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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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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Louisiana Secretary of State's "Geaux Vote" website (<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>)

2. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

a. Register online

Register to vote or change registration through the GeauxVote Online Registration System, <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/VoterRegistration>

A voter with a state ID may submit the registration application electronically. To submit the application electronically, a voter must have their Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card to begin the process. There is an audit code on the card that they must enter. The audit code is a four digit number labeled AUDIT on the front of the license.

b. Register by mail

Apply by mail by downloading the Louisiana Voter Registration Application (available [here](#)), completing it, and mailing it to the local Registrar of Voters Office. Addresses for the registrars' offices are included on the form.

Voters may also register by using a National Mail Voter Registration Form, available here: <https://www.eac.gov/voters/register-and-vote-in-your-state>

c. Register in person

Apply in person to register to vote at any Registrar of Voters Office. **In person registration is currently extremely limited due to COVID-19 related closures. Voters are encouraged to register by mail or online while the public health emergency persists.**

You may also register in person at any of the following locations:

- Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles;
- Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services;
- WIC offices;
- Food stamp offices;
- Medicaid offices;

- offices serving persons with disabilities such as the Deaf Action Centers and Independent Living Offices; or
- Armed Forces recruitment offices.

3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

A Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card is required to register to vote **electronically**, because there is an audit code on the card that you must enter. The audit code is a four digit number labeled AUDIT on the front of the license.

NOTE: A Louisiana mobility impaired card is not an acceptable form of identification because it does not contain a signature.

For registration applications **submitted by mail**, a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special identification card is preferred. But if not available, the registrant may use the last four digits of voter's social security number to register.

If registering to vote **in person** at a parish Local Registrar Office, you are required to prove age, residency, and identity. You must submit your current Louisiana driver's license, if you have one, or your birth certificate or other documentation which reasonably and sufficiently establishes your identity, age and residency. If you have no driver's license, special Louisiana ID or social security number, you may provide a picture ID, a utility bill, payroll check or government document that includes your name and address.

If registering at a mandated site, no further proof of identification is required other than whatever proof is required for services received that you have applied for at the public agency.

4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

All mailed applications, including those a voter fills out online, but prints and mails to the Registrar of Voters, must be **postmarked** 30 days prior to the election.

**Due to COVID-19, election information is rapidly changing. Please check here for the most current information: <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/Pages/default.aspx>

2021 Municipal/Special Congressional Primary Election: March 20, 2021

In-Person Registration Deadline: February 17, 2021 (In-person or post-marked if mailed)

Outline Registration Deadline: February 27, 2021 (Geaux Vote Online)

Early Voting Period: March 6 - March 13 2021 (excluding Sunday, March 7, 2021)

Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot: March 16, 2021 by 4:30 pm CST

Absentee Ballot Must be Received by Registrar of Voters by: March 19, 2021 by 4:30 pm CST¹

2021 Municipal and Special Congressional General Election (Run-Off): April 24, 2021

In-Person Voter Registration Deadline: March 24, 2021 (In-person or post-marked if mailed)

Outline Voter Registration Deadline: April 3, 2021 (Geaux Vote Online)

Early Voting Period: April 10-17, 2021 (excluding Sunday April 11, 2021)

¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:135(A)(1); *Elections Calendar 2021*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at: <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ElectionsCalendar2021.pdf>

Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot: April 20, 2021 by 4:30 pm CST

Absentee Ballot Must be Received by Registrar of Voters by: April 23, 2021 by 4:30 pm CST²

5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?

No, Louisiana does not have Same Day Registration.

6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently 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).³

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same parish / county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (parish / county	Moved from a different state
Vote at the polling place for old address. Apply to update registration (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.	Vote at old polling place by regular ballot. Apply to update registration (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. ⁴	May vote at old polling place by regular ballot, if the voter moved within the last three months . If the move was over three months ago , voter must re-register before the registration deadline. Apply to update registration (change will take effect after the general election date.) If the voter appears on the "inactive voter list," they need to complete an address confirmation card affirming the voter's new address, and that they moved within the last three months. ⁵	New Louisiana residents must register to vote in Louisiana by the deadline for this election. If the move to Louisiana is temporary, suggest voter request an absentee ballot from their previous state. Voters who moved out of Louisiana should complete a Cancel Voter Registration Form (available at sos.la.gov/ElectionsandVoting/PublishedDocuments/CancelVoterRegistrationForm.pdf) Voter Registration in Louisiana is not canceled automatically when you register in your new state.

7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to Covid-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?

Temporarily Absent

Voters temporarily located outside of Louisiana or their parish during the early voting period and on election day, or expect to be, may apply through a General Application and once accepted by the registrar

² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:135(A)(1); *Elections Calendar 2021*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at: <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ElectionsCalendar2021.pdf>

³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:110.

⁴ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:110, 18:196(B)(3).

⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:110, 18:196(B)(4).

of voters, vote by mail. Any person who requests an absentee by mail ballot be mailed to an address within the parish must indicate on the application the dates that they will be outside the territorial limits of the state or absent from the parish.

Moved Out of Parish

Voters who moved more than 100 miles from the parish seat of their former residence after the voter registration books closed (30 days prior to an election), may apply through a [General Application](#) and once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote by mail.

Displaced voters

Voters who were involuntarily displaced to a new parish or state due to a gubernatorial declared emergency, but want to remain registered to vote at their pre-emergency address, may remain registered there if they have not changed their registration address or filed a homestead exemption on a different residence. They should provide a mailing address, if different from their pre-emergency residence address, to the registrar of voters or online to remain an active voter.

8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

Yes, full-time 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. Out of state students are allowed to use their school address in Louisiana if they want to be a voter in the state of Louisiana. Students do not need to have an intent to reside indefinitely where they decide to register.⁶ Students who register to vote by mail for the first time, must include a copy of their fee bill or student identification card with their application to vote absentee by mail.

Students, instructors or professors located and living outside of their parish of registration, or the spouse/dependent thereof, may apply through a [General Application](#) to vote absentee, and once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote by mail.

9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

Voters who live abroad and those serving in the military can register online and vote absentee at <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/VoterRegistration> or print an application to register to vote and return it by **mail or fax** to your parish registrar of voters. Overseas and military voters may also **email a request for a registration application** to the registrar of voters of the parish where they last resided prior to military service or going overseas. They may return it by mail or fax it to the parish registrar of voters.

Additional information for Military and Overseas voters

<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/MilitaryAndOverseasVoters.aspx>

Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail, Fax, or Email

Registered voters may submit a request for an absentee ballot electronically by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) then:

- click the 'By Voter' button;
- click the 'Voting Information' tab; and

⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:101(C).

- click the 'Online Absentee Request' link found in the menu on the left.

Users must be logged in to the voter portal as the voter for whom the absentee ballot request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

Or, print an application for an absentee ballot for military and overseas citizens, complete it and mail, fax or email it to your parish registrar of voters.

Military and overseas citizen's requests for absentee ballots must be received by the parish registrar of voters no later than 4:30 p.m. CST one day prior to the scheduled election date. Voters who elect to receive ballots electronically will be required to submit an email address.

10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Yes, under certain circumstances. A misdemeanor conviction does not disqualify a person from voting in Louisiana.

If you have been convicted of a felony, you can vote if you are no longer under an order of imprisonment (including probation, suspended sentences, and parole) OR:

- a) you have not been incarcerated within the last five years (even if you are still under an order of imprisonment, i.e. on probation or parole); and
- b) the order of imprisonment (i.e. probation or parole) is not related to a felony conviction for election fraud or certain election offenses.⁷

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?

If you are incarcerated or expect to be incarcerated in an institution inside or outside of your parish of registration and you are not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, you may apply through a General Application and once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote by mail.

12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the precinct where the voter is attempting to vote, the voter should ask the election official to check the “inactive list” on the precinct register (which contains the 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 for the precinct register, they may cast a regular ballot upon affirming their current address.⁸

If the voter is 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 is required to:

- Contact the Registrar to confirm whether or not the person is registered to vote in that precinct;

⁷ LA. REV. STAT. §18:102; *see* LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:177(A)(1), 18:177.1. An “order of imprisonment” is a sentence of confinement, whether or not suspended, whether or not the subject of the order has been placed on probation, with or without supervision, and whether or not the subject of the order has been paroled. LA. REV. STAT. §18:2(8).

⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:196.

- In the absence of a valid challenge of the voter, allow the applicant to sign an affidavit before a commissioner attesting that the applicant 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” and attach to the precinct register.⁹

If the Registrar does not authorize the applicant to vote by affidavit, the voter, under certain circumstances, may be able to vote by provisional ballot. *See* Question #48. A provisional ballot should only be used as a last resort.

13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn’t on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?

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

- The voter sends a written request to cancel registration with the Registrar;¹⁰
- The voter fails to respond to an address confirmation card and does not update their registration status for a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections;¹¹
- The voter dies;¹²
- 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 by appearing in person at the office of the registrar of voters within 21 days;¹³
- 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 by appearing in person at the office of the registrar of voters within 21 days to show cause as to why registration should not be suspended;¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

Any voter whose name was removed in one of the above ways and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must do one of the following in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system:

- If the voter has been suspended due to conviction of a felony, they must appear in the office of the registrar with the required documentation.¹⁶
- If the voter has been suspended due to a judicial declaration of mental incompetence, they must provide the registrar a certified copy of a definitive judgment revoking that determination.¹⁷

⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(B)(3).

¹⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:110(D).

¹¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:193(E).

¹² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:173.

¹³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:193(G).

¹⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:176; *see also* LA. REV. STAT. § 18:102.

¹⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:102(b)(2), 18:172; *see* LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:176(B), 18:177(B).

¹⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:177; *see* LA. REV. STAT. § 18:177.1.

¹⁷ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:177(B).

- If the voter has otherwise had their registration cancelled, they must re-register to vote.¹⁸

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.

If the voter registration deadline has not yet passed, refer to Question #2 for information on how to register.

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)? When is it?

Yes. Early voting runs from Saturday, March 6, 2021 through Saturday, March 13, 2021 (excluding Sunday, March 7) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Registrar of Voters office or at designated locations in the parish.¹⁹ Voters should check with their parish registrar for information about where to vote early: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/Registrar>. Voters can also search for early voting sites online at <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/EarlyVoting>.

15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No, all registered voters can vote early in person without providing a reason.²⁰

16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?

Polls will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Saturday, March 6, 2021 through Saturday, March 13, 2021 (excluding Sunday, March 7.)

17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

¹⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:199.

¹⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1309(A); *Early Voting, in Person*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/voteearly/pages/default.aspx>.

²⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1303(A); *Early Voting, in Person*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/voteearly/pages/default.aspx>.

You can determine a voter's proper polling place by checking the "Geaux Vote" website (<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/earlyvoting>), or by downloading the "Geaux Vote" app (<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/mobilelanding.aspx>). Alternatively, the voter can call their local 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](#).

18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?

When voting early, voters will be asked to identify themselves with either a photo ID or by signing a voter affidavit. For identification, voters may use a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card, a United States military identification card that contains the applicant's name and picture or other generally recognized picture identification card that has their name and signature. But voters without identification can still vote after signing an affidavit.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?

Most voters must first fill out and **mail** an application to vote absentee to the parish registrar. Applications are available for printing online at <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

However, citizens 65 years or older may request a ballot for one election only or may choose to **automatically receive a ballot by mail** for all upcoming elections, which will continue until they cancel the request in writing to the registrar of voters or a ballot is returned as undeliverable.

Also, students, instructors or professors located and living outside of their parish of registration, or the spouse/dependent thereof, may apply through a [General Application](#) to vote absentee, and once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote by mail.

Members of the United States Service, registered voters residing outside the United States, and applicants who have a valid Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special identification card issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1321 who are registered to vote, may apply for an absentee ballot electronically.

20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

Applications must be received by 4:30 pm Central time on the fourth day before Election Day (March 16, 2021 by 4:30 p.m), regardless of whether the application is submitted in person, online, or by mail.²¹ The registrar will mail the voter an absentee ballot.

21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Ballots may be returned by mail or in person by the voter or an immediate family member if the family member provides a signed statement certifying their relationship to the voter. The absentee ballot must be **received by** the parish Registrar of Voters by 4:30 p.m. the day before Election Day, March 19. **A timely postmark is not enough.** If a voter is concerned that they will be unable to return their ballot in time, they may contact their [registrar of voters](#) to request alternative methods of returning their ballot, including fax.

If hand delivered by other than a commercial delivery service or the United States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such delivery sign the application. No person, except the immediate family of any voter, shall hand deliver more than one voter's application to vote by mail to the registrar of voters.

By Fax

If a voter has a mail ballot but will not have time to return it by mail, they may request an application from the [registrar of voters](#) to return their ballot by fax. The documents include an affidavit and a statement waiving rights to a secret ballot. These documents along with the voted ballot are to be faxed back to the registrar of voters.

Additionally, if a voter has not yet received their mail ballot, they can request that the registrar of voters also send it by fax. A ballot, an affidavit and a statement waiving the right to a secret ballot will be faxed and the voter must complete these documents and return them along with their voted ballot by mail or by fax.

If sent by facsimile, the person sending the application by facsimile shall sign the application to indicate that he is the sender and shall include the facsimile number from where the facsimile was sent. No person, except the immediate family of any voter, shall send by facsimile more than one voter's application to vote by mail to the registrar of voters. However, the provisions of this Item shall not apply to an application by a person who is entitled to vote pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.²²

22. DIDN'T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested an absentee ballot by the deadline?

If a voter missed the deadline to vote absentee, they can still vote in person on Election Day by casting a regular ballot.

23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?

²¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1307(B)(2).

²² La R.S. 18:1307.

The Louisiana state legislature passed an emergency election plan for the March 20 and April 24th elections allowing registered voters who are affected by COVID-19 to apply for an absentee ballot. This applies to those who are:

- At higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to serious underlying medical conditions as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (including chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, hypertension and other serious heart conditions, diabetes, undergoing chemotherapy, severe obesity (BMI of 40 or higher), chronic kidney disease and undergoing dialysis, liver disease, pregnancy, or immunocompromised due to cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications);
- Subject to a medically necessary quarantine or isolation order as a result of COVID-19;
- Advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns;
- Experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis; or
- Caring for an identified individual who is subject to a medically necessary quarantine or isolation order as a result of COVID-19 or who has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns.

The emergency plan for Spring 2021 also allows all voters who are voting in a parish for the first time and have received absentee ballots for COVID-19 reasons to vote by mail. This waives the statutory requirement that voters who registered by mail or electronically and who have not previously voted in their parish must vote in person the first time. This requirement will be **temporarily waived** for the March 20, 2021, and April 24, 2021 elections. La. R.S. 18:115(F) and 115.1

In general, voters must provide a reason and apply for an absentee ballot in order to be eligible to vote by mail (“absentee”), unless they are a military or overseas voter.²³ The list of permanently valid reasons is available: <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>. Valid reasons include, but are not limited to: being 65 years of age or older; having a physical disability; being incarcerated or hospitalized; expecting to be temporarily outside the parish during the entire early voting period and election day, and individuals attending and teaching at institutions of higher education.

24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or absentee ballot?

You can track the status of your absentee by mail ballot on <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>.²⁴

25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

The registrar must provide the applicant with written reasons for rejecting an application or a ballot. If the applicant's absentee by mail ballot is returned to the registrar as undeliverable, the registrar must send

²³

²⁴ See La R.S. 18:1303 and La R.S. 18:1307.

notice by forwardable mail to the applicant that his application is no longer valid. The applicant shall be required to submit a new application to the registrar that meets the requirements of this Section and provide a current address before the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail again pursuant to this Section.²⁵

26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot? Are there any identification requirements?

There are no identification requirements when submitting an absentee ballot, but the signature on the ballot must match the other signatures of the voter that are on file. Moreover, the ballot envelope must be signed by a witness, who may be anyone, including a relative.

An application to vote by mail may be delivered to the registrar by any means, including the United States Postal Service, commercial delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile.

27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

If you spoil your ballot, you may request a replacement ballot from your registrar of voters prior to submitting a voted ballot. You can find your local registrar at <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/registrar>.

28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

- a. Try tracking the ballot online (Refer to #28)? <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov>
- b. If the website says your ballot was “mailed” but you have not received it yet, you still have options to cast your vote:
 - I. If your ballot arrives on or before March 19, vote it and deliver it in person to your parish Registrar before 4:30p.m. on March 19. An immediate family member may deliver the voted ballot in person. They must sign a certificate that they are authorized by the voter to deliver that ballot.
 - II. If you are concerned about returning your ballot in time, contact your parish Registrar for alternative return methods: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov>. Voters may be able to fax their voted ballot upon request.

Voters who have not already submitted their absentee ballots should be able to vote in person on Election Day by casting a regular ballot.

29. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

²⁵ La R.S. 18:1307.

As long as a voter has not already submitted their absentee ballot, they should be able to vote in person on Election Day by casting a regular ballot.²⁶ Suggest the voter bring the incomplete absentee ballot to the precinct, if possible.

30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

The ballot is due back to the parish registrar by **4:30 P.M. Central time the day before Election Day**, regardless of whether the ballot is returned in person or by mail.²⁷ There are three exceptions: military voters, overseas voters, and hospitalized voters, who may return their ballots on Election Day by 8 p.m.

31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?

The only drop off location available in the state of Louisiana is the voter's parish Registrar of Voters. Louisiana does not allow absentee ballots to be returned to polling places or drop boxes.²⁸

32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?

Yes, an immediate family member of the voter may deliver the completed ballot. A signed statement must be completed upon delivery, certifying the family member's relationship to the voter.²⁹

33. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?

A voter or immediate family member of the voter may deliver the completed ballot to the registrar of voters.³⁰

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I'm in line?

²⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1305.

²⁷ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1308(C).

²⁸ U.S. Vote Foundation, *Ballot Return Options*, <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/ballot-return-options>

²⁹ Secretary of State, *Vote by Mail*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/votebymail/pages/default.aspx>

³⁰ Secretary of State, *Vote by Mail*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/votebymail/pages/default.aspx>

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.³¹ Voters in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.³² See [Question #16](#) for information on early voting dates and times for each of these elections.

If you are a field volunteer at a polling place and it is not open at the correct time, advise voters to stay in line 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 by 8 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

A voter can look up the correct polling place here: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/> or call their parish registrar of voters office: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/registrar>

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions #6 and 7](#).

***Hotline volunteers:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, polling places may have been moved or consolidated. Advise voters to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from the local election authority a few days before the election.

36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?

Louisiana voters must present a valid form of photo identification in order to vote. 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 by affidavit may be susceptible to a challenge.³³

Valid forms of identification include:

- Valid Louisiana Driver's License;
- Valid Louisiana Special Identification card;
- Louisiana Wallet Digital Driver's License;
- United States military identification card containing the voter's name and photo; or
- Other generally recognized picture identification cards that contain the voter's name and signature.³⁴

Voters who do not possess a Louisiana Driver's License may obtain a free Louisiana Special ID card at any Office of Motor Vehicles by showing one primary and two secondary identification documents; or three secondary documents. Primary identification documents include:

- Birth certificate
- Passport

³¹ 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 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.).

³² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:542.

³³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(A)(2).

³⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(A)(2); *Vote on election Day*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at: <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteOnElectionDay/Pages/default.aspx>.

- US Military ID card
- Certificate of Naturalization

Secondary identification documents include:

- Social security card
- Out of state or out-of-country driver's license
- Educational diploma
- Medicare / Medicaid or health insurance card
- Proof of Louisiana residency such as a bank statement or utility bill.³⁵

If a voter has misplaced his/her voter information card, he/she may contact their [registrar of voters](#) for a new one or print it online by logging into the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) as a voter, clicking the “Voter Registration” tab at the top, and then clicking the “Print Voter Information” link located on the ribbon on the left-hand side.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

Polling places can change due to being unavailable or due to an emergency. Please check to make sure that a voter goes to the correct polling place on Election Day.

Polling places may be changed by the parish police jury or council. Voters should receive a Voter Information Card in the mail from the registrar of voters when their polling place has been changed. Voters may also go online to review their polling place at the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) where voters can sign up for a notification by email or text of not only a polling place change but also a notification for an early voting and election day reminder.

³⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 40:1321(A), (C)(1), 32:409.1(A)(2).

Voters can also call their parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#) to check whether the polling place has changed. ***Should any problems or questions arise, the principal office of the registrar of voters in each parish will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m..***

****Hotline volunteers:*** If you learn of a polling place not opening on time or closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

Try to vote when your polling place isn't as busy. This might involve driving by and checking to see how long the line is. Verify that you're registered to vote before you leave home and make sure you bring any documents you'll need to avoid complications that could result in spending more time inside the polling place.

Voters in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.³⁶

****Hotline volunteers:*** If you learn of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: 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, or if there are other technical issues preventing voters from casting a regular ballot. Louisiana has trained technicians to repair or replace a voting machine that fails on Election Day. If a voting machine fails in a small polling place where only one voting machine is available, voters should ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot and should not leave the precinct without voting.

****When a field or hotline volunteer learns that voting equipment is not functioning, they should contact the hotline captain or field command center immediately.*** The captain or command center will then contact local elections officials to attempt to resolve the issue.

40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

Complaints that may involve violations of the election code should be reported to the Elections Compliance Unit at 800.722.5305.

The emergency election plan for Spring 2021 requires all election personnel of the secretary of state, clerks of court, registrars of voters, parish boards of election supervisors, early voting commissioners, parish board commissioners, election day commissioners, and commissioned poll watchers to wear face coverings and adhere to all CDC guidelines for social distancing at polling places.

All voting machine delivery personnel will also follow all CDC recommendations for wearing protective gear and social distancing while delivering voting machines to and from polling places.

To the extent possible, the Department of State will assist the parishes to implement the CDC Recommendations for Election Polling Locations and supply all polling places, tabulation and meeting areas, and any other area related to the election process with preventative supplies, including hand

³⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:542.

sanitizer and gloves for commissioners and staff, all as recommended by the CDC. Masks will be made available to voters.

The secretary of state is authorized to provide guidance to each registrar of voters, clerk of court, and parish board of election supervisors to facilitate any of the provisions of this emergency plan, including issuance of social distancing guidelines for in-person voting for the February 6, 2021, March 20, 2021, and April 24, 2021 elections.

41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: 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 may include audio voting attachments for 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.

See also the assistance provisions described in Question #43 for voters who blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English.

42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Generally, yes; voters in Louisiana have a right to vote in a polling place that meets accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities.³⁷ If voters require assistance based on a physical disability, they will need to file proof of disability with their parish registrar (prior to Election Day OR on Election Day if needed).³⁸

Proof of disability includes: a physician's certificate (prepared by a medical doctor, optometrist, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner); a current mobility-impaired identification card bearing a photograph of the voter; a copy of documentation showing eligibility for certain disability benefits (social security disability, veteran's disability, paratransit services, benefits from the office for citizens with developmental disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services); 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 provided by the Secretary of State wherein the voter attests that they

³⁷ 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*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at: <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/DisabledSeniorAndNursingHomeVoterInformation.pdf>.

³⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(D)

have a physical disability and require assistance in voting.³⁹ 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.

Voters who did not previously file proof of disability with the Registrar will still be entitled to assistance on Election Day as long as they present proof of disability to the commissioner-in-charge. On Election Day, proof of disability includes: a physician's certificate (prepared by a medical doctor, optometrist, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner); a current mobility-impaired identification card bearing a photograph of the voter; a copy of documentation showing eligibility for certain disability benefits (social security disability, veteran's disability, paratransit services, benefits from the office for citizens with developmental disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services); 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.⁴⁰

Voters who have visual impairments or are unable to read may choose to use an audio ballot (this option is also available to all voters in general).⁴¹ Each Election Day and early voting precinct is equipped with a voting machine that can provide an audio ballot.⁴² The commissioner shall offer the option of voting using the audio ballot to a visually impaired voter or a voter who is unable to read.⁴³ If the voter elects to vote using such a method, the commissioner must assist the voter with the headset and instruct the voter and the person selected to assist the voter on the use of the audio ballot.⁴⁴ Voters who need assistance using the audio voting keypad to cast their vote should ask for help.⁴⁵ Voters using the audio ballot machine are allowed to remain in the voting machine for up to 20 minutes.⁴⁶

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.⁴⁷

43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

³⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(D)(1)(a).

⁴⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(D)(2)(a).

⁴¹ See "Audio ballot on voting machines?", *Voting On Election Day*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingOnElectionDay.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingOnElectionDay&faqid=0>; *Informational Pamphlet for Election Day Voting*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteOnElectionDay/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁴² See "Audio ballot on voting machines?", *Voting On Election Day*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingOnElectionDay.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingOnElectionDay&faqid=0>; *Guide to using the Audio Voting Keypad*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/GuideToUsingTheAudioVotingKeypad.pdf>.

⁴³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(C).

⁴⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(C).

⁴⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:106, 18:564; for accessibility guidelines, see LA. ADMIN. CODE tit 31, pt. I, § 105 (2018).

⁴⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:563(C)(2).

⁴⁷ 52 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(3); *Contact Us*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/ContactUs/Pages/default.aspx>.

Yes, voters can have a person of their choice assist them in voting. However, the person assisting the voter cannot be a candidate in the election, commissioner-in-charge, the voter's employer or employer's agent, or the voter's union agent.⁴⁸

If the voter requires assistance based on an inability to read they may need to file a statement of their need for assistance. They may also choose to vote using the audio ballot.⁴⁹ Voters who are blind have a right to use a braille booklet describing the use of the audio ballot or a page magnifier that will magnify the face of the voting machine.⁵⁰ If the voter has a visible physical disability or presents a mobility-impaired identification card, the voter and the person assisting them will be allowed to go to the front of the line to cast a ballot.⁵¹ Further information is provided by Disability Rights Louisiana (<https://disabilityrightsla.org/how-we-can-help/voting/>).

Nursing Homes

The 2021 emergency election plan provides additional assistance for persons in nursing homes and other residential facilities who otherwise can not be assisted by the owner, operator, administrators, or employees of the facility. If restrictions on visitation are in place that would prohibit family members and other visitors from providing assistance during the time for voting absentee ballots for the February 6, 2021, March 20, 2021, and April 24, 2021 elections, voters enrolled in the Nursing Home Program **may receive assistance from an employee** of the nursing home. The employee must first watch a training video, provided by the Department of State, on how to complete an absentee ballot envelope flap and on the law pertaining to voter assistance. The nursing home employee shall sign the "assistance to voters" portion of the absentee ballot envelope flap.

44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?

Curbside voting has not yet been implemented in Louisiana, although it is something that the Louisiana state legislature has discussed.

45. CAMPAIGNING: What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?

Louisiana law requires a 600 foot campaign-free-zone around polling places to provide each voter with an environment free from intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction and undue influence. This 600 foot campaign-free-zone is in effect between the hours of 6:00 am and 9:00 pm within any polling place being used in an election on Election Day or during early voting.⁵² To comply with the 600 foot campaign-free-zone requirement, voters should not wear a campaign shirt, hat, button, or pin when voting.⁵³

Volunteers: If you hear a report of improper electioneering, intimidation, or harassment, contact your call center captain.

⁴⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(B).

⁴⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(A); 18:564(C).

⁵⁰ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingOnElectionDay.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingOnElectionDay&faqid=0&PF=1>.

⁵¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(E).

⁵² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1462.

⁵³ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Vote*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/Pages/default.aspx>.

46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?

A commissioner, watcher, or qualified voter may challenge a person applying to vote on the ground that the person is not qualified to vote in the election, is not qualified to vote in the precinct, or is not the person whose name is shown on the precinct register. A record of the challenge must be signed by the challenger, placed in a special envelope and preserved as part of the election returns. If a majority of the commissioners present determine the challenge is valid for a reason other than the voter moving within the parish or outside the parish within the three preceding months, the voter is not permitted to vote.⁵⁴ However, if the challenge is deemed valid on the grounds that the applicant has moved within the parish or has moved outside the parish within the last three months, the voter shall be allowed to vote upon completing an address confirmation card. If a majority of the commissioners determine that the challenge is invalid, the applicant shall be permitted to vote.⁵⁵

In federal elections, if a voter's name does not appear on the precinct register and the Registrar has not authorized the individual to vote by affidavit, or if the commissioner asserts that the individual is ineligible to vote, the voter should be offered a provisional ballot.⁵⁶ See Question #48 regarding provisional ballots.

A candidate or the candidate's representative, a member of the election board or a qualified elector may also submit a written challenge to an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, including on the grounds mentioned above. If the challenge is sustained, the vote will not be counted and the election board is required to notify the voter and give the grounds on which the challenge was sustained.⁵⁷

47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?

Law enforcement officers may be summoned by the commissioners to assist in preserving order, enforcing election laws, or protecting election officials from interference with the performance of their duties.⁵⁸

In addition, law enforcement officers may be stationed at polling places if their regular work duties are to provide security for the public building where the polling place is located.

However, federal law prohibits any person – including police and members of the military – from intimidating, threatening, coercing any person for voting or attempting to vote.

TO REPORT A FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT VIOLATION, contact:

Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 - NWB
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Toll-free: 1-800-253-3931
Telephone: 1-202-307-2767
Fax: 1-202-307-3961

⁵⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:565.

⁵⁵ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:565.

⁵⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(A).

⁵⁷ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1315.

⁵⁸ Secretary of State, Frequently Asked Questions,

<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingOnElectionDay.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingOnElectionDay&faqid=0&PF=1>

***Hotline volunteers:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. In federal elections, a voter must be offered a provisional ballot if the applicant's name does not appear on the precinct register as an eligible voter and the Registrar has not authorized the applicant to vote by affidavit; if the commissioners assert that the applicant is not eligible to vote and the voter declares himself/herself to be a registered voter and eligible to vote in the election for federal office; or if the voter is voting in a federal election during court ordered extended polling hours.⁵⁹ Voters who believe they are eligible to vote may cast a provisional ballot for candidates for federal office (provisional voting does not apply to local or state elections).⁶⁰ But note, a provisional ballot should be a **last resort**.

Advise a voter using a provisional ballot to write down the provisional ballot number. The commissioner should provide the voter with written instructions for how to determine whether the provisional ballot was counted, and – if rejected – the basis for the rejection.⁶¹

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 at least seven days after Election Day to call.

Note, provisional ballots may not be available for state races.

QUESTIONS

49. Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact your Registrar of Voters Office, call Elections Services at 225.922.0900 or call toll-free at 800.883.2805.

⁵⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(A) ; *Voting Provisionally*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingProvisionally.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingProvisionally&faqid=0>.

⁶⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(A).

⁶¹ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:566(B)(2), 18:566(D)(2) (early voting).

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For additional information regarding services provided by various sections of the Elections Division, please use the following directory.

Commissioner of Elections Sherri Wharton Hadskey

225.922.0900

225.922.0945 fax

Elections Accounting

225.922.0900

225.922.0945 fax

Elections Business

225.922.0900

800.883.2805

225.922.0945 fax

Elections Compliance Unit

800.722.5305

225.925.4771 fax

Elections Field

225.922.2486

225.922.2910 fax

Elections Operations

225.922.2486

225.922.0826 fax

Elections Services

225.922.0900

800.883.2805

225.922.1167 fax

Disability Program

225.922.0900

800.883.2805

225.922.1167 fax

HAVA

225.287.7477

800.883.2805

225.922.1180 fax