance in voting are **allowed up to twenty minutes to cast their ballots** and may receive the assistance of any person of their choice, including a commissioner, however:
 - ✓ No candidate in the election can assist a voter.
 - ✓ No commissioner-in-charge can assist a voter.
 - ✓ No employer or employer’s agent can assist an employee in voting.
 - ✓ No union agent can assist a union member in voting.
 - ✓ By rule, the Department of Health and Hospitals prohibits staff from assisting residents of state-operated facilities for disabled persons in voting.

The person or commissioner assisting the voter shall sign the precinct register prior to entering the voting machine with the voter and assisting the voter in voting. **No person assisting a voter shall reveal the name of any person for whom the voter voted, any proposition upon which the person voted, or anything which took place while the voter was being assisted.**

Prior to receiving assistance due to a disability, including visual impairment, the voter is required to file with the registrar, OR present to the commissioner-in-charge at the polling place on election day a statement setting forth the necessity and reasons for the assistance and furnish proof by one of the following documents:

- ✓ A certificate of a medical doctor or optometrist certifying to the irremediable nature of the physical disability as proof of disability;
- ✓ A current or copy of a current mobility-impaired photo identification card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles; or
- ✓ A copy of current documentation showing eligibility for social security disability benefits, veteran’s disability benefits, paratransit services, benefits from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

If filing proof of disability with the registrar of voters by mail, the voter is required to include a copy of his Louisiana driver’s license, Louisiana special identification card, or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter. The registrar will then indicate that the voter is entitled to assistance on the precinct register and the voter will not be required to present evidence at the polls in any future elections.

If presenting evidence of a disability at the polling place on election day, the voter should follow up with the registrar of voters to ensure the registrar obtains the proof and can then indicate that the voter is entitled to assistance on the precinct register and the voter will not be required to present evidence of any kind at the polls in any future elections.

CASTING YOUR BALLOT

Identity - Each voter is required to identify himself. You must:

- ✓ Give your name and address to a commissioner; and
- ✓ Present to the commissioners a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains your name and signature; or complete an **Identification Affidavit** if you do not provide a photo identification, which is subject to challenge by law.

Verification of identity on the precinct register - Your name must be found on the precinct register, the supplemental precinct register, or the commissioner may request assistance from the registrar of voters or the secretary of state and allow you to vote after completing a **Precinct Register Correction** form if there was an error on the precinct register.

Verification of address on the precinct register - If "Address Conf Req" is on your signature line on the precinct register, you must complete an **Address Confirmation Card**, in order to verify your address before voting. You are subject to challenge.

If challenged, the commissioners must determine the validity of the challenge before you are allowed to vote. Your right to vote may be challenged on the following grounds:

- ✓ You are not qualified to vote in the election;
- ✓ You are not qualified to vote in the precinct; or
- ✓ You are not the person whose name is shown on the precinct register.

Signature of voter -

Each voter is required to sign his name in ink on the precinct register. The commissioners are to compare your signature on the precinct register to your signature on the picture identification. If you are unable to sign your name, you are required to make your mark in ink on the precinct register.

If the commissioner is satisfied that you have identified yourself as the voter named on the precinct register and that you are qualified to vote, the commissioner initials the precinct register opposite your signature or mark and you are then allowed to vote.

HOW TO CAST YOUR BALLOT ON ELECTION DAY

In the Voting Machine

Only one person is allowed to enter a voting machine at a time, unless entitled to assistance or allowing a preteen child to accompany a parent or legal guardian.

In order to cast a vote you must make at least one selection for either a candidate or vote on a proposition election.

- ✓ Select a candidate of your choice or select **YES** or **NO** for a proposition by:

Pressing the box to the right of the candidate's name or next to the YES or NO. A green "x" will appear to the left of the box "x " indicating your selection and the green header light for the office or proposition will turn off.

- ✓ To change your selection, press the box again. The green "x" will disappear, the green header light for the candidate or proposition will light back up and you may make a new selection.
- ✓ Step out and notify the commissioner if you have any problem in voting before you press the "CAST VOTE" button. Make ALL selections, then press the  button located in the lower right hand corner.
- ✓ Once you press the "CAST VOTE" button and exit the voting machine, you may not re-enter.
- ✓ You are allowed by law **three minutes to cast your vote, or twenty minutes** if entitled to assistance or using the audio voting keypad.

Your votes are electronically recorded and you will hear an audible bell sound and the lights will turn off. Part the curtains with your hands and exit the voting booth.

By Audio Ballot

A machine at each precinct provides an audio ballot. If you choose to use the audio ballot, inform the commissioners.

If you do not leave the voting machine promptly after a commissioner has notified you that your time has elapsed, the commissioner is required by law to have you removed so that other voters may vote.

After voting, you are required to promptly leave the polling place.

By Emergency Election Day Paper Ballot

If a precinct has only one voting machine and it fails on election day, you may vote on a paper ballot until the voting machine is repaired or replaced.

- ✓ You will be allowed to cast your vote(s) on a paper ballot and you will receive instructions on how to properly seal your ballot. If you have any questions about your ballot or how to proceed ask the commissioners for help.
- ✓ If you make a mistake or "spoil" your ballot, seal the spoiled ballot in the envelope provided, write "spoiled" and ask a commissioner for a new ballot.
- ✓ The paper ballots cast at the polling place shall be counted by the parish board of election supervisors on election night.

By Provisional Paper Ballot

(See, Voting During Federal Elections)

EARLY VOTING

All registered voters may cast a ballot during the early voting period at the registrar of voters' office or at an alternate site designated for early voting. You do not need a reason to vote early.

The early voting period is from 14 days to 7 days before each election, from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (except Sundays and legal holidays).

Persons in nursing homes may apply for the nursing home program to vote during the early voting period at the nursing home.

Visit www.GeauxVote.com to view Early Voting- In Person information, including early voting locations and dates.

VOTING BY MAIL – ABSENTEE VOTING

In Louisiana you must have a reason to be eligible to vote by mail, unless you are a military or overseas citizen. There are 12 reasons to vote by mail. Senior citizens, persons with disabilities and participants in the Department of State's Address Confidentiality Program may apply for an automatic mail ballot. Visit www.GeauxVote.com to view Absentee Voting – By Mail information and to download forms.

STATE LAW PROHIBITIONS: (R.S. 18:1461 et seq)

1. Giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, money or anything of present or prospective value to influence a vote.
2. Intimidating, deceiving or misinforming, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or nonvoting.
3. Voting or attempting to vote more than once at an election.
4. Offering money or anything of apparent present or prospective value or use, directly or indirectly, or engage in any form of intimidation to influence the action or encourage inaction of any election official with regard to the duties of his office.
5. Disobeying any lawful instruction of the commissioners or a law enforcement officer assisting at the polling place or without lawful authority, obstructing, hindering or delaying any voter on his way to or while returning home from any polling place where an election is held or impede a voter from entering or exiting a polling place.
6. Voting or attempting to vote, knowing that you are not qualified, or influencing or attempting to influence another to vote, knowing such voter to be unqualified or the vote to be fraudulent.
7. Voting or attempting to vote in the name of another or in an assumed or fictitious name, or in any manner other than as provided by the Louisiana Election Code.
8. Supplying a false answer or statement to an election official or in any document required by the Louisiana Election Code, or executing an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information.
9. Forging the name of another, or using a fictitious name on an affidavit or document required by the Louisiana Election Code.
10. Unlawfully, directly or indirectly, possessing, tampering with, breaking, impairing, impeding or otherwise interfering with the maintenance, adjustment, delivery, use, or operation of any voting machine or with any paraphernalia connected with or appertaining to the machine.
11. As a voter, election official, watcher, or person assisting a voter, allow: (1) a ballot to be seen, except as provided by law, (2) announce the manner in which a person has cast his ballot, (3) place a distinguishing mark on a ballot with intent to make the ballot identifiable or (4) make a false statement concerning a voter's ability to mark a ballot without assistance.
12. While assisting another person in voting, coerce, compel, or otherwise influence the assisted voter to cast his vote in a certain way or fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter.
13. Signing another voter's name in the precinct register.
14. Attempting to influence an election official or watcher in the performance of his duties.
15. Appearing in an intoxicated condition or possessing any beverage of alcoholic content.
16. Voting at the polls on election day if you have voted early or submitted your absentee by mail ballot.

17. Voting if you have moved more than three months ago to an address outside of the parish or if registered to vote in another parish/state.
18. Remaining within any polling place or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance of any polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by a commissioner or law enforcement officer to leave the premises or area of a polling place.
19. Placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising and/or handing out, placing or displaying campaign cards, pictures or other campaign literature of any kind or description whatsoever, unless on private property which is not being used as a polling place.
20. Carrying or possessing a firearm, except a peace officer in the performance of his duties.
21. Without lawful authority, obstruct, hinder, or delay any voter on his way to or while returning home from any polling place where election is held.
22. Accept directly, or indirectly anything of economic value, including reimbursement of costs, for the purpose of transporting a voter to a polling place, or for driving or being in charge of any motor vehicle being used for such purpose; bus, taxi, or licensed transportation service is exempt.

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITIONS: *(18 U.S.C. §241 and 42 U.S.C. §1973gg-10)*

1. Knowingly and willfully intimidating, threatening, coercing or attempting to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person for voting or urging or aiding any person to vote or attempting to vote in any election for Federal office.
2. Knowingly and willfully depriving, defrauding, or attempting to deprive or defraud the residents of Louisiana of a fair and impartially conducted election process by the procurement, casting, or tabulation of ballots that are known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent under the laws of the State of Louisiana in any election for Federal office.
3. Conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person in the free exercise or enjoyment of the right to vote or because of his having so exercised the right to vote.

VOTING DURING FEDERAL ELECTIONS

(Presidential Preference Primary, U.S. President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative)

PROVISIONAL VOTING (For Federal Offices Only)

You are allowed to vote a paper provisional ballot for federal offices only, when:

- ✓ Your name does not appear on the precinct register, supplemental precinct register, and you have not been authorized to vote by **Precinct Register Correction** form by the registrar of voters or secretary of state's office or the commissioners assert that you are not eligible to vote; and
- ✓ You certify on the provisional ballot envelope that you are a registered voter in the parish; and
- ✓ You are eligible to vote in the election for federal office(s).

You will cast your vote(s) on a paper provisional ballot and you will be given your provisional ballot number with written instructions on when and how to determine whether your vote was counted.

Your provisional ballot will be counted by the parish board of election supervisors if they find:

- ✓ You are an eligible voter in the election for federal office(s); and
- ✓ You cast your ballot in the parish in which you are registered; and
- ✓ You have not voted another ballot for federal offices in the election anywhere in the state.

For the Presidential Preference Primary, you may be permitted to cast a ballot on the voting machine for state or local races or issues, if any, for which you are eligible.

PROVISIONAL VOTING DURING COURT ORDERED EXTENDED POLL HOURS

If polling hours for a federal election are extended by a court order and you vote during the extended period, you will vote for federal offices only on a provisional ballot.

If you are required to cast a provisional ballot for federal offices pursuant to this section, you will be permitted to cast a ballot on the voting machine for state or local races or issues, if any, for which you are eligible.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The **Voting Rights Act of 1965**, as amended, prohibits racial or language minority discrimination in voting. To make a discrimination complaint under the Federal Voting Rights Act, contact:

Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division	Tollfree 1-800-253-3931
Room 7254 - NWB	1-202-307-2767
Department of Justice	
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.	
Washington, DC 20530	

To make a complaint under the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, contact:

Voting Rights Division, Department of Justice, Tollfree 1-800-514-0301. (option #7)

To file a written notarized complaint with the Elections Division of the Louisiana Department of State, contact:

Commissioner of Elections	Tollfree 1-800-883-2805
Department of State	
P. O. Box 94125 (8585 Archives Ave.)	
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125	

To report voting fraud, contact the Elections Division tollfree at 1-800-883-2805 or contact the nearest office of the FBI or your local U. S. Attorney's Office.

Voter's Bill of Rights and Information Poster
(VBR-IP Created 1/13)

Prepared by Secretary of State
Approved by Attorney General