EXCERPTS FROM THE
LOUISIANA ELECTION CODE

TITLE 18 OF THE LOUISIANA
REVISED STATUTES

As Amended through the 2018 Regular Session. (R.S. 18:1251 - R.S. 18:1280)
CHAPTER 6. NATIONAL ELECTIONS

PART I. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

§1251. Election; time of electing

A. In every fourth year after an election of a president and vice president of the United States, the electors of president and vice president of the United States, hereinafter referred to as "presidential electors," shall be chosen by election by the qualified electors of the state. The election shall be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November and shall be conducted and the returns made in accordance with the provisions of this Title, except insofar as such provisions may conflict with the provisions of this Part.

B. One presidential elector shall be chosen from among the qualified electors of each congressional district and two presidential electors shall be chosen from among the qualified electors of the state at large.


§1252. Qualifications

A. No person shall be elected as a presidential elector who is not a qualified elector of the district for which he is chosen, unless he is elected at large, in which case he shall be a qualified elector of the state. A candidate for presidential elector may be registered to vote with or without a declaration of party affiliation.

B. No United States senator, representative in Congress, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States shall be elected a presidential elector.


§1253. Nominating by political parties; certificates of nomination

A. Nominations for candidates for presidential electors made by each recognized political party shall be made in such manner as shall be determined by a resolution adopted by the state central committee of the
respective recognized political party. Each recognized political party shall nominate a full slate of candidates for elector, one from each congressional district and two from the state at large.

B. The names of candidates for presidential elector nominated by each recognized political party shall be filed with the secretary of state by a sworn statement, which shall be known as a certificate of nomination. The certificate of nomination shall be sworn to, signed, and filed by the chairman and secretary of the state central committee, except when the state central committee orders the nomination of presidential electors by a convention, in which case the chairman and secretary of the convention shall swear to, sign, and file the certificate of nomination.

C. Each certificate of nomination shall contain: (1) the name and place of residence, including the street and number thereof, if any, of each candidate for presidential elector; (2) the particular office of presidential elector for which each is nominated, that is, the district for which each has been chosen or the designation "At large" in the case of the two at large candidates; (3) the name of the recognized political party making the nomination; (4) the names of the candidates for president and vice president supported by the party. In addition, a certificate of nomination filed by the chairman and secretary of a state central committee shall certify the adoption by the state central committee of the resolution of the committee which authorized the method of nomination, the method of nomination used, and the time and place where the nomination took place. Similarly, a certificate of a nominating convention also shall certify the adoption by the state central committee of the resolution which authorized the convention, the time and place where the convention was held, and the election of the chairman and secretary. Each certificate of nomination filed with the secretary of state shall be accompanied by the notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying that the certificate constitutes his acceptance of the nomination.

D. The certificate of nomination shall constitute full proof of the nominations it recites and shall entitle the candidates for electors to each receive the number of votes received in the election by the party's candidate for president.

E. If the nominees for the offices of president and vice president nominated by a national convention of a recognized political party, together with a slate of candidates for the offices of presidential electors to support such nominees, are not properly certified to the secretary of state by the state central committee of that party prior to 4:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is to be held, the national chairman of the political party, after notifying the chairman of the state central committee of that political party, shall certify a slate of electors to support such nominees by 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August. Such certificate filed with the secretary of state shall be accompanied by the notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying that the certificate constitutes his acceptance of the nomination.

F. If the certificate of nomination and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector are not filed timely with the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall endorse the date and time of receipt upon all documents and shall return them forthwith, either personally or by registered or certified mail, to the national chairman of the political party.


§1254. Slates of independent candidates; nominating petitions and qualifying by payment of qualifying fees

A. A slate of independent candidates for presidential elector may be nominated by nominating petition or may qualify by the payment of a qualifying fee of five hundred dollars. Such qualifying fee shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:464(A). The period for filing such qualifying fee shall begin on the third Tuesday in July and shall end at 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is to be held. Each qualifying fee shall be accompanied
by the notice of candidacy and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying his acceptance of
the nomination. An independent candidate for presidential elector may be registered to vote with or without
a declaration of party affiliation.

B. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Part, a nominating petition for a slate of candidates
for the offices of presidential elector shall be signed, filed, and certified as provided in Chapter 5 of this Title
for state candidates voted on throughout the State.

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

D. Any slate of candidates for presidential elector that qualifies by payment of a qualifying fee shall be
a full slate of candidates for elector, one from each congressional district and two from the state at large, and
shall submit with the qualifying fee the following information for each candidate:

(1) The candidate's name;
(2) The address of his domicile;
(3) The office sought;
(4) The names of the candidate for president and the candidate for vice president whom the candidates
   for elector support; however, neither the candidate for president nor the candidate for vice president
   supported by the slate of candidates for elector shall be a candidate for that office supported by a recognized
   political party or by a slate of candidates for elector who have previously filed a nominating petition or
   qualified by the payment of a qualifying fee for that election;
(5) The recognized political party, if any, with which each candidate for presidential elector is affiliated;
(6) In not more than three words, the political principle that he represents; and
(7) The date of the election for which he seeks to qualify.

E. If the notice of candidacy and notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector, together with the
qualifying fee or a nominating petition, are not filed timely with the secretary of state, the secretary of state
shall endorse the date and time of receipt upon all documents and shall return them forthwith, either
personally or by registered or certified mail, to the candidate or the person who filed them.

Acts 2013, No. 383, §1, eff. June 18, 2013.
§1255. Filing nominating petitions

A. All nominating petitions of presidential electors shall be filed with the secretary of state during the period beginning on the third Tuesday in July and ending at 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is to be held. The secretary of state shall endorse on the nominating petitions the date and time of filing. Any nominating petitions submitted other than during such period shall be null and void and shall not be accepted by the secretary of state.

B. All nominating petitions filed with the secretary of state shall be open to public inspection, and the secretary of state shall preserve them in his office for at least one year.


§1256. Withdrawal of candidate

A.(1) Any person nominated as a candidate may withdraw his candidacy by written statement of withdrawal made, signed, and acknowledged before an officer qualified to administer oaths. The original of the statement shall be filed prior to 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day after the close of the qualifying period with the secretary of state, who shall note thereon the date it was filed.

(2) The secretary of state shall not accept a statement of withdrawal that does not satisfy the requirements of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. The secretary of state shall endorse the date and time of receipt of such a notice of withdrawal and return the notice forthwith, either personally or by registered or certified mail.

B. A statement of withdrawal filed in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section shall become effective on the date of the filing. The effect of the withdrawal shall be as provided in R.S. 18:502.


§1257. Objections to certificates of nomination, nominating petitions, and notices of candidacy for those qualifying by payment of fee

Certificates of nomination for presidential electors, nominating petitions filed in apparent conformity with the provisions of this Part, and notice of candidacy filed by slates of candidates who qualify by the payment of a qualifying fee, are deemed to be regular, unless an action objecting to their regularity is commenced as otherwise provided in this Title for contests of candidacy.


§1258. Vacancy in nomination; procedure; death of candidate

A vacancy by reason of death or withdrawal among the slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector nominated by a recognized political party, whether by a convention or otherwise, shall be filled in the manner which shall be provided by the state central committee of the party. In all other cases, if the candidate who withdrew or died is elected, the remaining presidential electors who are elected shall vote to fill the vacancy as provided in R.S. 18:1264.


§1259. Arrangement of ballot; designation of party candidates

A. In any year in which presidential electors are to be elected, the secretary of state shall arrange the voting machine ballot in such manner that the names of candidates for president and vice president shall appear on the ballot in the first column, beginning at the top and proceeding downward. If necessary, the listing of the names of candidates for president and vice president may continue in the second and succeeding
columns. The names of the presidential electors shall appear on the ballot in the manner as provided for in Subsection B of this Section.

B. (1) The ballot shall be so arranged that the names of the candidate for president and the candidate for vice president nominated by each recognized political party, by nominating petition, or by filing of notices of candidacy accompanied by a qualifying fee shall appear prominently together with the name of the presidential candidate on top and the name of the vice presidential candidate directly underneath.

(2) Directly to the left of the names of the presidential and vice presidential candidates shall appear:

   (a) If nominated by a recognized political party, the name of the party and such national party emblem, if any, or state party device, if any, as the state central committee of the party shall direct, and

   (b) If nominated by a nominating petition or by the filing of notices of candidacy, the political principal which the candidates support, as stated on the nominating petition or on the notices of candidacy, if any, and the words "Nominating Petition" or the abbreviation "Nom. Petition" shall appear if nominated by petition.

(3) Immediately below the name of the party, or, if nominated by a nominating petition, the words "Nominating Petition" or the abbreviation "Nom. Petition" shall appear the word "Electors".

(4) Immediately below the word "Electors" the names of the presidential electors nominated in support of the nominees for president and vice president of that party or political principal shall appear.

(5) On a voting machine, there shall be a button or candidate selection button with which to mark the ballot opposite each pair of names. On paper ballots, there shall be a single box within which to mark the ballot opposite each pair of names.

(6) In preparing the ballots, the secretary of state shall arrange the names of the candidates of recognized political parties alphabetically, according to the names of the parties, followed by the names of the candidates nominated by nominating petitions and by the filing of notices of candidacy, listed alphabetically by designation of political principal.

C. No candidate nominated other than by a recognized political party shall use the name of any recognized political party in the political or party designation of such candidate.

D. The ballot shall contain the following statement: "A vote for candidates for president and vice president is a vote for each of the electors supporting those candidates."


§1260. Votes for presidential electors

A vote for a presidential and a vice presidential candidate shall be a vote for each of the electors nominated in support of those candidates, whether by a recognized political party, by a nominating petition, or by the filing of notices of candidacy accompanied by a qualifying fee.


§1261. Determination of election results; tie vote; issuance of certificate

A. The secretary of state shall ascertain from the returns the slate of candidates who received the greatest number of votes cast for presidential electors. If two or more of the slates of candidates having the highest number of votes receive the same number of votes, none of the slates of candidates is elected, and the slate of candidates elected shall be selected by a public drawing of lots conducted by the state board of election supervisors from among the slate of candidates who received such highest number of votes in the election. The public drawing of lots shall be conducted at the state capitol on a day and at a time fixed by the board.
within one week after the results of the election for that office become official. The candidates involved shall be given at least three days' written notice of the time and place of the public drawing of lots.

B. The governor shall issue a certificate of election to the persons elected and authorize them to cast the vote of the state for president and vice president.


§1262. Credentials of electors

The governor shall transmit the credentials of presidential electors to the appropriate federal officials in the manner provided by the constitution and laws of the United States.


§1263. Meeting of electors

The electors shall meet in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge on the day appointed for their meeting by federal law and shall execute the duties and services enjoined upon them by the constitution and laws of the United States, in the manner therein prescribed. Notice of the time and place of such meeting shall be transmitted to each elector by the secretary of state no later than seven days preceding the day of the meeting.


§1264. Vacancies; procedure

If one or more of the presidential electors fails for any cause to attend at the appointed place at 12:00 noon of the day prescribed for their meeting, the other electors shall fill the vacancy by voice vote by no later than 4:00 p.m. Any person selected to fill such a vacancy in the office of presidential elector from a congressional district shall be a qualified elector of the district for which the vacancy occurred.


§1265. Compensation

Presidential electors shall be paid fifty dollars for attendance at the meeting of electors and shall be paid the same mileage allowance as is provided for state officers and employees on official state business. Such compensation and mileage allowance shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the office of the secretary of state for such purpose.


PART II. UNITED STATES CONGRESS

§1271. Applicable laws

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Part, United States senators and representatives in Congress shall be elected as provided in this Title for the election of public officers.


§1272. United States senators; representatives in congress; time of electing

A. All general elections for representatives in congress shall be held on the fifth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. The primary election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year.
B. One United States senator shall be elected in the year 1980, and every six years thereafter, at the same
time and at the same polling places as representatives in Congress. In the same manner, one United States
senator shall be elected in the year 1978, and every six years thereafter.


§1273. Opening and closing of qualifications for candidates for United States senators and
representatives in Congress

When a member of the United States Senate or members of the United States House of Representatives
are to be elected at the congressional election or at a special election, qualifications for candidates shall open
and close as provided in Chapter 5 of this Title.


§1274. Declaration of candidacy by congressional candidates

Any person desiring to become a candidate in a primary election for United States senator or
representative in Congress shall file notification of his candidacy and declaration of his qualifications as
provided for state candidates in Chapter 5 of this Title.


§1275. United States senator and representative in Congress; qualifications

A. No person shall be a United States senator who has not attained the age of thirty years and who has
not been a citizen of the United States for nine years and who is not, when elected, an inhabitant of this state.

B. No person shall be a representative in Congress who has not attained the age of twenty-five years and
who has not been a citizen of the United States for seven years and who is not, when elected, an inhabitant
of this state.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the qualifications for United States
senators and members of the United States House of Representatives as provided in this Section shall be
exclusive.


§1276.1. Congressional districts

Louisiana shall be divided into six congressional districts, and the qualified electors of each district shall
elect one representative to the United States House of Representatives. The districts shall be composed as
follows:

(1) District 1 is composed of Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21,
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 54,
55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84,
85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 117, 118, 119, 120,
121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 134, 136, 192, 198, 199, 246, 247, 248, 1-G, 1-H,
Precincts 3-2, 3-3, 3-6, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 8-1, 9-1, 9-2, 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4, 10-5, 10-6, 10-7, 10-8,
10-9, 10-10, 10-11, 10-12, 10-13, 10-14, 10-15, 10-16, 11-1 and 11-2 of Lafourche Parish; Precincts 3-20,
(2) District 2 is composed of Precincts 30, 36, 37, 39, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 78, 80, 83, 84, 85, 88, 89 and 90 of Terrebonne Parish.

(3) District 3 is composed of Acadia Parish; Calcasieu Parish; Cameron Parish; Iberia Parish; Jefferson Davis Parish; Lafayette Parish; Precincts 2-2, 2-6, 2-8 and 3-3 of St. Landry Parish; St. Martin Parish; St. Mary Parish and Vermilion Parish.

(4) District 4 is composed of Allen Parish; Beauregard Parish; Bienville Parish; Bossier Parish; Caddo Parish; Claiborne Parish; De Soto Parish; Evangeline Parish; Natchitoches Parish; Red River Parish; Sabine Parish; St. Bernard Parish; St. Tammany Parish; Precincts 40, 40A, 41, 42, 42A, 43, 44, 45, 45A, 46, 47, 48, 49, 70, 70A, 71, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 119, 121B, 122, 122A, 123, 124, 127A, 129, 129A, 133, 133A, 137, 137A, 137B, 137C, 137D, 139, 141, 141A, 143, 145, 149, 149A and 151 of Tangipahoa Parish and Precincts 15, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 78, 80, 83, 84, 85, 88, 89 and 90 of Terrebonne Parish.
Parish; Precincts 1-2, 1-2A, 1-3, 1-3A, 1-5, 1-14, 1-19, 1-23, 1-24, 2-1, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-7, 2-9, 3-2, 4-8, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-8, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, 6-10, 6-11, 6-11A, 6-13, 6-14, 6-15, 6-16 and 6-16A of St. Landry Parish; Union Parish; Vernon Parish and Webster Parish.

(5) District 5 is composed of Avoyelles Parish; Caldwell Parish; Catahoula Parish; Concordia Parish; East Carroll Parish; Precincts 1-2B, 3-1A, 3-1B, 3-1C, 3-2A, 3-2B, 4-1A, 4-1B, 4-2, 5-1, 5-3, 7-1, 8-1A and 8-1B of East Feliciana Parish; Franklin Parish; Grant Parish; Jackson Parish; La Salle Parish; Lincoln Parish; Madison Parish; Morehouse Parish; Ouachita Parish; Rapides Parish; Richland Parish; Precincts 1-1 and 6-1 of St. Helena Parish; Precincts 1-1, 1-4, 1-4A, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-13, 1-15A, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-20, 1-21, 1-22, 1-25, 1-26, 1-26A, 1-28, 1-28A, 1-29, 3-1, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-10, 4-11, 4-12, 4-12A and 14 of St. Landry Parish; Precincts 1-2, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 26, 27A, 28, 28A, 33, 101, 102, 103, 104, 104A, 105, 106, 106A, 106B, 107, 108, 109, 109A, 110, 111, 111A, 112, 114, 115B, 116, 117, 118, 120, 120A, 120B, 121, 121A and 125 of Tangipahoa Parish; Tensas Parish; Washington Parish; West Carroll Parish; West Feliciana Parish and Winn Parish.

(6) District 6 is composed of Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 41, 43, 58 and 61 of Ascension Parish; Precincts 2-1, 2-3, 3-1, 4-1, 4-2, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 7-2, 8-1 and 9-1 of Assumption Parish; Precincts 1-1, 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-12, 1-33, 1-34, 1-35, 1-37, 1-38, 1-39, 1-40, 1-41, 1-42, 1-43, 1-44, 1-46, 1-47, 1-48, 1-49, 1-52, 1-53, 1-54, 1-55, 1-56, 1-57, 1-59, 1-60, 1-64, 1-65, 1-66, 1-68, 1-69, 1-70, 1-71, 1-72, 1-73, 1-74, 1-75, 1-78, 1-80, 1-81, 1-82, 1-83, 1-87, 1-88, 1-89, 1-90, 1-97, 1-98, 1-99, 1-102, 1-103, 1-105, 1-107, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-10, 2-12, 2-14, 2-15, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-21, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-31, 2-32, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-18, 3-19, 3-20, 3-21, 3-22, 3-23, 3-24, 3-25, 3-26, 3-27, 3-28, 3-29, 3-30, 3-31, 3-32, 3-33, 3-34, 3-35, 3-36, 3-37, 3-38, 3-39, 3-40, 3-41, 3-42, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 3-46, 3-47, 3-48, 3-49, 3-50, 3-51, 3-52, 3-53, 3-54 and 3-55 of East Baton Rouge Parish; Precincts 1-1, 1-2A, 1-3A, 1-4, 2-1A, 2-1B, 2-1C, 5-2 and 6-1 of East Feliciana Parish; Precincts 4, 5, 6A, 13, 15B, 24, 25, 25A, 25B, 26, 26A, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 of Iberville Parish; Precincts 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 3-1, 3-4, 3-5, 3-1A, 3-1B, 3-2, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5, 6-7, 6-11, 6-14, 6-16 and 6-19 of Lafourche Parish; Livingston Parish; Pointe Coupee Parish; Precincts 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-13, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 3-1B, 4-1, 4-2, 5-1, 5-2 and 6-1 of St. Helena Parish; Precincts 4-8, 5-3, 5-4, 5-6, 5-7, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4 and 7-5 of St. John the Baptist Parish; Precincts 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28, 31, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 74, 76, 81, 82, 86 and 87 of Terrebonne Parish and Precincts 2-1A, 2-1B, 2-2, 2-3, 3-1B, 4-1, 4-3B, 6-1, 6-2, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3 and 7-4 of West Baton Rouge Parish.

Acts 2011, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 2, §1, eff. noon on Jan. 3, 2013 (eff. for election purposes only for the regular elections in 2012).


NOTE: See Acts 2011, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 2, §2, relative to precincts referenced and territorial limits of districts; see also §3 relative to other officers appointed or elected based on congressional districts.


§1277. Certification of votes cast for United States senator and representative in Congress

Immediately after the results of the election for United States senator and representatives in Congress become official, the secretary of state shall separately certify the votes cast for United States senator and for each representative in Congress who was elected. Each such certificate shall be signed by the governor and by the secretary of state. Thus certifying the election of the persons determined to have been elected, the governor shall cause the seal of the state to be affixed to each certificate. One copy of the appropriate
certificate shall be delivered to each person elected. Another copy of the certificate of the election of the United States senator shall be transmitted by the governor to the President of the United States. A copy of each certificate of the election of representatives in Congress shall be transmitted by the governor to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, directed to the clerk thereof.


§1278. Vacancies; United States senator

A. The governor may fill any vacancy in the office of United States senator by appointment. If the United States Senate is in session when the vacancy occurs, the governor shall appoint a senator to fill the vacancy within ten days after receiving official notice of the vacancy.

B. If a vacancy occurs in the office of United States senator and the unexpired term is more than one year, an appointment to fill the vacancy shall be temporary. Any senator so appointed shall serve until his successor is elected at a special election and takes office. Within ten days after receiving official notice of the vacancy, the governor shall issue a proclamation for special election to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The date of the special election shall be established by the governor in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:402(E). The dates of the qualifying period shall be established by the governor in accordance with R.S. 18:467, 467.1, and 468. Immediately after issuance of the proclamation, which shall include the dates of the primary and general elections and the dates of the qualifying period, the governor shall publish the proclamation in the official journal of each parish in which the election is to be held. Within twenty-four hours after its issuance, the governor shall send a copy of the proclamation to the secretary of state. Within twenty-four hours after he receives the copy, the secretary of state shall notify all election officials having any duty to perform in connection with a special election to fill such vacancy, including the parish boards of election supervisors for the parish or parishes in which the vacancy occurred. The election shall be conducted and the returns shall be certified as in regular elections for United States senator.

C. If a vacancy occurs in the office of United States senator and the unexpired term is one year or less, no special election shall be called by the governor and, if a senator is appointed to fill the vacancy, he shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, and his successor shall be elected at the next regular election for United States senator.


§1279. Vacancies; representatives in congress

When a vacancy occurs in the office of representative in congress, the governor shall determine the dates on which the special elections shall be held and the dates of the qualifying period and shall issue a proclamation ordering a special election and specifying the dates on which the primary and general elections will be held and the dates of the qualifying period for the election. Immediately thereafter he shall publish the proclamation in the official journal of each parish in which the election is to be held. Within twenty-four hours after issuing the proclamation, the governor shall send a copy of the proclamation to the secretary of state, who shall within twenty-four hours of receipt of the information notify all election officials having any duty to perform in connection with a special election to fill such vacancy, including the parish boards of election supervisors for the parish or parishes in which the vacancy occurred. The election shall be conducted in the same manner and at the same places and the returns shall be certified as in regular congressional elections. If at a primary or general election in a congressional district one representative in congress is to be elected for a full term and another to fill a vacancy, the ballots containing the names of the candidates shall, as a part of the title of the office, designate the term for which the candidates are respectively nominated.

§1280. Contests

Except as may be otherwise provided by the constitution and laws of the United States, contests of elections under this Part shall be made as provided in this Title for state candidates.


PART III. PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

§1280.21. Presidential preference primary election

A. A statewide presidential preference primary election shall be held on the first Saturday in March in 2016 and every fourth year thereafter for the purpose of allowing the electors of each political party in the state which has forty thousand or more registered members to express their preference for a person to be the nominee of the party for president of the United States.

B. Each elector voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the elector, except that the state central committee of a recognized political party may allow in its bylaws, electors who are not affiliated with any political party to cast a vote on the ballot of such recognized political party.

C. The state central committee shall notify the Department of State that its bylaws allow for such voting by non-affiliated electors no later than seven days prior to the opening of qualifying for the presidential preference primary. Such notification shall be considered valid and effective for subsequent presidential preference primaries unless the state central committee notifies the Department of State that its bylaws no longer allow for such voting by non-affiliated electors no later than seven days prior to the opening of qualifying for a presidential preference primary.

D. Any elector who is not affiliated with any political party and who is allowed to cast his vote on the ballot of a recognized political party in the presidential preference primary pursuant to this Section shall cast his vote on the ballot of only one recognized political party.

E. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Code to the contrary, in any statewide presidential preference primary election, at any precinct where the presidential preference issue or election of political party officials or both are the only matters on the ballot, the number of election commissioners required in such precinct shall be one commissioner-in-charge and two commissioners.


§1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

A. Candidates for presidential nominee shall qualify in accordance with procedures established by the party. Prior to qualification as a candidate of a political party for presidential nominee, a person shall pay a qualifying fee of seven hundred fifty dollars and any additional fee as authorized by R.S. 18:464(C) or shall have obtained a nominating petition, bearing the handwritten signatures of no less than one thousand registered voters affiliated with the party from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided. If the candidate is qualifying by paying a fee, the fee shall be paid in cash, by certified or cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank or credit union, by United States postal money order, or by a money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

B.(1) The qualifying period for presidential candidates shall open on the first Wednesday in December and shall close at 4:30 p.m. on the following Friday. During the qualifying period, presidential candidates shall file notices of candidacy with the secretary of state.
(2)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the political party with which he is registered as being affiliated. The political party with which the candidate was affiliated at the time of qualifying is the one which shall appear on the ballot, even if the candidate changes his political party designation after he qualified for the election.

(b) The candidate shall designate in the notice the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot. The candidate may designate his given, first, and middle name, the initials of his given, first, and middle name, a nickname, or any combination thereof as the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot. However, he shall not designate a title, designation, or deceptive name, nor shall he designate an occupational or professional description or abbreviation. If the candidate designates a nickname in the place of or in combination with his given name or the initials thereof, the nickname shall be set off with quotation marks and shall be placed immediately preceding his surname. A candidate shall include his surname in his designation of the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot.

(c) The notice of candidacy also shall include a certificate signed by the candidate, certifying that he has read the notice of his candidacy and that all of the statements contained therein are true and correct. The certificate shall be executed before a notary public. If the candidate is serving outside the state with the armed forces of the United States, his notice of candidacy shall be witnessed by a commissioned officer in the armed forces of the United States.

(d) A notice of candidacy shall be accompanied by the qualifying fee and any additional fee imposed or a nominating petition.

(3)(a) Each sheet of a nominating petition shall set forth the name of the presidential candidate, as it shall appear on the election ballot, the address of the candidate, the political party with which he is affiliated, and the date of the presidential primary.

(b) Each voter who signs a nominating petition shall include his name and residence address.

(c) All persons who obtained signatures shall certify that to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief all of the signatures on the nominating petition are genuine, and all of the statements contained in the petition are true and correct.

(d) A nominating petition shall be submitted to the registrars of voters in the parishes where the signers reside not less than thirty days before the end of the qualifying period.

(e) The registrar for each parish shall endorse upon the nominating petitions, whether original or supplemental, the date and time of submission and shall promptly certify the nominating petitions, in the order received, by determining and certifying on each nominating petition which of the signers are registered to vote in the parish. A registrar may stop certifying the signatures on a nominating petition when the total number of the signers he has certified as having signed the petition timely and as being registered to vote equals fifteen percent more than the number of registered voters required from the congressional district. A registrar's certification shall be conclusive as to number of qualified voters who timely signed a nominating petition, and evidence to the contrary shall not be admitted in an action objecting to the candidacy of a presidential candidate filing the nominating petition.

C.(1)(a) Any person who qualifies as a candidate for presidential nominee may withdraw his candidacy by filing a notice of his withdrawal that is signed by the candidate and duly acknowledged before an officer authorized to administer oaths. The notice of withdrawal shall be filed prior to 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day after the close of the qualifying period with the secretary of state, who shall note thereon the date it was filed.

(b) The secretary of state shall not accept a statement of withdrawal that does not satisfy the requirements of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph. The secretary of state shall endorse the date and time of receipt of such a notice of withdrawal and return the notice forthwith, either personally or by registered or certified mail.
A notice of withdrawal filed in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (1)(a) of this Subsection shall become effective when it is filed with the secretary of state. The effect of the withdrawal shall be as provided in R.S. 18:502.


§1280.23. Conduct of election

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Part, the election for which provision is made in this Part shall be conducted and the returns thereof published and promulgated as provided in the election laws of the state.


§1280.24. Arrangement of ballot

The ballot for the election provided in this Part shall contain the names of each candidate arranged by party affiliation and placed in alphabetical order within each party.


§1280.25. Voting according to party affiliation

No elector may vote in the election provided in this Part for a candidate affiliated with a party in which the elector is not registered, except as provided in R.S. 18:1280.21.


§1280.27. Delegates to political party conventions; selection; oaths; voting; allocation among presidential nominees

A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, at least ninety days prior to a presidential preference primary election, the state governing body of each eligible political party shall establish procedures to be followed in the selection of individual delegates and alternates to the convention of that party, including procedures for the selection of committed and uncommitted delegates. A copy of any rule adopted by the state party committee shall be filed with the secretary of state within seven days after its adoption and shall become public record.

B. Delegates shall be allocated among the presidential candidates according to the results of the presidential primary and according to guidelines established by the governing bodies of the respective parties.

C. Repealed by Acts 1984, No. 672, §3.