

Frequently Asked Questions

Louisiana – General Election 2024

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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. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

To register to vote a person must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be 17 years old (16 years old if registering in person at the [Registrar of Voters Office](#) or at the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles), but must be 18 years old to vote;
- reside in the state and parish in which they seek to register.
- not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony or, if under such an order not have been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years and not be under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction for election fraud or any other election offense pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1461.2;
- not be under a judgment of full interdiction for mental incompetence or partial interdiction with suspension of voting rights.

For purposes of voter registration and voting, “resident” means a citizen who resides in this state and in the parish, municipality, if any, and precinct in which they intend to register and vote, with an intention to reside there indefinitely.¹ **Note:** Full-time college students do not need to have an intent to reside indefinitely where they decide to register.² To learn more about voting as a college student, see [Question 10](#).

- 2. PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party’s primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?](#)

Louisiana does not hold separate primary elections for candidates of different parties, except for the presidential preference primaries, which are closed primaries. In the presidential primaries, only voters registered with the party in question can vote in the party primary.

Otherwise, all local, state, and federal elections use an open primary system. In these open primaries, all eligible voters may cast votes in the election, regardless of party affiliation. All candidates for an office run together in one election and if one of them wins a majority of the vote, they win. If no candidate wins a majority in the primary election, then the top two candidates (regardless of party) go to a run-off election called a general election.³

An applicant need not be a member of a political party to declare a party affiliation in order to be registered, but in such cases the words “no party” or an abbreviation like it on the application form should be circled. A registrant can change their party affiliation by making an application in writing to the registrar.⁴

Election officials are explicitly prohibited from wearing any badge, button, pin, or other insignia identifying them with any political candidate or faction. No election official should in any manner attempt to influence any voter to vote for or against any candidate or proposition being voted on in the election being held in that polling place.⁵

Note: Louisiana will be shifting to closed party primaries for *some* offices beginning in 2026 (including members of Congress, state school board, Public Service Commission, and state Supreme Court justices), but this law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.⁶

- 3. STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)

Check the Louisiana Secretary of State’s “Geaux Vote” [website](#) for status of registration.

- 4. HOW:** [How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?](#)

¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:101 (B).

² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:101 (C).

³ *Review Types of Elections*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/ReviewTypesOfElections/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:107(A), (B).

⁵ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1462 (E).

⁶ See Act No. 1, <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1341043>.

Register Online: A voter can register to vote or change registration through the [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#). To submit the application electronically, a voter must have their Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card to begin the process because 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.

- A Louisiana Mobility Impaired card is not an acceptable form of identification, because it does not contain a signature.
- **NOTE:** For security reasons the voter registration form will time out and erase all information if an applicant is idle for 5 minutes.

Register by Mail: A voter can also register by mail by downloading the [Louisiana Voter Registration Application](#), completing it, and mailing it to the local [Registrar of Voters Office](#). The Voter Registration form is available [here](#). Addresses for the registrars' offices are included on the form. Voters may also register by using a National Mail Voter Registration Form, available [here](#). Voters registering via the National Mail Voter Registration Form must follow the Louisiana-specific instructions (located on page 10 of the form).

Register in person: Residents may apply in person to register to vote at any Registrar of Voters Office, or at 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;
- Armed Forces recruitment offices; or
- Any parish registrar of voters (a complete list of parish registrar of voters offices can be found [here](#)).⁷

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** [What ID is required to register to vote?](#)

Online: A Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card is required to register to vote electronically, because the form requires the audit code on the card. The audit code is a four-digit number labeled AUDIT on the front of the license. Please note that a Louisiana mobility impaired card is not an adequate form of identification for registration purposes because it does not contain a signature.

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

⁷ *Register to Vote*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/RegisterToVote/Pages/default.aspx>.

In Person: If a voter registers at a parish Local Registrar Office, they must prove age, residency, and identity. They must submit a current Louisiana driver's license, if they have one, or a birth certificate or other documentation which reasonably and sufficiently establishes identity, age, and residency. Voters who do not have any of the above documents may provide a picture ID, a utility bill, payroll check, or government document that includes name and address. If a voter is registering at a mandated (government office) site, no further proof of identification is required other than whatever proof is required for services at the public agency.

Note: Faxed voter registration forms are not accepted.

Note: Effective January 1, 2025, each voter registration applicant must include with their application proof of United States citizenship, but this law does not take effect in the 2024 elections and it remains to be seen exactly what this new law will require of registrants.⁸

6. **DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)

If registering online: Voters must register at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through the [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card.

If registering by mail or in person: Voters must register 30 days prior to an election if registering in person or by mail to be eligible to vote. If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the election.⁹

Voter registration deadlines are as follows:

November 5, 2024 – Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election¹⁰

- The deadline to register to vote in person or by mail for the Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is October 7, 2024.
- The deadline to register to vote through the [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) for the Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is October 15, 2024.

December 7, 2024 – Open General/Congressional Election¹¹

- The deadline to register to vote in person or by mail for the Open General/Congressional Election is November 6, 2024.
- The deadline to register to vote through the [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) for the Open General/Congressional Election is November 16, 2024.

7. **SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

No, Louisiana does not have Same Day Registration.

⁸ See Act No. 500, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382204>.

⁹ *Register to Vote*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/RegisterToVote/Pages/default.aspx>; *2024 Elections Calendar*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ElectionsCalendar2024.pdf>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

However, even if a voter has missed the deadline to register to vote in the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/ Presidential/Congressional Election, they can still register to vote in person or by mail for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election until **November 6, 2024**. The deadline to register to vote online for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is **November 16, 2024**.

8. 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).¹²

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same parish	Moved to a different parish	Moved from a different state
Vote at the polling place for the old address. Apply to update registration address online here . 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 address online here . 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. ¹³	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 in new parish before the registration deadline. 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. ¹⁴	New Louisiana residents must register to vote in Louisiana by the deadline for this election. If the move to Louisiana is temporary, the voter should request an absentee ballot from their previous state. Voters who moved out of Louisiana should complete a Cancel Voter Registration Form and submit it to their parish registrar of voters. Voter registration in Louisiana is not canceled automatically when you register in your new state.

VOTERS WHO MOVED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: A person who is otherwise qualified to vote in Louisiana, who has moved to another state or another political subdivision of LA within 30 days of an election for President and Vice President, may vote in such an election:

- (1) In person in the place in LA where they resided immediately before their move, if they satisfied the requirements to vote in that place as of the date of their change of residence, or
- (2) By absentee by mail ballot in the place in LA where they resided immediately prior to moving, if they satisfy the requirements for absentee by mail voting in that place except for their nonresident status and the reasons for their absence.¹⁵

9. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily. How 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

¹² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:110.

¹³ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:110, 18:196(B)(3).

¹⁴ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:110, 18:196(B)(4).

¹⁵ LA. REV. STAT. 18:101(D) (available [here](#)).

accepted by the registrar 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.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

10. **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.¹⁸

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. Students who register to vote by mail must include a copy of their higher education fee bill or student identification card with their application to vote absentee by mail if voting for the first time.

11. **LIVING ABROAD:** [I am living abroad and/or 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 or print an [application](#) to register to vote and return it by **mail or fax** to their 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 the registration application by mail or fax it to the parish registrar of voters.

Additional information for Military and Overseas voters is available [here](#).

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 'Search By Voter' button;
- Type in your First Name, Last Name and Zip Code or Birth Month and Year and then click the 'Submit' button

¹⁶ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0/>.

¹⁷ *Register to Vote*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/RegisterToVote/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:101(C); LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1303(B)(2).

- Click the 'Request Absentee Ballot' link found in the right hand column of the Quick Links

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 citizens' 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.¹⁹

12. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** [I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?](#)

Voters should check the resources at Campaign Legal Center's [Restore Your Vote](#) and VOTE's [FAQ Page](#) for the most up-to-date information. For assistance registering and/or voting, voters should contact VOTE through the contact information provided [here](#).

It depends. A **misdemeanor** conviction does not disqualify a person from voting in Louisiana.

Persons who have been convicted of a **felony** (whether in-state, out-of-state, or federal) may vote if:

- they are no longer under an order of imprisonment (including probation, suspended sentences, and parole)²⁰ OR
- they have not been incarcerated within the last 5 years (even if still under an order of imprisonment, i.e. on probation or parole) AND the order of imprisonment (i.e. probation or parole) is not related to a felony conviction for election fraud or certain election offenses.²¹

In other words, the only people who are barred from voting are those who are either in prison due to a felony conviction OR, if they were formerly incarcerated for their felony conviction and are still on parole/probation, have actively been on parole/probation for less than 5 years following a felony conviction.

How to restore voting rights after a felony conviction depends on whether the person was registered to vote previously:

- If the voter was **not** registered to vote before their felony conviction and thus is a first-time voter, they can register to vote normally under any of the options laid out in [Question 4](#). We are aware that some parishes may still require first time registrants to provide the paperwork that should only be required of individuals who are "suspended." If that is the case, you can direct them to VOTE using the contact information above.
- If the voter **was** registered to vote before their felony conviction, their registration record was "suspended" when they got convicted, and so they must "reinstate" their registration. Therefore, the voter must appear in person at the [registrar of voters](#) office, complete a voter registration

¹⁹ *Military and Overseas Voters*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/MilitaryAndOverseasVoters.aspx>.

²⁰ 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).

²¹ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:102, 18:104, 18:177(A)(1).

application, and provide **documentation**²² from the appropriate corrections official (typically the local parole and probations office) showing that they have completed probation and/or parole, **or** that they have not been incarcerated within the last five years and are not under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction for election fraud or any other election offense pursuant to [La. R.S. 18:1461.2](#).²³

- Disabled and homebound voters may submit applications and documentation by mail, facsimile, commercial carrier, or hand delivery.²⁴
 - Documentation for disabled and homebound voters must include either (1) approved eligibility for the Special Program for Handicapped Voters in existence prior to January 1, 2010, or (2) current proof of disability from a physician along with a certification from the physician indicating that the person is unable to appear in person to vote either during early voting or on election day, by reason of their disability.²⁵
- **Note:** These additional documentation requirements are currently being challenged in court, but as of now they remain in place.

13. **INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?

Voters should check the resources at Campaign Legal Center's [Restore Your Vote](#) and VOTE's [FAQ Page](#) for the most up-to-date information. For assistance registering and/or voting, voters should contact VOTE through the contact information provided [here](#).

It depends. Those who are currently awaiting trial in jail and have not yet been convicted are eligible to register and vote – provided they do not have any previous felony convictions that would disqualify them (see discussion of eligibility to vote after a felony conviction).

If a person is incarcerated based on a misdemeanor conviction, they are eligible to register and vote – provided they do not have any previous felony convictions that would disqualify them (see discussion of eligibility to vote after a felony conviction).

Persons who have been convicted of a felony (whether in-state, out-of-state, or federal) can also register and vote if:

- they are no longer under an order of imprisonment (including probation, suspended sentences, and parole)²⁶ OR
- they have not been incarcerated within the last five years (even if still under an order of imprisonment, i.e. on probation or parole) AND the order of imprisonment (i.e. probation or parole) is not related to a felony conviction for election fraud or certain election offenses.²⁷

²² Note: Some registrars will only accept a specific document—called a voting rights certification, issued by the Office of Probation and Parole—that the appropriate corrections official (typically the local parole and probations office) will print from their internal database.

²³ LA. REV. STAT. §18:177 (A)1, [Louisiana Laws - Louisiana State Legislature](#).

²⁴ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/RegisterToVote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/default.aspx?OwnershipName=RegisterToVote&faqid=0>.

²⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §18:177, [Louisiana Laws - Louisiana State Legislature](#).

²⁶ 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).

²⁷ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:102, 18:104, 18:177(A)(1).

In other words, the only people who are barred from voting are those who are either in prison due to a felony conviction OR, if they were formerly incarcerated for their felony conviction and are still on parole/probation, have actively been on parole/probation for less than 5 years following a felony conviction.

Persons incarcerated, or who expect to be incarcerated in an institution inside or outside of their parish of registration and not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, may apply for an absentee ballot through a [General Application](#) and once accepted by the registrar of voters, vote by mail. See [Question 12](#). The voter must enclose a certification by a sheriff that the voter is not under an order of imprisonment for a felony. VOTE can also assist incarcerated voters with obtaining this certification.

14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** *My registration has been challenged, what should I do?*

If a voter's registration is challenged or canceled, the voter should contact their local [registrar of voters](#) as soon as possible to determine how best to proceed.

When the registrar has reason to believe that a voter no longer is qualified to be registered, or that a voter has changed residences, the registrar shall immediately notify the voter by sending the address confirmation card to the voter and place the voter on the inactive list of voters. However, a voter should not be placed on the inactive list of voters if there is address information available to the registrar from the United States Postal Service or its licensee which indicates the voter has moved to another address within the parish.²⁸

If a person's registration was denied or canceled and the registrar of voters determines that the registration was not processed correctly or was canceled through an error of the registrar of voters, the registrar of voters should process and approve the registration or correct the error and reinstate the registration.²⁹

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. **HOURS:** *When do the polls open/close on Election Day?*

Election day voting hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on all **Saturday** elections and 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on all **Tuesday** elections.

- The Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election will take place on **November 5, 2024**. Polls will be open from **6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**³⁰
- The Open General/Congressional Election will take place on **December 7, 2024**. Polls will be open from **7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**³¹

Voters in line at the polling place when polls close at 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.³²

²⁸ LA. REV. STAT. §18:193.

²⁹ LA. REV. STAT. §18:193.

³⁰ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Get Election Information*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/Pages/default.aspx>.

³¹ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Get Election Information*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/Pages/default.aspx>.

³² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:542.

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

Use the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) to find where to vote on election day, or call your parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#). Your voter information card received by mail also lists your polling place. If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions #8 and 9](#).

17. TIME OFF WORK: *Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?*

No laws require employers to give an employee time off to vote in the state of Louisiana.

18. CLOSING: *What if the polls close when I am already in line?*

All voters in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.³³

19. IDENTIFICATION: *What identification is required to vote?*

Louisiana voters who have it must present a valid form of photo identification to vote. Each voter is required to identify themselves by giving their name and address to a commissioner and by presenting

- A driver's license,
- A Louisiana special identification card,
- A Louisiana Wallet digital driver's license,
- A United States military identification card that contains the voter's name and picture, or
- Some other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the applicant.

If no photo ID is available, the voter may complete and sign an affidavit which includes, among other things, the voter's date of birth and mother's maiden name, in order to vote. Note that voters who cast their ballot by affidavit may be subject to challenge by law.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 their voter information card*; or by showing one primary and two secondary identification documents; or three secondary documents. Primary identification documents include:

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- 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

³³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:542.

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

- Medicare / Medicaid or health insurance card
- Proof of Louisiana residency such as a bank statement or utility bill.³⁵

*If a voter wants to obtain a free Louisiana Special ID card at any Office of Motor Vehicles by showing their voter information card but has misplaced their voter information card, they 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.³⁶

20. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

Yes. If the voter does not have the required ID, the voter may complete and sign an affidavit which includes, among other things, the voter’s date of birth and mother’s maiden name, in order to vote.³⁷ Voters who cast ballots by affidavit may be susceptible to a challenge.³⁸

21. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up 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 confirm they are in the correct precinct and parish. If the voter is in the correct place, 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 the voter’s name appears on the inactive list for the precinct register, they may cast a regular ballot upon affirming their current address.³⁹

If the voter is still not found after checking the inactive list but the voter believes their name was improperly omitted, the election commissioner is required to:

- 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 and confirmation from the Registrar that the applicant *is* registered to vote in the precinct, allow the applicant to sign a “precinct register correction affidavit” before a commissioner attesting that the applicant is a qualified registered voter and describing the error or omission in the voter records; and
- Preserve the applicant's original affidavit as part of the election records by placing it in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters" and attach the envelope to the precinct register after the termination of voting.⁴⁰

If the voter is found on the inactive list but the voter’s name was incorrectly printed, the election commissioner is required to:

- Allow the person to complete a voter registration application to update his voter registration record; and

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

³⁶ *Vote on election Day*, Louisiana Secretary of State, available at: <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteOnElectionDay/Pages/default.aspx>.

³⁷ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(A)(2)(b).

³⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(A)(2).

³⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:196.

⁴⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(3).

- Preserve the voter registration application as part of the election records by placing it in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters" and attach the envelope to the precinct register after the termination of voting.⁴¹

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote when there are questions about a voter's eligibility that must be resolved before the vote is counted.

A provisional voter during a federal election may be:

- a person whose name does not appear in the precinct register or supplemental register and who is not authorized to vote by Precinct Register Correction (PRC) form;
- a voter who is challenged and a majority of the commissioners determine that the challenge is valid; or
- a voter who votes in a federal election during court ordered extended poll hours (federal offices only)⁴²

A voter being offered a provisional ballot should 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 a regular ballot by affidavit; if the commissioners assert that the applicant is not eligible to vote and the voter declares themselves 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.⁴³

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).⁴⁴ But note, a provisional ballot should be a last resort.

A voter using a provisional ballot should write down the provisional ballot number for tracking purposes. 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.⁴⁵

Provisional Ballot Status: A voter who casts a provisional ballot and wants to know whether or not it was counted can check online by using the [provisional voter search](#) or by calling the Secretary of State Elections Division at 1-800-883-2805. When calling, make sure to have the provisional ballot number provided at the polling place. The voter should wait at least seven days after Election Day to call.

NOTE: Provisional ballots are not available for local or state elections.

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?

A voter will typically be given a provisional ballot for one of three reasons:

⁴¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:562(4).

⁴² See [Voting Provisionally \(la.gov\)](#)

⁴³ 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>.

⁴⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(A).

⁴⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:566(B)(2), 18:566(D)(2) (early voting).

- The voter is a person whose name does not appear in the precinct register or supplemental register and who is not authorized to vote by Precinct Register Correction (PRC) form;
- The person is a voter who is challenged and a majority of the commissioners determine that the challenge is valid; or
- The person is a voter who votes in a federal election during court ordered extended poll hours (federal offices only).⁴⁶

Provisional voting **only** applies to elections for **federal office** (Presidential Preference Primary, U.S. President, U.S. Senator and/or U.S. Representative). It does **not** apply to local or state elections. Provisional voting can take place either during early voting or on election day. **A provisional ballot should only be used as a last resort.**

If the voter is in the parish where they are registered to vote and they are just at the wrong precinct, the commissioner can direct the voter to the correct precinct by looking up their precinct information on the Secretary of State's [GeauxVote App](#). Otherwise, the voter can vote a paper provisional ballot for federal offices only after certifying in writing on the ballot that they are eligible to vote.⁴⁷ The voter will not be permitted to vote on the voting machine for state, local, or municipal offices; propositions; or state constitutional amendments and therefore, it is recommended that the voter go to their correct precinct so that they may vote on all candidates and questions.⁴⁸

If the voter is in a precinct that is not in the parish where they are registered to vote, they should also consider going to their correct parish and precinct. Again, the commissioner can direct the voter to the correct parish and precinct by looking up their precinct information on the Secretary of State's [GeauxVote App](#). Otherwise, the voter may vote a paper provisional ballot for federal offices only after certifying in writing on the ballot that they are eligible to vote. They will not be permitted to vote on the voting machine for state, local or municipal offices; propositions; or constitutional amendments and therefore it is recommended that they go to their precinct in the correct parish so that they may vote on all candidates and questions.⁴⁹

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

A paper provisional ballot in a federal election will be counted by the parish board of election supervisors if they find:

- The voter is an eligible voter in the federal election (including the specific federal office on the ballot in the precinct where you cast your vote); and
- The voter cast the ballot in the parish in which they are registered; and
- The voter has not voted another ballot in the election anywhere in the state.

The commissioner must provide the person voting provisionally with written instructions for how the person may check to see whether the vote was counted, and, if the provisional vote was not counted, the reason the vote was not counted.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18: 566.

⁴⁷ [Vote Provisionally \(la.gov\)](#)

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18: 566 (B)(2).

A voter using a provisional ballot should 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.

Provisional Ballot Status: A voter who casts a provisional ballot and wants to know whether or not it was counted can check online by using the [provisional voter search](#) or by calling the Secretary of State Elections Division at 1-800-883-2805. When calling, make sure to have the provisional ballot number provided at the polling place. The voter should wait at least seven days after Election Day to call.

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state defined as: Early Voting, In Person)

25. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Yes, Louisiana has early voting.⁵¹

Early voting is **October 18, 2024 – October 29, 2024** (excluding Sunday, October 20 and Sunday, October 27) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election on **November 5, 2024**.

Early voting is **November 22, 2024 – November 30, 2024** (excluding Sunday, November 24 and Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Open General/Congressional Election on **December 7, 2024**.

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

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

27. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

The registrars of voters will open their offices from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for each day of early voting. Voters who want to vote early for any election may do so in person at [designated](#) locations in their parish starting 14 days before any scheduled election and ending 7 days prior to any scheduled election.⁵² When one or more state holidays fall within an early voting period, the first day for early voting will begin 15 days prior to the election.

For presidential general elections, the early voting period runs from 18 days before an election to 7 days before the election (except Sundays and legal holidays). When one or more state holidays fall within that early voting period, the first day for early voting will begin 19 days prior to the election.

⁵¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1309; *Early Voting, in Person*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/voteearly/pages/default.aspx>.

⁵² *Id.*

This year, the early voting dates are as follows:

- Early voting is **October 18, 2024 – October 29, 2024** (excluding Sunday, October 20 and Sunday, October 27) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election on **November 5, 2024**.
- Early voting is **November 22, 2024 – November 30, 2024** (excluding Sunday, November 24 and Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Open General/Congressional Election on **December 7, 2024**.

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

For a detailed list of early voting locations in the voter’s parish, login to the [voter portal](#). For a complete list of early voting locations for the entire state, please refer to [early voting locations](#).

Early voting locations can also be found by downloading the [“Geaux Vote” app](#). Alternatively, the voter can call their [local parish registrar](#). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Question #8](#).

29. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don’t have an ID?

When voting early, voters will be asked to identify themselves with either a photo ID or by signing a voter affidavit.⁵³ 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.

30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?

If a voter requires assistance to vote in person during early voting, there are many accommodations available to all voters:

- If the voter uses a wheelchair or prefers to sit while voting, the voting machine can be adjusted to allow for sitting.
- If the voter is unable to read or write or due to a physical disability, including being visually impaired, the voter may receive assistance in completing the affidavit confirming their identity, and the registrar or their deputy will make a notation on the affidavit.
- Voting machines are audio accessible and anyone may use the audio voting keypad to vote. The voter should inform the registrar or poll commissioner before they begin voting that they want to use the audio voting keypad. The voter may also bring personal headphones to use with the audio voting keypad.
- The voter may request a 2X magnifier to use in voting. The magnifier is available in every polling place and during early voting at the Registrar of Voters Office. The early voting machines also allow you to adjust the screen text size.
- The voter may bring their own signature tool to assist in signing their name.
- The voter may also use the Braille Voting Instructions available at each Registrar of Voters’ Office and in each polling place.⁵⁴

⁵³ *Early Voting, in Person*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/voteearly/pages/default.aspx>.

⁵⁴ Geaux Vote Louisiana: Programs for Voters with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, & Nursing Home Residents at 5, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/DisabledSeniorAndNursingHomeVoterInformation.pdf>

- State law allows voters at least six minutes to vote, and more if the ballot includes complex propositions or constitutional amendments. However, if a voter needs assistance in voting or will be using the audio voting keypad, voters will be provided with 20 minutes to vote.

A voter requiring the assistance of another person must either file a statement with the registrar in person or by mail before the election if they need assistance in voting or complete an affidavit and/or provide specific disability documentation to the registrar or commissioner during early voting.⁵⁵ Acceptable disability documentation includes letters from a medical doctor, optometrist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner certifying to the disability, or a copy of current documentation showing eligibility for disability benefits from either social security, veteran's, paratransit services, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. The voter can also provide a completed and signed voter registration application attesting that the voter has a disability and needs assistance.⁵⁶

A voter is entitled to receive assistance from any person of their choice, including a family member, a friend, the registrar or their deputy (except a candidate), the voter's employer or employer's agent, the voter's union agent, or staff for a state residential facility where the voter is a resident.⁵⁷

Note: Effective January 1, 2025, a voter requiring assistance during early voting (along with the person assisting the voter) will be required to complete a voter assistance form and provide the name, address, and relationship to the voter of the assistant and attest whether the person assisting the voter was paid to provide assistance. If the voter is not marked for assistance in voting in the statewide voter registration database, the voter shall attest on the voter assistance form that the voter has a physical disability or is unable to read and requires assistance in voting. This law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.⁵⁸

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL **(in this state defined as: voting absentee)**

31. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

Not in most cases.

A voter who is physically disabled or who cannot appear in person to vote, either early or on election day because they are homebound, is eligible to apply for the [Automatic Absentee Ballot Program](#). If a voter chooses to enroll in the automatic absentee ballot program, they will remain in the program until an absentee by mail ballot is returned to the Registrar of Voters Office as undeliverable or they request to be removed from the program. Voters can enroll in the Automatic Absentee Ballot Program by submitting a [Disabled Application](#) for Absentee by Mail Ballot by 4:30pm on the fourth day before election day.⁵⁹ Proof of disability is required, and may include: a copy of a current mobility impairment

⁵⁵ *Id.* at 4.

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ See Act No. 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789>.

⁵⁹ Programs for Voters with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Nursing Home Residents, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Pages/DisabledElderlyCitizens.aspx>.

identification card; current proof of disability from a physician; or a copy of current documentation showing eligibility for Social Security disability benefits, veterans' disability benefits, paratransit services, benefits from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.⁶⁰

Senior Citizens (voters 65 years of age or older), when completing the [General Application](#), can choose to receive an absentee ballot for one election or to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all future elections.⁶¹

An individual can submit an absentee ballot application online or print and mail it.⁶² See [Question 35](#) for more information on how to apply for an absentee ballot.

32. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

Yes, in Louisiana you must have a [reason](#) to be eligible to vote by mail. Reasons include:

- military or overseas citizens;
- senior citizens (65+);
- voters with disabilities;
- students & professors located outside your parish of registration, or the spouse/dependent thereof;
- religious clergy assigned outside your parish of registration, or the spouse/dependent thereof;
- voters temporarily absent during early voting and election day;
- voters who moved to a new parish more than 100 miles from former residence within 30 days of election;
- persons involuntarily confined to an institution;
- sequestered jurors;
- voters hospitalized or who expect to be hospitalized during early voting and election day;
- voters employed upon state waters
- voters incarcerated for non-felony with sheriff's certification; and
- participants in the state's address confidentiality program.⁶³

If you registered to vote online or by mail and you have not previously voted in the parish, you are not eligible to vote absentee by mail and must vote in person the first time, either during early voting or on election day. Exceptions include:

- military or overseas citizens;
- senior citizens (65+);
- people who are homebound because of a disability;
- students, who submit a copy of student ID or fee bill with the request;
- citizens who appear in the registrar of voters office before the election to verify identity; and
- participants in the state's address confidentiality program.

⁶⁰ Id.

⁶¹ *Programs for Voters with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Nursing Home Residents*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Pages/DisabledElderlyCitizens.aspx>.

⁶² *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁶³ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0/>.

All elections are open to all eligible voters in Louisiana, **except** for the [Presidential Preference Primary](#) and the state and local party elections (Democratic and Republican State Central Committees and Parish Executive Committees) which are also held at the Presidential Preference Primary election.⁶⁴ The parties' rules govern who can vote in the Presidential Preference Primary election. Presently, only registered Democratic voters can vote in the Democratic Party primary, registered Republicans in the Republican Party primary, and registered Independents in the Independent Party primary. These primaries are closed to all other registered voters.

Note: Louisiana will be shifting to closed party primaries for *some* offices beginning in 2026 (including members of Congress, state school board, Public Service Commission, and state Supreme Court justices), but this law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.⁶⁵

Online Application: Voters may request an absentee ballot by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) and following these steps:

1. Click the "Search by Voter" button.
2. Type in your First Name, Last Name, Zip Code and Birth Month and Year and then click the "submit" button;
3. Click the "Request Absentee Ballot" link found under the Quick Links headings; and
4. Complete requested information and submit. **Note:** you must be logged in to the Voter Portal as the voter for whom the request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

Print and Mail Application: Voters may also print an application to request an absentee ballot which they can complete and deliver to their parish [registrar of voters](#). Delivery may be by U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, hand delivery or fax. If hand delivered or faxed, the application can only be for you or your immediate family member. The voter can select the application that applies to them:

- [General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#) (**Note:** voters only need witnesses if their signature is a mark; if their signature is not a mark, then they do not need a witness for the absentee ballot application)
- [Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
 - If a voter is physically disabled, they may apply through the [Disabled Application](#) and if not enrolled, they can enroll in the [disability program](#).
 - Once accepted by the registrar of voters, a voter may request a ballot for one election or they may request to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections.
- [Military or Overseas Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)

33. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

[General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#): Applicants must request a ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before election day.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*,

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

⁶⁵ See Act No. 1, <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1341043>.

⁶⁶ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,

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

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is November 1, 2024 by 4:30 p.m (other than military and overseas voters).
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is December 3, 2024 by 4:30 p.m (other than military and overseas voters).

[Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#): Applicants must request a ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before election day.⁶⁷

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is November 1, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is December 3, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

[Military, Overseas, or Hospitalized Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#): Military personnel and/or their dependents; U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.; or voters that are hospitalized must request their ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before election day.⁶⁸

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is November 4, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is December 6, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** [Can someone assist me with filling out the application?](#)

If a voter needs assistance in voting or needs additional information, the voter should contact the registrar of voters for more specific information. The list of registrars of voters is available [here](#).

If a voter is homebound and cannot vote without assistance, the voter may apply through the “[Disabled Application](#)” and, if not enrolled, enroll in [the program for voters with disabilities, senior citizens, and nursing home residents](#). The Disabled Application may be filled out with the help of another.

Note: Voters should also be aware of several new bills dealing with assistance with absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots that were passed in the summer of 2024. Note that litigation is ongoing regarding several of these new laws.

- Effective August 1, 2024, no person (except the immediate family of the voter) can assist with delivery of more than one absentee ballot application.⁶⁹ Therefore, while voters can and should get assistance with their absentee ballot applications as needed, they should make sure their assistant is not assisting multiple voters with their applications (unless their assistant is an immediate family member). Note that litigation is ongoing regarding this new law.
- Effective August 1, 2024, it will be a crime for anyone to be the witness on an absentee ballot for more than one person who isn't an immediate family member.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁶⁸ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁶⁹ See Act No. 317: [ViewDocument.aspx \(la.gov\)](#) (“No person except the immediate family of the voter, as defined by this Code, shall submit by any means or send for delivery by the United States Postal Service or commercial courier more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar.”).

⁷⁰ See Act No. 302, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380772>; see also Act No. 712, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382734> (effective July 1, 2025).

- Effective January 1, 2025, it will be unlawful to distribute an application form for an absentee by mail ballot to any person who has not *requested* the application. This law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.⁷¹
- Effective January 1, 2025, the secretary of state has the ability to distribute absentee by mail ballot applications if a state of disaster or emergency has been called by the governor within 45 days of an election. This law also does not take effect in the 2024 elections.⁷²

35. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

Voters can submit an application requesting an absentee ballot through the online system or print and mail an application directly to the correct [registrar of voters](#).⁷³

Online Application: Voters may request an absentee ballot by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) and following these steps:

1. Click the “Search by Voter” button.
2. Type in your First Name, Last Name, Zip Code and Birth Month and Year and then click the “submit” button;
3. Click the “Request Absentee Ballot” link found under the Quick Links headings; and
4. Complete requested information and submit. **Note:** you must be logged in to the Voter Portal as the voter for whom the request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

Print and Mail Application: Voters may also print an application to request an absentee ballot which they can complete and deliver to their parish [registrar of voters](#). Delivery may be by U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, hand delivery or fax. If hand delivered or faxed, the application can only be for you or your immediate family member. The voter can select the application that applies to them:

- [General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#) (**Note:** voters only need witnesses if their signature is a mark; if their signature is not a mark, then they do not need a witness for the absentee ballot application)
- [Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
 - If a voter is physically disabled, they may apply through the [Disabled Application](#) and if not enrolled, they can enroll in the [disability program](#).
 - Once accepted by the registrar of voters, a voter may request a ballot for one election or they may request to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections.
- [Military or Overseas Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)

View upcoming [election dates](#). You will need to list the election dates on your application.

Please be aware of standard mail delivery times and the return ballot deadline when applying for an absentee ballot to ensure your voted ballot is received by the registrar of voters before the deadline. It is

⁷¹ See Act No. 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789> (“Except as otherwise authorized by law, no person, organization, or entity shall distribute an application form for an absentee by mail ballot to any person who has not requested the application under the provisions of this Section.”).

⁷² See Act No. 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789>.

⁷³ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

recommended that if you are going to request an absentee ballot that you apply as soon as possible, as there is no start date to apply.

Disabled voters, military voters, and overseas voters may be eligible to receive their absentee ballot electronically. Voters can apply online (per online application above) or contact their registrar of voters for additional information.

Note: Voters should also be aware of several new bills dealing with assistance with absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots that were passed in the summer of 2024. Note that litigation is ongoing regarding several of these new laws.

- Effective August 1, 2024, no person (except the immediate family of the voter) can assist with delivery of more than one absentee ballot application.⁷⁴ Therefore, while voters can and should get assistance with their absentee ballot applications as needed, they should make sure their assistant is not assisting multiple voters with their applications (unless their assistant is an immediate family member).
- Effective August 1, 2024, it will be a crime for anyone to be the witness on an absentee ballot for more than one person who isn't an immediate family member.⁷⁵
- Effective January 1, 2025, it will be unlawful to distribute an application form for an absentee by mail ballot to any person who has not *requested* the application. This law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.⁷⁶
- Effective January 1, 2025, the secretary of state has the ability to distribute absentee by mail ballot applications if a state of disaster or emergency has been called by the governor within 45 days of an election. This law also does not take effect in the 2024 elections.⁷⁷

36. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

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. The signature on the application should match the other signatures of the voter that are on file. The registrar must provide the applicant with written reasons for rejecting an application or a ballot.⁷⁸

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 affidavit flap **must** be signed by the voter and a witness, who may be anyone, including a relative.

37. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

⁷⁴ See Act No. 317: [ViewDocument.aspx \(la.gov\)](https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380772) (“No person except the immediate family of the voter, as defined by this Code, shall submit by any means or send for delivery by the United States Postal Service or commercial courier more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar.”).

⁷⁵ See Act No. 302, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380772>; see also Act No. 712, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382734> (effective July 1, 2025).

⁷⁶ See Act No. 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789> (“Except as otherwise authorized by law, no person, organization, or entity shall distribute an application form for an absentee by mail ballot to any person who has not requested the application under the provisions of this Section.”).

⁷⁷ See Act No. 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789>.

⁷⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1307.

The absentee ballot does not have to be sent to your home, and you can have it sent somewhere else, including somewhere outside of Louisiana. Election officials can start mailing out absentee ballots 45 days before Election Day.⁷⁹

The absentee ballot, if sent to an address within the parish or an adjacent parish, can only be sent to the address at which the applicant is registered to vote, the mailing address on file with the registrar of voters, or an address at which the applicant regularly receives mail.

Absentee by mail ballots will not be sent to the following addresses:

1. The address of a political party.
2. The residential, business, or campaign address of a candidate, unless the address is for the candidate's ballot or a ballot of an immediate family member of the candidate.
3. A business address, unless the business address is the mailing address on file with the registrar of voters or an address at which the person regularly receives mail.
4. The address of a political organization as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 527.
5. The address of an organization which has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code, unless the organization address is the mailing address on file with the registrar of voters or an address at which the person regularly receives mail.

A post office box is insufficient.⁸⁰

38. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: [What if I have not requested a mail-in 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.

39. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: [How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?](#)

Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot [here](#).⁸¹

Note: Election officials can start mailing out absentee ballots 45 days before Election Day.⁸²

40. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: [I learned my mail-in 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 notice by forwardable mail to the applicant that their application is no longer valid. The applicant shall be required to submit a new application to the registrar and provide a current address before the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail again.⁸³

Each registrar of voters will review the absentee ballot envelope flaps when they are received for the following ballot envelope flap deficiencies:

⁷⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18: 1308.2

⁸⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1307.

⁸¹ See LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1303 and LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1307.

⁸² LA. REV. STAT. § 18: 1308.2.

⁸³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1307.

- a. missing voter signature;
- b. missing witness signature; and
- c. incomplete affidavit information, including, but not limited to, missing election date and voter information.

If upon receipt of an absentee ballot envelope flap, with one or more of the above identified deficiencies, the registrar of voters will immediately mail a written notice of the ballot envelope flap deficiency to the voter to give them an opportunity to cure the deficiency. If there is a telephone number or email address available in the voter's registration record, the registrar of voters will also attempt to contact the voter by telephone or email.

Curing deficiency: Voters contacted by the registrar of voters about a deficiency with their absentee ballot envelope flaps must appear in person at their registrar of voters office **no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before the election** to cure the ballot envelope flap deficiency.⁸⁴

- Under a new state law (Act No. 321), any absentee ballot with an absentee by mail certificate missing required information that was not cured by the voter in accordance with the provisions of LAC 31:I.301 et seq. shall be deemed challenged.⁸⁵ If a challenge is sustained, the vote will not be counted.

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

When voting absentee, check to make sure you have received all of the following from the registrar of voters:

- official ballot(s) (white paper ballot(s) for either the primary or general election);
- affidavit envelope (secrecy envelope to seal your voted ballot with affidavit flap to certify your information);
- return envelope (to mail secrecy envelope with voted ballot(s) to [registrar of voters](#)); and
- instructions for voting absentee.

Instructions for voting absentee for all voters (other than military and overseas citizens):

- **View and confirm** that it is the correct ballot by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) or downloading the free GeauxVote app on any smartphone or tablet.
- **Mark** the ballot - all pages, front and back - by completely filling in the oval next to your choice. Pencil, black pen, or blue pen are accepted. Do not make any stray or identifying marks on the ballot. Mark your own ballot unless you are eligible for assistance. Request a replacement ballot, if necessary.
- **Place** voted ballot (all pages) in the Ballot Envelope and seal. The Ballot Envelope has a perforated Affidavit flap attached. Do *not* detach/remove the Affidavit flap from the Ballot Envelope.
- **Complete** Section 1: Election Date and Voter Information. Print the date of election. Print name, parish, address, city/town, and ward/precinct if not pre-populated on the Ballot Envelope Affidavit flap. (Your ward/precinct are on the return address label of the Return Envelope, if needed). Print your mother's maiden name or "unknown".
- **Complete** Section 2: Certification and Signatures. Read the statements that you are attesting to in voting. Sign and print your name on the Affidavit flap in the presence of a witness. The witness must sign and print their name.

⁸⁴ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁸⁵ See SB 226 Act 321, [ViewDocument.aspx \(la.gov\)](#)

- **Complete** Section 3: Assistance Acknowledgement: If registered for assistance, the person assisting you must also sign the Acknowledgment at the bottom of the Affidavit flap. If you are not registered for assistance, leave blank.
- **Place** the sealed Ballot Envelope with attached completed Affidavit flap containing the voted ballot in the Return Envelope that is addressed to the registrar of voters. Add First-Class Mail postage, if mailing. Return ballot by mail, commercial courier, hand delivery or by fax. (Contact your registrar of voters for fax information.)⁸⁶

The ballot will be counted on election night by the parish board of election supervisors with a digital scanner or by hand.

42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** [Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?](#)

Yes. A voter is eligible for assistance if registered to vote as needing assistance, unable to read, or physically disabled including visual impairment. A voter may receive assistance from any person they choose, except from a candidate, employer, employer's agent, or union agent. A voter registration application requesting a change for assistance in voting or proof of disability must be filed with the registrar of voters either by mail or in person if a voter becomes disabled after registering and needs assistance in voting, unless assistance is needed because they are unable to read.⁸⁷ The person assisting a voter must inform the voter that a signature or mark constitutes certification that all statements on the affidavit are true and correct and subject to fine or imprisonment, or both, for false or incorrect statements.⁸⁸ If voting a mail ballot under the Nursing Home Program, no owner, operator, administrator, or employee of the nursing home may assist in voting.⁸⁹

Note: Effective August 1, 2024, no person (except the immediate family of the voter *or* an employee of the registrar of voters or the election division of the Department of State) can assist with the certificate of more than one voter.⁹⁰ Therefore, while voters can and should get assistance with their absentee ballots as needed, they should make sure their assistant is not assisting multiple voters with their applications (unless their assistant is an immediate family member or an employee as noted above). Note that litigation is ongoing regarding this new law.

43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** [What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop 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.⁹¹

⁸⁶ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

⁸⁷ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

⁸⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1310.

⁸⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1333.

⁹⁰ See Act No. 302, <https://www.democracydocket.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/LA-SB-155.pdf> ("No person except the immediate family member of the voter, as defined in this Code, or an employee of the registrar of voters or the election division of the Department of State shall assist with the certificate of more than one voter.").

⁹¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1308(C).

There are three exceptions: military voters and/or their dependents, overseas voters, and hospitalized voters - these voters may return their ballots to the parish registrar by 8:00 P.M. on Election Day.

44. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a 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.⁹²

45. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

Yes, an immediate family member of the voter may deliver the completed ballot. A signed statement giving authorization for the person delivering must be completed upon delivery, certifying the family member's relationship to the voter.⁹³

Note: Effective August 1, 2024, no person (except the immediate family of the voter) can assist with delivery of more than one absentee ballot.⁹⁴ Therefore, while voters can and should get assistance with their absentee ballots as needed, they should make sure their assistant is not assisting multiple voters with their applications (unless their assistant is an immediate family member).

46. LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT: What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

If a voter spoils their ballot, they may request a replacement ballot from their [registrar of voters](#) prior to submitting a voted ballot.⁹⁵

47. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot [here](#). Election officials can start mailing out absentee ballots 45 days before Election Day.⁹⁶

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 a ballot arrives on or before Election Day, vote it and deliver it in person to your parish Registrar before 4:30 p.m. on Election Day. 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 a voter is concerned about returning their ballot in time, they should contact their [parish registrar](#) for alternative return methods. Voters may be able to fax their voted ballot upon request.

⁹² U.S. Vote Foundation, *Ballot Return Options*, <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/ballot-return-options>.

⁹³ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>

⁹⁴ See Act No. 380, <https://www.democracydocket.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/LA-HB-476.pdf> ("No person except the immediate family of the voter, as defined by this Code, shall submit by any means or send for delivery by the United States Postal Service or commercial courier more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar.").

⁹⁵ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>

⁹⁶ LA R.S. 18: 1308.2

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

Additionally, voters who have not yet received their absentee ballots can request that the registrar of voters also send the ballot by fax. The ballot, an affidavit and a statement waiving your right to a secret ballot will be faxed, and you must complete these documents and return them along with your voted ballot, by mail or by fax.⁹⁷

48. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

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.⁹⁸ The voter should bring the incomplete absentee ballot to the precinct, if possible.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE **(in this state defined as: voting absentee)**

49. ELIGIBILITY: Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

In Louisiana, you must have a [reason](#) to be eligible to vote absentee.⁹⁹

Eligible persons include the military and their spouses, overseas citizens, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, participants in the Department of State’s Address Confidentiality Program, students and higher education instructors, clergy, persons hospitalized, persons temporarily absent from their parish, sequestered jurors, incarcerated persons who are not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, and in certain circumstances, persons employed on state waters or persons involuntarily confined in an institution for mental treatment.¹⁰⁰ See [Question #32](#) for full list.

Senior citizens and persons with disabilities may enroll in an absentee ballot program.¹⁰¹

Online Application: You may request an absentee ballot by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) and following these steps:

1. Click the “Search by Voter” button.
2. Type in your First Name, Last Name, Zip Code and Birth Month and Year and then click the “submit” button;
3. Click the “Request Absentee Ballot” link found under the Quick Links headings; and

⁹⁷ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

⁹⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1305.

⁹⁹ *Bill of Rights*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/BillOfRights.pdf>.

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*

¹⁰¹ *Id.*

4. Complete requested information and submit. **Note:** you must be logged in to the Voter Portal as the voter for whom the request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

Print and Mail Application: You may also print an application to request an absentee ballot which you can complete and deliver to your parish [registrar of voters](#). Delivery may be by U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, hand delivery or fax. If hand delivered or faxed, the application can only be for you or your immediate family member. The voter can select the application that applies to them:

- [General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#) (**Note:** you only need witnesses if your signature is a mark; if your signature is not a mark, then you do not need a witness for the absentee ballot application)
- [Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
 - If a voter is physically disabled, they may apply through the [Disabled Application](#) and if not enrolled, they can enroll in the [disability program](#).
 - Once accepted by the registrar of voters, the voter may request a ballot for one election or they may request to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections.
- [Military or Overseas Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)

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

Below are the deadlines for absentee ballot applications. However, given the variability of the mail, voters are encouraged to send in their applications as soon as possible.

[General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#): Applicants must request a ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before election day.¹⁰²

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is November 1, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is December 3, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

[Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#): Applicants must request a ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before election day.¹⁰³

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is November 1, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is December 3, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

[Military, Overseas, or Hospitalized Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#): Military personnel and/or their dependents; U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S.; or voters that are hospitalized must request their ballot by 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before election day.¹⁰⁴

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is November 4, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

¹⁰² *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰³ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹⁰⁴ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>.

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is December 6, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

51. IDENTIFICATION: 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 the voter and 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.

52. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Yes. Otherwise qualified voters who become hospitalized after early voting, were hospitalized during early voting and remain hospitalized, or are released from the hospital but confined by physician to bed during early voting and on election day may vote absentee by mail using the [General Application](#).¹⁰⁵ Once accepted by the registrar, the voter may absentee vote according to the following procedures:

- Applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. CST on the 4th day before the election, unless the voter submits physician or hospital documentation with their application, in which case, the deadline is 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before the election.
 - The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election is November 1, 2024 by 4:30 p.m, unless the voter submits physician or hospital documentation with their application, in which case, the deadline is 4:30 p.m. CST on November 4, 2024.
 - The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the December 7, 2024 Open General/Congressional Election is December 3, 2024 by 4:30 p.m, unless the voter submits physician or hospital documentation with their application, in which case, the deadline is 4:30 p.m. CST on December 2, 2024.
- A voter who feels they will not have time to vote timely by mail may request that the registrar transmit electronically a ballot along with a certificate and waiver of the right to a secret ballot, and the registrar shall do so. Alternatively, an immediate family member of the voter may pick up the necessary instructions, certificate, ballot, and envelope at the registrar's office.¹⁰⁶

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

Online Application: A voter may request an absentee ballot by logging in to the [Louisiana Voter Portal](#) and following these steps:

1. Click the "Search by Voter" button.
2. Type in your First Name, Last Name, Zip Code and Birth Month and Year and then click the "submit" button;
3. Click the "Request Absentee Ballot" link found under the Quick Links headings; and
4. Complete requested information and submit. **Note:** you must be logged in to the Voter Portal as the voter for whom the request is intended to electronically submit a request for an absentee ballot.

¹⁰⁵ See LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1303(D).

¹⁰⁶ [Medical Emergency Mail Voting](#) (SOS Vote by Mail-Hospitalized).

Print and Mail Application: A voter may also print an application to request an absentee ballot which they can complete and deliver to their parish [registrar of voters](#). Delivery may be by U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, hand delivery or fax. If hand delivered or faxed, the application can only be for you or your immediate family member.¹⁰⁷ The voter can select the application that applies to them:

- [General Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
- [Disabled Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)
 - If a voter is physically disabled, they may apply through the [Disabled Application](#) and if not enrolled, they can enroll in the [disability program](#).
 - Once accepted by the registrar of voters, they may request a ballot for one election or they may request to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all upcoming elections.
- [Military or Overseas Application for Absentee by Mail Ballot](#)

Note: Effective January 1, 2025, no person (except the immediate family of the voter) can assist with delivery of more than one absentee ballot application. Therefore, while voters can and should get assistance with their absentee ballot applications as needed, they should make sure their assistant is not assisting multiple voters with their applications (unless their assistant is an immediate family member). This law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.¹⁰⁸

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

Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot [here](#). Election officials can start mailing out absentee ballots 45 days before Election Day.¹⁰⁹

55. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and 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 notice by forwardable mail to the applicant that their application is no longer valid. The applicant shall be required to submit a new application to the registrar and provide a current address before the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail again.¹¹⁰

Each registrar of voters will review the absentee ballot envelope flaps when they are received for the following ballot envelope flap deficiencies:

- a. missing voter signature;
- b. missing witness signature; and
- c. incomplete affidavit information, including but not limited to missing election date and voter information.

¹⁰⁷ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

¹⁰⁸ See Act No. 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789> (“No person except the immediate family of the voter, as defined by this Code, shall submit by any means or send for delivery by the United States Postal Service or commercial courier more than one marked ballot application per election to the registrar.”).

¹⁰⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18: 1308.2

¹¹⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1307.

Curing deficiencies: If upon receipt of an absentee ballot envelope flap, with one or more of the above identified deficiencies, the registrar of voters will immediately mail a written notice of the ballot envelope flap deficiency to the voter to give them an opportunity to cure the deficiency. If there is a telephone number or email address available in the voter's registration record, the registrar of voters will also attempt to contact the voter by telephone or email.

If you are contacted by the registrar of voters about a deficiency with your absentee ballot envelope flap, you must appear in person at their registrar of voters office no later than 4:30 p.m. the day before the election to cure the ballot envelope flap deficiency.¹¹¹

- Any absentee ballot with an absentee by mail certificate missing required information that was not cured by the voter in accordance with the provisions of LAC 31:I.301 et seq. shall be deemed challenged.¹¹² If a challenge is sustained, the vote shall not be counted.

56. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

When voting absentee, check to make sure you have received all of the following from the registrar of voters:

- official ballot(s) (white paper ballot(s) for either the primary or general election);
- affidavit envelope (secrecy envelope to seal your voted ballot with affidavit flap to certify your information);
- return envelope (to mail secrecy envelope with voted ballot(s) to [registrar of voters](#)); and
- instructions for voting absentee.

Instructions for voting absentee for all voters (other than military and overseas citizens):

- **View and confirm** that you have your correct ballot by logging in to the Louisiana Voter Portal or downloading the free GeauxVote app on any smartphone or tablet.
- **Mark** your ballot - all pages, front and back by completely filling in the oval next to your choice. Pencil, black or blue pen are accepted. Do not make any stray or identifying marks on the ballot. You must mark your own ballot unless you are eligible for assistance. Request a replacement ballot, if necessary.
- **Place** voted ballot (all pages) in the Ballot Envelope and seal. The Ballot Envelope has a perforated Affidavit flap attached. Do not detach/remove the Affidavit flap from the Ballot Envelope.
- **Complete** Section 1: Election Date and Voter Information. Print the date of election. Print name, parish, address, city/town, and ward/precinct if not pre-populated on the Ballot Envelope Affidavit flap. (Your ward/precinct are on the return address label of the Return Envelope, if needed). Print your mother's maiden name or "unknown".
- **Complete** Section 2: Certification and Signatures. Read the statements that you are attesting to in voting. Sign and print your name on the Affidavit flap in the presence of a witness. The witness must sign and print their name.
- **Complete** Section 3: Assistance Acknowledgement: If registered for assistance, the person assisting you must also sign the Acknowledgment at the bottom of the Affidavit flap. If you are not registered for assistance, leave blank.

¹¹¹ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,

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

¹¹² See SB 226 Act 321, [ViewDocument.aspx \(la.gov\)](#)

- **Place** the sealed Ballot Envelope with attached completed Affidavit flap containing the voted ballot in the Return Envelope that is addressed to the registrar of voters. Add First-Class Mail postage, if mailing. Return ballot by mail, commercial courier, hand delivery or by fax. (Contact your registrar of voters for fax information.)¹¹³

57. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: *Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?*

A voter is eligible for assistance if registered to vote as needing assistance, unable to read, or physically disabled including visual impairment. A voter may receive assistance from any person they choose, except from a candidate, employer, employer's agent, or union agent. A voter registration application requesting a change for assistance in voting or proof of disability is required to be filed with the registrar of voters either by mail or in person if you become disabled after registering and need assistance in voting, unless assistance is needed because you are unable to read.¹¹⁴ The person assisting a voter must inform the voter that a signature or mark constitutes certification that all statements on the affidavit are true and correct and subject to fine or imprisonment, or both, for false or incorrect statements.¹¹⁵ If voting a mail ballot under the Nursing Home Program, no owner, operator, administrator, or employee of the nursing home may assist in voting.¹¹⁶

Note: Effective August 1, 2024, no person (except the immediate family of the voter *or* an employee of the registrar of voters or the election division of the Department of State) can assist with the certificate of more than one voter. Therefore, while voters can and should get assistance with their absentee ballots as needed, they should make sure their assistant is not assisting multiple voters with their applications (unless their assistant is an immediate family member or an employee as noted above).¹¹⁷

Note: Effective July 1, 2025, a witness who signs an absentee by mail ballot certificate must provide their mailing address in the appropriate space on the certificate¹¹⁸ and must be 18 years old.¹¹⁹ This law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.

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

¹¹³ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

¹¹⁴ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

¹¹⁵ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1310.

¹¹⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1333.

¹¹⁷ See Act No. 302, <https://www.democracymonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/LA-SB-155.pdf> (“No person except the immediate family member of the voter, as defined in this Code, or an employee of the registrar of voters or the election division of the Department of State shall assist with the certificate of more than one voter.”); see also Act No. 712, <https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382734> (“No person shall knowingly, wilfully, or intentionally . . . witness more than one certificate of a voter who is not an immediate family member . . .”).

¹¹⁸ See Act No. 302, <https://www.democracymonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/LA-SB-155.pdf> (“Each witness who signs an absentee by mail ballot certificate as required by the Louisiana Election Code shall provide his mailing address in the appropriate space on the certificate.”); see also Act No. 712, <https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382734> (“Each witness who signs an absentee by mail ballot certificate as required by the Louisiana Election Code shall provide his mailing address in the appropriate space on the certificate.”).

¹¹⁹ See Act No. 712, <https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1382734>.

Below are the deadlines for absentee ballots. However, given the variability of the mail, voters are encouraged to send in their ballots as soon as possible.

General and Disabled Voters: Voted ballots must be received by your parish [registrar of voters](#) by 4:30 p.m. CST on the day before election day.

Military, Overseas or Hospitalized Voters: Voted ballots by military personnel and/or their dependents, U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S., or voters that are hospitalized must be received by your parish registrar of voters by 8 p.m. CST on election day. If you feel that you will not be able to return your ballot timely, you may contact your [registrar of voters](#) for alternate methods to return your ballot.¹²⁰

59. **BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS:** *Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?*

A voted ballot can be returned ONLY to the [parish registrar of voters](#). However, there are several options for delivery:

- By Mail (includes commercial carriers).
- By Fax: Upon request submitted to the registrar of voters.
- By Hand Delivery: A voter or immediate family member of the voter may deliver the ballot to the registrar of voters (a signed statement must be completed upon delivery by anyone other than the voter, certifying their relationship to the voter) (no person except the immediate family of the voter shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar of voters).
- Emergency Provisions: There are emergency provisions in place for Military, Overseas and hospitalized voters. Please contact the registrar of voters for additional information.¹²¹

60. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** *Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?*

Yes, an immediate family member of the voter may deliver the ballot to the registrar of voters. A signed statement must be completed upon delivery by anyone other than the voter, certifying their relationship to the voter. No person except the immediate family of the voter shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar of voters.¹²²

61. **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.¹²³

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

First, the voter should try tracking the ballot online [here](#). If the website says the ballot was “mailed” but the voter has not received it yet, the voter still has options to cast their vote:

¹²⁰ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx> .

¹²¹ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx> .

¹²² *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>

¹²³ *Vote Absentee*, Louisiana Secretary of State,
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx#general>.

- If the ballot arrives on or before Election Day, the voter should vote it and deliver it in person to their parish Registrar before 4:30 p.m. on Election Day. An immediate family member may deliver the voted ballot in person (the family member must sign a certificate that they are authorized by the voter to deliver that ballot).
- If the voter is concerned about returning the ballot in time, they can contact their [parish registrar](#) for alternative return methods. Voters may be able to fax their voted ballot upon request.

Additionally, if the voter has not yet received the absentee ballot, they can request that the registrar of voters send the ballot by fax. The ballot, an affidavit, and a statement waiving the voter's 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.¹²⁴

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

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.¹²⁵ The voter should bring the incomplete absentee ballot to the precinct, if possible.

64. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

Louisiana refers to in-person absentee voting as Early Voting. See [Questions 27-28](#).

Early voting is October 18, 2024 – October 29, 2024 (excluding Sundays) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional Election on November 5, 2024.

Early voting is November 22, 2024 – November 30, 2024 (excluding Sundays and Thanksgiving) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Open General/Congressional Election on December 7, 2024.¹²⁶

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

65. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What should 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

¹²⁴ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingByMail.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingByMail&faqid=0>.

¹²⁵ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1305.

¹²⁶ *Early Voting, in Person*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov/electionsandvoting/vote/voteearly/pages/default.aspx>.

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.

Voters can also call their parish [Registrar of Voters Office](#) to check whether the polling place has changed or check this [“Polling Location Changes”](#) page. ***Should any problems or questions arise, the principal office of the registrar of voters in each parish will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.***

66. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I’m in line?

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

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.

Note that a visibly disabled voter and the person assisting them in voting may go to the front of the line at their polling place. See [Question 77](#) for more information for disabled voters.

67. **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.¹²⁷

68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?

As written, Louisiana law requires a 600-foot campaign-free-zone around polling places and early voting sites to provide voters 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.¹²⁸ To comply with the 600-foot campaign-free-zone requirement, voters should not wear a campaign shirt, hat, button, or pin when voting.¹²⁹ Election officials are explicitly prohibited from wearing any badge, button, pin, or other insignia identifying them with any political candidate or faction.

Electioneering in the state of Louisiana is defined as the following:

- Soliciting in any manner or by any means whatsoever any other person to vote for or against any candidate or proposition being voted on in such election.

¹²⁷ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingOnElectionDay.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingOnElectionDay&faqid=0&PF=1>.

¹²⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1462.

¹²⁹ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Vote*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/Pages/default.aspx>.

- Remaining within any such polling place or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance of any such polling place, after having been directed by an election commissioner, law enforcement officer, registrar, or deputy registrar to leave the premises or area of a polling place.
- Handing out or displaying campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature of any kind or description whatsoever which advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.
- Placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising which advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.
- Circulating a petition or seeking handwritten signatures to a petition.

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

To comply with the 600-foot campaign-free-zone requirement as written, voters should not wear a campaign shirt, hat, button, or pin when voting.¹³⁰ Louisiana does not expressly prohibit the taking of photos inside the polling place (there are now laws on the books regarding photography in polling places in Louisiana), but there have been reports of SoS rulings against taking a photo of the completed ballot specifically.

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Election officials are explicitly prohibited from wearing any badge, button, pin, or other insignia identifying themselves with any political candidate or faction.¹³¹

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

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.¹³²

Louisiana also has more general prohibitions against voter intimidation, including prohibiting:

- Intimidating, deceiving, or misinforming, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or nonvoting or voter registration or non-registration;¹³³
- Intimidating a person with violence, force, or threats with the intent to influence that person's decision to vote, or impede a person's access to and from a polling place;¹³⁴
- Obstructing, hindering, or delaying any voter on their way to or while returning home from any polling place or early voting site;¹³⁵ and
- Carrying or possessing a firearm at or near a polling place, irrespective of whether they maintain a concealed carry permit (except for peace officers performing official duties).¹³⁶

¹³⁰ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Vote*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/Pages/default.aspx>.

¹³¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1462(D).

¹³² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1462(A).

¹³³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1461.4(A)(1)–(3).

¹³⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1461.4(A)(3).

¹³⁵ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1461.4(A)(4).

¹³⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1461.7(C)(3).

If a voter feels uncomfortable outside of the polling place, they should seek out an election official or call the Hotline (1-866-OUR-VOTE).

72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

A voter may be challenged on election day by a commissioner, watcher or qualified voter before voting on any of the following grounds:

- not qualified to vote in the election;
- not qualified to vote in the precinct;
- not the person whose name is shown on the precinct register; or
- no photo ID and voting after completing a Voter Identification Affidavit.¹³⁷

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.¹³⁸ 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.¹³⁹

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.¹⁴⁰ See [Question #75](#) 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.¹⁴¹

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

Law enforcement officers can enter a polling place to preserve order, enforce election laws, or protect election officials from interference with the performance of their duties if they are summoned by a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge, or commissioner.¹⁴² In addition, law enforcement officers may be stationed at polling places if their regular work duties are to provide security for the

¹³⁷ Secretary of State, Frequently Asked Questions, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/BecomeACandidate/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/FAQsBeforeAnElection.aspx?OwnershipName=BecomeACandidate&faqid=0>; LA. REV. STAT. § 18:565.

¹³⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:565.

¹³⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:565.

¹⁴⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(A).

¹⁴¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1315.

¹⁴² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:1462; Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingOnElectionDay.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingOnElectionDay&faqid=0&PF=1>.

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

74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should 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;¹⁴³
- 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;¹⁴⁴
- The voter dies;¹⁴⁵
- 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;¹⁴⁶
- 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;¹⁴⁷ 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.¹⁴⁸

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.¹⁴⁹
- 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.¹⁵⁰
- If the voter has otherwise had their registration canceled, they must re-register to vote.¹⁵¹

¹⁴³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:110(D).

¹⁴⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:193(E).

¹⁴⁵ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:173.

¹⁴⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:193(G).

¹⁴⁷ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:176; *see also* LA. REV. STAT. § 18:102.

¹⁴⁸ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:102(b)(2), 18:172; *see* LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:176(B), 18:177(B).

¹⁴⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:177; *see* LA. REV. STAT. § 18:177.1.

¹⁵⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:177(B).

¹⁵¹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:199.

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 #4](#) for information on how to register.

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

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. A voter will typically be given a provisional ballot for one of three reasons:

- The voter is a person whose name does not appear in the precinct register or supplemental register and who is not authorized to vote by Precinct Register Correction (PRC) form;
- The person is a voter who is challenged and a majority of the commissioners determine that the challenge is valid; or
- The person is a voter who votes in a federal election during court ordered extended poll hours (federal offices only).¹⁵²

In federal elections, a voter must be offered 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.¹⁵³ 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).¹⁵⁴ **But note, a provisional ballot should be a last resort.** For more information, see [Questions #22, #23, and #24](#).

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.¹⁵⁵

Provisional Ballot Status: A voter who casts a provisional ballot and wants to know whether or not it was counted can check the status online using the [Provisional Voter Search](#) or call the Secretary of State Elections Division at 1-800-883-2805. Wait at least seven days after Election Day to call.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

76. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

¹⁵² LA. REV. STAT. § 18: 566.

¹⁵³ 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>.

¹⁵⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:566(A).

¹⁵⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:566(B)(2), 18:566(D)(2) (early voting).

Yes. In Louisiana, you have a right to ask a commissioner to instruct you on how to operate the voting machine before voting.¹⁵⁶ 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, an 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 the questions below for voters who are blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English.

For additional information for voters with disabilities, please contact [Disability Rights Louisiana](#), including by calling their Hotline at 1-800-960-7705.

77. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

Generally, yes; voters in Louisiana have a right to vote in a polling place that meets accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities.¹⁵⁷

View the [Programs for Voters with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Nursing Home Residents](#) for comprehensive information on voting programs for the physically disabled, senior citizens and residents of a nursing or veterans home.

A visibly disabled voter and the person assisting them in voting shall go to the front of the line at their polling place.

If a voter requires assistance to vote in person, there are many accommodations available to all voters:

- If the voter uses a wheelchair or prefers to sit while voting, the voting machine can be adjusted to allow for sitting.
- If the voter is unable to read or write or due to a physical disability, including being visually impaired, the voter may receive assistance in completing the affidavit confirming their identity, and the registrar or their deputy will make a notation on the affidavit.
- Voting machines are audio accessible and anyone may use the audio voting keypad to vote. The voter should inform the registrar or poll commissioner before they begin voting that they want to use the audio voting keypad. The voter may also bring personal headphones to use with the audio voting keypad.

¹⁵⁶ *Id.*

¹⁵⁷ 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 handicapped 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>

- The voter may request a 2X magnifier to use in voting. The magnifier is available in every polling place and during early voting at the Registrar of Voters Office. The early voting machines also allow you to adjust the screen text size.
- The voter may bring their own signature tool to assist in signing their name.
- The voter may also use the Braille Voting Instructions available at each Registrar of Voters' Office and in each polling place.
- State law allows voters three minutes to vote. However, if a voter needs assistance in voting or will be using the audio voting keypad, voters will be provided with 20 minutes to vote.

If voters require additional 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).¹⁵⁸

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 have a physical disability and require assistance in voting.¹⁵⁹ 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 provided by the Secretary of State wherein the voter attests that they have a physical disability and require assistance in voting.¹⁶⁰

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).¹⁶¹ Each Election Day and early voting precinct is equipped with a voting machine that can provide an audio ballot.¹⁶² 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.¹⁶³ If the voter elects to vote using such a method, the commissioner must assist the voter with the headset and instruct the

¹⁵⁸ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(D).

¹⁵⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(D)(1)(a).

¹⁶⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(D)(2)(a).

¹⁶¹ 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>.

¹⁶² 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>.

¹⁶³ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(C).

voter and the person selected to assist the voter on the use of the audio ballot.¹⁶⁴ Voters who need assistance using the audio voting keypad to cast their vote should ask for help.¹⁶⁵ Voters using the audio ballot machine are allowed to remain in the voting machine for up to 20 minutes.¹⁶⁶

If a voter is uncertain about the accessibility of their voting site, they can call the HAVA and Disability Program at the Secretary of State's Office (225.922.0900 or 800.883.2805).¹⁶⁷ Voters can also contact [Disability Rights Louisiana](#), including by calling their Hotline at 1-800-960-7705.

Note: Effective January 1, 2025, a voter getting assistance on Election Day, along with the person assisting the voter, must complete a voter assistance form and provide the name, address, and relationship to the voter of the person assisting the voter and attest whether the person assisting the voter was paid to provide assistance. This law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.¹⁶⁸

78. 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?

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.¹⁶⁹

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.¹⁷⁰ 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.¹⁷¹ 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.¹⁷² For more detailed information, voters can contact [Disability Rights Louisiana](#), including by calling their Hotline at 1-800-960-7705.

Note: Effective January 1, 2025, a voter getting assistance on Election Day, along with the person assisting the voter, must complete a voter assistance form and provide the name, address, and relationship to the voter of the person assisting the voter and attest whether the person assisting the voter was paid to provide assistance. This law does not take effect in the 2024 elections.¹⁷³

79. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

¹⁶⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(C).

¹⁶⁵ LA. REV. STAT. §§ 18:106, 18:564; for accessibility guidelines, see LA. ADMIN. CODE tit 31, pt. I, § 105 (2018).

¹⁶⁶ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:563(C)(2).

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

¹⁶⁸ See Act 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789>.

¹⁶⁹ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(B).

¹⁷⁰ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(A); 18:564(C).

¹⁷¹ Louisiana Secretary of State, *Frequently Asked Questions*, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/VotingOnElectionDay.aspx?OwnershipName=VotingOnElectionDay&faqid=0&PF=1>.

¹⁷² LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(E).

¹⁷³ See Act 317, <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1380789>.

Voters who cannot read can have a person of their choice assist them in voting or may choose to cast a vote using an audio ballot.¹⁷⁴ 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.¹⁷⁵

Voters can also call one of our sister Election Protection Hotlines:

- Spanish: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)
- Asian Languages: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)
- Arabic: 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)

80. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

Curbside voting has not yet been implemented in Louisiana.

81. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Please contact your Registrar of Voters Office.

Yes, voters are allowed to bring reference materials into the voting booth.

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. VOTER REGISTRATION SOLICITATION: Can I help others register to vote?

Third-party voter registration organizations are now required to register with the Secretary of State’s office prior to conducting a voter registration drive.¹⁷⁶ “Third-party voter registration organization” means any individual or entity that solicits, distributes, or collects voter registration applications and that is not required by law to do so. Organizers can register in-person either at the Secretary of State’s office in Baton Rouge or at their parish [registrar of voters](#). Online registration is also available by emailing outreach@sos.la.gov.

Registration involves filling out a “[Voter Registration Drive Contact Form](#),” which may be returned to your parish [Registrar of Voters](#), the Secretary of State’s Office, or emailed to outreach@sos.la.gov.

Anyone conducting a voter registration drive must submit all completed voter registration applications to their parish [registrar of voters](#) either within 30 days of their completion or no later than the date provided in R.S. 18:135(A)(1), whichever comes first.

The following are NOT considered “third party voter registration organizations:” (1) an individual who only seeks to encourage or assist a member of his immediate family in registering to vote, (2) a registrar of voters or employee thereof, (3) the Secretary of State or employee thereof who performs election duties, and (4) any other individual or entity required by law to perform voter registration activities.

NOTE: Anyone conducting **fully electronic** drives that **only** provide access to the electronic [GeauxVote Online Voter Registration System](#) to register voters will not be required to register their drives.

¹⁷⁴ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(A).

¹⁷⁵ LA. REV. STAT. § 18:564(B).

¹⁷⁶ See Act No. 701, which went into effect August 1, 2024, available here: [ViewDocument.aspx \(la.gov\)](#)

For additional information, visit the Secretary of State's website [here](#).

83. VOTING WHILE UNHOUSED: What if I am unhoused? Can I still vote?

Yes. If the voter does not have a home, they can still vote. Always make sure to check the ID requirements as IDs can also be an obstacle for voters without a permanent address. See [Question 5](#) for what ID is required to register to vote and see [Question 19](#) for what identification is required to vote.

Voters must provide a "Residence Address" for voter registration purposes. "Residence Address" means the address where you live and are registering to vote. Individuals without a permanent or fixed home may draw a map in the designated box labeled "Give Location" on their [voter registration form](#) to indicate the exact location of where they stay. They should write the names of the crossroads (streets) nearest to residence and draw an X to show their primary residence. They may use dots to indicate any schools, churches, stores, or landmarks near their residence, and include the name of the landmark. Do not use a post office box for your "residence address."

- If the individual does not receive postal service at their residence address, they must provide a separate Mailing Address on their voter registration application, including the number, street, city, state, and zip code. A post office box CAN be used for a mailing address.

84. INACTIVE VOTER STATUS: My voter registration status is "inactive." Am I eligible to vote?

Yes. If an inactive voter presents to vote and has not changed their address, the person will be allowed to vote but will be asked to confirm their address when voting.¹⁷⁷ If the voter's residential address or the address where they receive mail has changed from the address used when they registered to vote or last changed their voter registration record, see [Question 8](#).

An inactive voter is someone whose registration address was not able to be verified by their parish registrar of voters during the annual canvass or correspondence sent to the address on file has been returned undeliverable. If a registrant who has failed to respond to an address confirmation notice and whose name appears on the [inactive voter list](#) does not vote in any election from the date the registrant is placed on the inactive list of voters until the day after the second regularly scheduled general election for federal office held after such date, the registrar shall cancel the registration of the registrant.¹⁷⁸

For more information on inactive voter status, see the Secretary of State's website [here](#).

85. QUESTIONS: 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.

If you need a ride to the polls or access to other voting resources, call [Power Coalition for Equity and Justice](#) at 504-962-6910.

For additional information for voters with disabilities, please contact [Disability Rights Louisiana](#), including by calling their Hotline at 1-800-960-7705.

¹⁷⁷ R.S. 18:196 (available [here](#)).

¹⁷⁸ R.S. 18:196 (available [here](#)).

For additional information regarding voting access or rights restoration support, please contact [Voters Organized to Educate](#).

For additional information regarding services provided by various sections of the Elections Division, please use the following directory.¹⁷⁹

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

¹⁷⁹ *Contact Us*, Louisiana Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/ContactUs/Pages/default.aspx>.