

# ST. HELENA PARISH SAMPLE BALLOT

Closed Party Primary & Municipal Primary



## EARLY VOTING May 2-9

Polls Open 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM CST  
(excluding Sundays)

## ELECTION DAY SATURDAY May 16, 2026

Polls are open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM CST

## Register to Vote

Last day in person or by mail:

**Apr. 15**

Last day online:

**Apr. 25**



[pcej.org/Vote](https://pcej.org/Vote)



## Vote by Mail

[PowerCoalition.org/Vote](https://PowerCoalition.org/Vote)

NOTE: If you are planning to vote by mail, we recommend you do so as soon as possible to make sure your vote is counted. *If you are mailing your ballot, be sure to mail by May 12 in order to have it postmarked by election day.*

**REQUEST**  
a Vote by Mail  
Ballot:

**May 12**

by 4:30 PM

**RETURN**  
a Completed  
Vote by Mail Ballot:

**May 15**

by 4:30 PM

## Having Problems Voting?

Report a voting incident or get assistance from trained volunteers by calling

**504-766-9289**



## Municipal Primary: Ballot Initiative

### Parishwide Proposition

#### (Library Millage Extension and Rededication)

Shall the Parish of St. Helena, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), be authorized to continue to levy a special tax of 2.50 mills approved at an election held on October 14, 2017 (the "Tax") on all property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$147,200 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for an additional period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2028 and ending with the year 2037, and to rededicate the proceeds of the Tax heretofore or hereafter received for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and operating a public library, particularly the Audubon Regional Library and its branches?

Yes

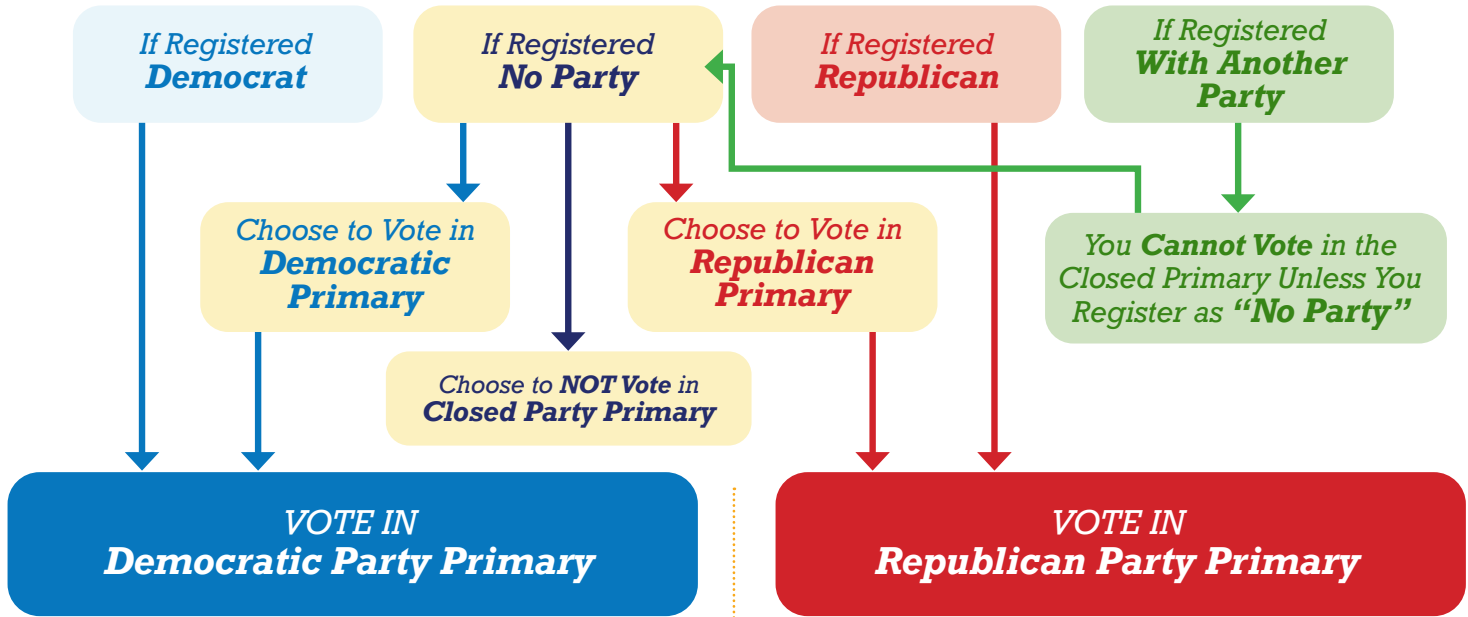
No

This sample ballot displays every election taking place in the Parish. Actual ballots may vary by precinct or district. Scan the QR code to confirm your specific ballot on the Secretary of State's website.



**Closed Party Primary**

*Closed Party Primary & Municipal Primary*



**U. S. Senator, Democratic Party**

- Nicholas ‘Nick’ Albares – Democrat, White, Male
- Gary Crockett – Democrat, Black, Male
- Jamie Davis – Democrat, Black, Male

**U.S. Representative  
5th Congressional District**

- Jesse Fleenor – Democrat, White, Male
- Larry Foy – Democrat, Black, Male
- Lindsay ‘Rubia’ Garcia – Democrat, White, Female
- Dan McKay – Democrat, White, Male
- Tania Nyman – Democrat, White, Female

**U. S. Senator, Republican Party**

- Bill Cassidy – Republican, White, Male
- John Fleming – Republican, White, Male
- Julia Letlow – Republican, White, Female
- Mark Spencer – Republican, White, Male

**U. S. Representative  
5th Congressional District**

- Misti Cordell – Republican, White, Female
- Michael Echols – Republican, White, Male
- Rick Edmonds – Republican, White, Male
- Austin Magee – Republican, White, Male
- Michael Mebruer – Republican, White, Male
- Blake Miguez – Republican, White, Male
- Samuel ‘Sammy’ Wyatt – Republican, White, Male

**A closed primary** means each political party chooses its own candidate before the general election.

- Republicans vote only in Republican primaries
- Democrats vote only in Democratic primaries
- Voters with “No Party” can choose ONE party’s primary to vote in. **If you are registered in a different party (i.e. Libertarian or Green) and want to participate in the Closed Primary—you MUST change your designation to NO PARTY** and then choose to vote in the Republican or Democratic Primary



**PSC District 1 - Republican Party**

- Wallace ‘Wayne’ Cooper – Republican, White, Male
- Stephanie Hilferty – Republican, White, Female
- Big John Mason – Republican, White, Male
- Mark Wright – Republican, White, Male
- John Young – Republican, White, Male

**Constitutional Amendments**

*Closed Party Primary & Municipal Primary*

**Proposed Amendment 1**

Do you support an amendment to allow the legislature to remove or add officers, positions, and employees to the unclassified state civil service? (Amends Article X, Section 2(B))

Yes  **NO**

This amendment gives the Legislature more authority over which state jobs are classified (protected) and unclassified (serve at-will).

Currently, an independent civil service commission helps determine these classifications. This amendment shifts that power to elected lawmakers.

**What a YES Vote Means**

- ➔ Lawmakers can decide which state jobs are unclassified (less protected)
- ➔ More positions could be added through legislation
- ➔ Require that any changes (adding or removing jobs) must go through the Legislature and not a civil service commission.

**What a NO VOTE Means**

- ➔ Not giving the Legislature new power over civil service classifications
- ➔ Keeps current civil service protections in place
- ➔ Maintain the existing balance between protected jobs and political appointments

**Why It Matters**

Civil service protections are designed to prevent political interference in government jobs. Changes could affect job stability and how state agencies operate.

- ➔ Gives lawmakers more control over state jobs
- ➔ Could weaken job protections and increase political influence
- ➔ Shifts decision-making away from independent civil service commissions

**Proposed Amendment 2**

Do you support an amendment to grant the St. George community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish the same authority granted parishes for purposes of Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana, including purposes related to the minimum foundation program, funding for certain school books and instructional materials, and the raising of certain local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools? (Amends Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1))

Yes  **NO**

Adds the **St. George Community School System** to the Louisiana Constitution, allowing it to operate like a parish school system. This amendment would allow the proposed **St. George school system to operate like its own parish school system**, even though it's still within East Baton Rouge Parish.

**What a YES Vote Means**

- ➔ St. George can **operate more independently** from East Baton Rouge schools
- ➔ St. George can **receive its own share of state education funding**
- ➔ St. George **can raise local taxes to support schools**

**What a NO VOTE Means**

- ➔ Schools remain part of East Baton Rouge Parish
- ➔ Funding and resources continue to be shared across the broader parish system
- ➔ No additional authority is granted to St. George

**Why It Matters**

This amendment has significant implications for how education resources are distributed in East Baton Rouge Parish.

- ➔ A separate system may allow St. George to retain more local resources
- ➔ Could lead to uneven funding between school systems
- ➔ Remaining East Baton Rouge schools may face reduced funding capacity
- ➔ Differences in local tax revenue could widen existing disparities

**Proposed Amendment 3**

Do you support an amendment to fund a \$2,250 teacher pay raise and \$1,125 support staff pay raise by utilizing the remaining savings from paying down the debt of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with monies from certain constitutional funds? (Effective January 1, 2027) (Amends Article VII, Section 10.8(A)(1), (2), and (4), (B), and (C)(1); Adds Article VII, Section 10.17; Repeals Article VII, Sections 10(F)(4) (d), 10.1, 10.8(A)(3) and (C)(3), and 10.16(A)(9))

Yes  **NO**

This amendment raises educator pay by restructuring how certain education savings funds are used.

It eliminates several education trust funds and uses those dollars to pay down retirement debt, freeing up savings to fund raises.

Right now, Louisiana has several education trust funds (basically savings accounts), including:

- ➔ **Education Excellence Fund**
- ➔ **Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund**
- ➔ **Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund**

This amendment would:

- ➔ **Eliminate (remove) those funds**
- ➔ **Use that money to help pay down teacher retirement debt**

The money saved (from lower debt payments) would be used to help fund the pay raises

**What a YES Vote Means**

Raise educator pay now by using and restructuring existing education funds.

- ➔ Teachers receive a **\$2,250 raise**
- ➔ School support staff receive a **\$1,125 raise**
- ➔ The state will **eliminate several education trust funds**
- ➔ Receive pay increases now by taking away school resources from existing education funds

**What a NO VOTE Means**

Keep current education savings intact.

- ➔ Existing education trust funds **remain in place**
- ➔ Funds continue to support education **long-term investments like (like bonuses, programs, and investments)**
- ➔ No guaranteed raises tied to this proposal

**Why It Matters**

This amendment presents both benefits and trade-offs.

- ➔ Higher pay may help **recruit and retain educators**, especially in under-resourced schools
- ➔ Could improve stability and student outcomes

**However:**

- ➔ Eliminates dedicated funding streams used for **long-term education investments**
- ➔ May reduce resources for schools serving **students with the greatest needs**
- ➔ Funding approach may be **less stable over time** because the amendment relies on savings from retirement debt reduction

This amendment is about **raising teacher pay now vs. preserving long-term education funding for the future.**

**Constitutional Amendments****Proposed Amendment 4**

Do you support an amendment to allow a parish to reduce or exempt property tax on property held as business inventory and to provide for the classification of Public Service Property? (Amends Article VII, Sections 10.15(F)(1) and 18(A) and (B); Adds Article VII, Sections 20.1, 20.2, and 21(P))

Yes  **NO**

This amendment allows local parishes, if they decide, to reduce or eliminate property taxes on business inventory.

**What a YES Vote Means**

Allow local tax cuts for businesses

- Businesses may pay lower or no taxes
- Parishes can lower or eliminate business inventory taxes
- State provides a one-time payment to offset losses

**What a NO VOTE Means**

Keep existing funding for schools and local services stable

- Business inventory continues to be taxed as it is today
- Local governments and schools maintain a consistent funding stream

**Why It Matters**

This amendment has **major implications for local funding equity**, especially for public schools and essential services.

- Property taxes on business inventory are a key source of revenue for **public education, law enforcement, and local governments**.
- Allowing parishes to eliminate this tax could **reduce long-term, stable funding**, particularly after the one-time state payment is exhausted.
- Wealthier parishes may absorb losses more easily than others, while lower-income or rural parishes may face **greater financial strain**.
- This could lead to **uneven resources across parishes**, widening gaps in school funding, public safety, and infrastructure.
- Because the decision is local, outcomes may vary widely across the state, potentially creating a **patchwork system** where some communities have more resources than others.

**Proposed Amendment 5**

Do you support an amendment to change the mandatory retirement age for judges from seventy to seventy-five, provided that a judge may continue to serve to complete a term of office? (Amends Article V, Section 23(B))

Yes  No

Raises the mandatory retirement age for judges from **70 to 75 years old**.

This amendment is about **retaining experienced judges, but may limit opportunities to expand diversity and fairness in Louisiana's courts**.

**What a YES Vote Means**

- Judges can serve longer (**up to age 75**)
- Judges may complete their term after turning 75

**What a NO VOTE Means**

- Judges must still **retire at age 70**
- Regular turnover continues.

**Why It Matters**

This amendment has important implications for **judicial access, representation, and equity** in Louisiana's court system.

- Extending the retirement age may allow experienced judges to **serve longer**, supporting continuity and institutional knowledge.

**However:**

- Slower turnover in judicial seats may reduce opportunities for **new judges**, particularly candidates from **historically underrepresented communities**, to enter the judiciary.
- At a time when there are **ongoing concerns about barriers to equitable representation**, fewer judicial openings could further limit progress toward a bench that reflects the diversity of Louisiana's population.
- Additionally, this amendment exists within a broader context in Louisiana where there have been **continued challenges related to the drawing of judicial district lines**. These concerns have raised questions about whether district maps fairly represent communities of color.
- When combined with **limited turnover and concerns about district boundaries**, this amendment could contribute to **long-term structural barriers** that reduce the likelihood of increasing the number of minority judges.