

HB 538

Sponsored by Representative Samuel Jenkins



Increase Early Voting Locations

Louisiana has some of the most restrictive voting laws in the country and as a disaster prone state, there are often last minute changes to elections due to hurricanes. There are restrictions on who can vote by mail, and polling locations have been consolidated in recent years. These challenges can combine and make it difficult for residents to cast their vote.

One opportunity to increase voting access is to expand early voting locations. Any voter can vote early in-person and this can be a good option for people who have to work on election day or who would like to plan ahead so that they do not have to wait in line on election day.

Early voting is a great option for people who live near their early voting location, but **many people, particularly in rural areas, live more than a 30 minute drive from their early voting location.**

This bill would increase the number of early voting locations for statewide elections in each parish based on population and area. Early voting turnout increased in Louisiana during the pandemic and has remained a preference of voters. This bill would standardize the number of early voting locations across each Parish in the state by population and area so that all people have access to early voting locations.

This bill would require the early voting locations to be posted online so that residents can find their updated location. Additionally, this bill includes a fiscal note that would provide funding for the additional sites.

Parish Population Range	Minimum Number of Early Voting Sites
0 to 30,000	1
30,001 to 100,000	2
100,001 to 200,000	3
200,001 to 300,000	4
300,001 to 400,000	5
400,001 or more	6

Parish Area	Minimum Number of Early Voting Sites
Less than 1,000 square miles	1
1,000 square miles or more	2

For more info on HB 538

