

Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Louisiana Secretary of State’s “GeauxVote” website (<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>).

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine a voter’s proper polling place by checking the “GeauxVote” website (<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>). Alternatively, the voter can call his or her parish registrar (<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/Registrar>). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Question #6](#).

3. When do the polls open and close?

For the 2018 Congressional Elections, polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.¹ Voters in line at the polling place by 8:00 P.M. must be allowed to vote.²

If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and it is not open at the correct time, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in line before 8 P.M. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

Voters must apply to register to vote 30 calendar days before the election in which they intend to vote. For the 2018 Congressional Election, the deadline is October 9, 2018 for in person. The deadline is October 16, 2018 for online registration through the GeauxVote Online Registration system. Voters can register in person, by mail, at the Department of Motor Vehicles or at other designated voter registration agencies, or online at <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/VoterRegistration>.³

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Yes. Louisiana voters must present a valid form of photo identification. If the voter does not have the required ID, the voter may complete and sign an affidavit which includes the voter’s date of birth and mother’s maiden name in order to vote. Voters who cast ballots without ID, but instead by affidavit, may be susceptible to a challenge.⁴

Valid forms of identification include:

- Valid Louisiana Driver’s License;
- Valid Louisiana special identification card; or
- Other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the voter’s name and signature.

6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

The answer to this question depends on where the voter moved (inside or outside of the parish) and potentially when the voter moved (if the voter moved to a new parish).⁵

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same parish	Moved to a different parish
The voter should vote at the polling place associated with his/her new/old address (the polling place will be the same. The voter should apply to update his/her registration and this change will take effect after the general election date. If the voter appears on the “inactive voter list,” they may need to complete an address confirmation card which affirms the voter’s new address. ⁶	The voter may still vote at his/her old polling place by regular ballot. The voter should apply to update his/her registration and this change will take effect after the general election date. If the voter appears on the “inactive voter list,” they may need to complete an address confirmation card which affirms the voter’s new address. ⁷	The voter may still vote at his/her old polling place by regular ballot, provided that the voter moved within the last three months. The voter should apply to update his/her registration and this change will take effect after the general election date. If the voter appears on the “inactive voter list,” they may need to complete an address confirmation card which affirms their new address and that they moved within the last three months. ⁸

Voters may look up polling locations at: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov>. Alternatively, voters may contact their parish registrar. A directory of Louisiana’s parish registrars is listed at: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/Registrar>.

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if voting equipment breaks down while the polls are open. Voters should ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot.

When a field or hotline volunteer learns that voting equipment is not functional, contact the hotline captain or field command center. They will then contact local elections officials to attempt to resolve the issue.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote where I am?

Yes. First, a voter should ask whether the election official has checked the “inactive list” (names of voters who received an address confirmation card but did not return it prior to the registration deadline). If their name appears on the inactive list, they may vote upon affirming their current address.⁹

If the voter’s address is still not found after checking the inactive list, the voter should be able to cast a ballot after affirming their eligibility. When a name is omitted or incorrectly printed, the election commissioner should perform the following three steps:¹⁰

- Contact the Registrar to confirm whether or not the person is registered to vote in that precinct;
- In the absence of a valid challenge of the voter, allow the applicant to sign an affidavit before a commissioner attesting that he or she is a qualified registered voter and describing the error or omission in the voter records;
- Place the affidavit with the ballot in an envelope marked “Put in Voting Machine” and place the duplicate affidavit in the envelope marked “Registrar of Voters”.

9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

A voter can be removed from the list of registered voters if:

- The voter sends a written request to cancel his or her registration with the Registrar;¹¹
- The voter fails to respond to an address confirmation card and does not update his or her registration status for a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections;¹²
- The voter dies;¹³
- The registrar determines that a voter is registered unlawfully or is no longer qualified to be registered (for a reason other than a change in address) and the voter fails to respond to a notice from the registrar to that effect within 21 days;¹⁴
- The registrar determines that a voter has been convicted of a felony and is under an order of imprisonment and the voter fails to respond to a notice from the registrar to that effect within 21 days to show cause as to why registration should not be suspended;¹⁵ or
- A voter has been judicially declared to be mentally incompetent, provided that a voter may be reinstated upon receipt by the registrar of a certified copy of a definitive judgment revoking the determination.¹⁶

Any voter whose name was removed in one of the above ways and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must reregister in order to have his or her name restored to the statewide voter registration system. If a voter's name has been removed from the rolls and the voter registration deadline has passed, offer to call the jurisdiction with the voter in an attempt to resolve the situation if time allows. Otherwise, provide the jurisdiction's phone number to the voter.

10. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?

Yes, if you have completed your sentence and had your registration reinstated. Individuals who are currently "under an order of imprisonment" for a felony conviction may not vote (which includes individuals on parole or probation, or serving a suspended sentence).¹⁷

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when the applicant's name does not appear on the precinct register and the Registrar has not authorized the applicant to vote by affidavit. The caller who believes they are eligible to vote may cast a provisional ballot for candidates for federal office.¹⁸ But note, a provisional ballot should be a last resort.

If the voter uses a provisional ballot, make sure they write down the provisional ballot number. The commissioner should provide the voter with written instructions for how to determine whether the provisional vote the provisional vote was counted, and – if rejected – the basis for the rejection.¹⁹

A voter who casts a provisional ballot and wants to know whether or not it was counted can call the Secretary of State Elections Division at 1-800-883-2805 or visit <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteProvisionally/Pages/default.aspx>. Wait seven days after Election Day to call.

12. I am a college student. Can I vote where I go to school?

Yes, college students can register to vote in Louisiana at either their school address or their home address, but each voter can only be registered in one place at any given time.²⁰

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Generally, yes.²¹ If voters require assistance based on a disability, they will need to file proof of disability with their parish registrar (prior to Election Day OR on Election Day if needed). Proof of disability includes: a physician's certificate; a copy of a mobility-impaired identification card; a copy of documentation showing eligibility for disability benefits; or a completed and signed voter registration application attesting to a physical disability (if prior to Election Day) or a completed and signed voter assistance form provide by the Secretary of State wherein the voter attests that he has a physical disability and requires assistance in voting. This proof should be placed in the voter's record so that the voter may have assistance in the future without re-presenting such proof when voting.²²

If the voter did not previously file proof of disability with the Registrar, he/she will still be entitled to assistance on Election Day by presenting proof of disability to the commissioner-in-charge.²³ If the precinct register does not indicate that an illiterate voter is entitled to assistance, he/she may be offered an audio ballot or may vote with assistance after signing a statement indicating this need.²⁴

All electronic voting systems in Louisiana are capable of being made accessible to individuals with disabilities, including audio ballots for individuals with visual impairments and those unable to read the written word or physically unable to reach the ballot on the voting system. If a voter needs assistance using the audio voting keypad to cast his or her vote, he or she should ask for help.²⁵

Voters can call the HAVA and Disability Program at the Secretary of State's Office (225.922.0900 or 800.883.2805) if they are uncertain about the accessibility of their polling site.²⁶

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes, a voter have a person of their choice assist them in voting, other than candidates, commissioners-in-charge, voter's employers or employers' agents, or voter's union agents.²⁷

If the voter requires assistance based on an inability to read they may need to file a statement of their need for assistance. See [Question #13](#) for instructions. They may also choose to vote using the audio ballot (unless such technology is unavailable).²⁸ If the voter is visibly disabled or presents a mobility-impaired identification card, the voter and the person assisting him/her will be allowed to go to the front of the line to cast a ballot.²⁹

Further information on the assistance and accessibility requirements for those with disabilities is provided by the [Louisiana Advocacy Center](#).

15. I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Election officials are required to provide voters with general assistance, such as demonstrating how voting machines operate, how to open and close curtains, and other general directions on voting procedures.

Most polling places have several features available to make voting more accessible for people with disabilities or who are unable to read. These include audio voting attachments for all voting machines so that voters can listen to the ballot and vote using a keypad, a 8 ½ x 11 magnifying glass to magnify ballots or other materials, and voting machines that can be lowered to allow a voter who uses a wheelchair to vote independently. Ask the election officials or poll workers for help.³⁰

See also the assistance provisions described in [Question #14](#) for voters who blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

Yes, all registered voters can vote early in person (no excuses are necessary) and voters with certain excuses can vote by mail.³¹

Early voting occurs 14 to 7 days prior to each election at the Registrar of Voters office. Voters should check with their parish registrar for information about where to vote early: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/Registrar>. Or can search for early voting sites online at <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/EarlyVoting>.

Registered voters may vote by mail (“Absentee Voting”) if they can provide a valid reason.³² The list of valid reasons is available online: <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>. Valid reasons include - but are not limited to (click on link for full list): being 65 years of age or older; being disabled; or your profession or health prohibits you from being able to vote within your parish of registration. Voters must first fill out and mail an application to vote absentee to the parish registrar. Applications are available online at <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>. Applications must be received by 4:30pm Central time on the fourth day before Election Day.³³ The registrar will mail the voter an absentee ballot. The ballot is due back to the parish registrar by 4:30 P.M. Central time **the day BEFORE** Election Day.³⁴

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as you haven’t already submitted the absentee ballot, you should be able to **vote in person by a regular ballot.**³⁵

18. How can I get a ride to the polls?

Election Protection is not aware of any non-partisan organizations offering rides to the polls. Suggest that the voter contact a local political party of their choice or candidate they’re supporting to request a ride, as they may be offering rides or know of an organization that is.

19. Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

No, Louisiana does not have Same Day Registration.

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- 1 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:541. (For federal congressional primary and general elections, the polls are open from 6 AM to 8 PM; for all other primary and general elections, the polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM).
- 2 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:542.
- 3 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:135; *see also* La. Sec’y of State, “Elections Calendar 2018” (<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ElectionsCalendar2018.pdf>)
- 4 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(A)(2).
- 5 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:110.
- 6 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:196(B)(2).
- 7 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:196(B)(3).
- 8 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:196(B)(4).
- 9 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:196.
- 10 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(B)(3).
- 11 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:110(D).
- 12 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:193(E).
- 13 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:173.
- 14 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:193(G).
- 15 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:176; *see also* LA. REV. STAT. § 18:102.
- 16 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:102; 18:172; 18:176(B); R.S. 18:177(B).
- 17 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:2; 18:102; 18:177(A)(1); 18:177.1.
- 18 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(A).
- 19 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(B)(2), 18:566(D)(2) (early voting).
- 20 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:101(C).
- 21 52 U.S.C. § 20102 (requiring that subdivisions assure polling places for federal elections are accessible, but providing exception if no such accessible polling place is available and assures a dishandicapped or elderly voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place, upon advance request of such voter, will be: (i) assigned to an accessible polling place or (ii) will be provided with an alternative means for voting); *see also* Disabled, Senior and Nursing Home Voter Information, prepared by Louisiana Secretary of State, available at: <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/DisabledSeniorAndNursingHomeVoterInformation.pdf>.
- 22 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564.
- 23 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(D)(2)(a).
- 24 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(C).
- 25 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:106, 18:564; for accessibility guidelines, *see* LA. ADMIN. CODE Title 31, § 105.
- 26 52 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(3); La. Sec’y of State, “Contact Us” (<http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/ContactUs/Pages/default.aspx>).
- 27 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(B). Fine print: staff at state-operated facilities for mentally retarded/developmentally disabled persons may not assist residents with voting, and voters in nursing homes may not receive assistance from the owner, operator, or administrator of the nursing home or an employee of any of them, *see* LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1333(G)(4)(a).
- 28 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(A); 18:564(C).
- 29 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(E).
- 30 Informational Pamphlet for Election Day Voting, prepared by Louisiana Secretary of State, available at: <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteOnElectionDay/Pages/default.aspx>; *see also* information provided by Louisiana Advocacy Center, available at <http://advocacyla.org/images/publications/Voting/Voting-Basics-4416.pdf>.
- 31 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1303; La. Sec’y of State, “Voting Early in Person” (<http://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/voteearly/pages/default.aspx>).
- 32 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1303.
- 33 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1307(B)(2).

34 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1308(C).

35 LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1305.