



On the Ballot: Constitutional Amendments

On May 16, you'll have the opportunity to vote on five constitutional amendments that could shape policies affecting our everyday lives.

Understanding what's on your ballot is just as important as who is on it. We're here to help you navigate each amendment so you can vote informed and empowered.

Make your voice heard as we head to the polls to decide on what should be changed in our state constitution.

Party Primary & Municipal
Primary **Election Day**
Saturday, May 16

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





Proposed Amendment 1



Changes to State Civil Service

What This Amendment Does

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

Official Ballot Language

Proposing to amend Article X, Section 2(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to state civil service; to authorize additional positions in the unclassified state civil service by law; to prohibit the removal of such positions except by law; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

“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

Are You Registered to Vote?

Check your voter registration status at pcej.org/checkstatus



February 26
in person or by mail

March 8
online

PCEJ.org/Register

Proposed Amendment 2



St. George Community School System

What This Amendment Does

St. George is a newly created city within East Baton Rouge Parish and is now seeking to establish its own independent school system. **This amendment would allow the proposed St. George school system to function like a separate parish system**, even though it remains geographically within East Baton Rouge Parish.

The creation of this new system would separate a community that includes many higher-income and more affluent families from the broader parish school system, **raising important considerations about funding, resources, and equity across schools in East Baton Rouge Parish.**

What a YES Vote Means

You support creating a more independent, separately funded school system in St. George from East Baton Rouge schools

- ➔ 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**

Official Ballot Language

Proposing to amend Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to certain effects and purposes for the proposed St. George community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish which shall be regarded and treated as a parish and shall have the authority granted parishes with respect to operating a school system, including the purposes of certain funding and the raising of certain local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; to specify an election date for submission of the proposition to electors and to provide for a ballot proposition.

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



Proposed Amendment 3



Teacher Retirement Debt Funding & Teacher Pay Raises

What This Amendment Does

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.**

Yes

NO

Official Ballot Language →



Proposed Amendment 3



Teacher Retirement Debt Funding & Teacher Pay Raises

Official Ballot Language

Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 10.8(A)(1), (2), and (4), (B), and (C)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to enact Article VII, Section 10.17, and to repeal Article VII, Sections 10(F)(4)(d), 10.1, 10.8(A)(3) and (C)(3), and 10.16(A)(9), relative to monies in the state treasury; to repeal the Education Excellence Fund within the Millennium Trust, the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund, and the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund; to apply monies held in those funds to liabilities of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and to require local public school systems to pay a teacher pay raise with savings realized from payment of those retirement system liabilities; to require additional state general fund expenditures for the Minimum Foundation Program relative to such pay raises; to direct the state treasurer to take certain actions with respect to monies in repealed funds; to provide for calculation and transfer of such monies to the Overcollections Fund for use by specified entities pursuant to outlined restrictions; to execute technical changes; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

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

An Early Vote is a Powerful Vote

May 2-9

(excluding Sunday)

8:30 AM - 6:00 PM CST

**Find Your
Polling Place:**
pcej.org/earlyvotinglocations



Vote by Mail

Are you Eligible? bit.ly/VoteByMailPower

If you are mailing your ballot, **you must mail it at least 3 days before the deadline** in order for it to be postmarked correctly

**Last day to Request a
Vote by Mail Ballot**

May 12

by 4:30 PM

**Last day to Return a
Vote by Mail Ballot**

May 15

by 4:30 PM

Election Day Saturday, May 16

7:00 AM - 8:00 PM CST

**Learn more about
elections in Louisiana,
download sample ballots,
and more**

**Learn What You
Need to Bring on
Voting Day:**
pcej.org/Vote



Proposed Amendment 4



Property Tax Exemption for Business Inventory

What This Amendment Does

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..

Official Ballot Language

Proposing to amend Article VII, Sections 10.15(F)(1) and 18(A) and (B) and to add Article VII, Sections 20.1, 20.2, and 21(P) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to ad valorem taxes; to authorize certain payments to certain parishes; to provide for the classification of certain property; to authorize the exemption of certain property under certain circumstances; to provide for effectiveness; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

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

Proposed Amendment 5



Judicial Retirement Age

What This Amendment Does

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

Keep existing funding for schools and local services stable

- ➔ 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.
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Official Ballot Language

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 23(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the mandatory retirement of judges; to provide that a judge shall not remain in office beyond his seventy-fifth birthday; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

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

Early Voting Locations

BOSSIER PARISH

- ➔ **Bossier Parish Courthouse**
204 Burt Blvd - Second Floor
Benton, LA 71006
318-965-2301
- ➔ ***Bossier Parish Library History Center**
2206 Beckett St
Bossier City, LA 71111
318-965-2301

CADDO PARISH

- ➔ **Hamilton/ South Caddo Branch Library**
2111 Bert Kouns Industrial Loop
Shreveport, LA 71118
318-687-6824
- ➔ **525 Marshall St. Suite103**
Shreveport, LA 71101
318-226-6891

CALCASIEU PARISH

- ➔ **Calcasieu Registrar of Voters**
1000 Ryan Street, Room 7
Lake Charles, LA 70601-5250
337-721-4000
- ➔ *** Sulphur Law Enforcement Building**
500 N. Huntington Street
Sulphur, LA 70663
337-721-4000
- ➔ *** Moss Bluff Public Library**
261 Parish Road
Lake Charles, LA 70611
337-721-4000

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

- ➔ **Motor Vehicle Building**
2250 Main Street
Baker, LA 70714-2529
225-389-5206
- ➔ **Fire Station Building**
11010 Coursey Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816
225-389-7682
- ➔ *** Louisiana State Archives**
3851 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
- ➔ *** Central Branch Library**
11260 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818
- ➔ *** Baton Rouge City Hall**
222 St Louis Street, Room 607
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225-389-3940

JEFFERSON PARISH

- ➔ **Joseph Yenni Parish Building**
1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., RM 502
Harahan, LA 70123
504-736-6191
- ➔ **Charles Odom Building**
5001 West Bank Expressway Suite C-2
Marrero, LA 70072
504-349-5690
- ➔ **408 Minor Street**
Kenner, LA 70062
504-467-5168
- ➔ ***Grand Isle Multiplex**
3101 Hwy 1
Grand Isle, LA 70358
504-349-5690

*May be open limited dates. Check your early voting locations by going to the Louisiana Voter Portal.

➤ ***Westbank Regional Library**

2751 Manhattan Blvd.
Harvey, LA 70058
504-349-5690

➤ *** Eastbank Regional Library**

4747 West Napoleon Ave.
Metairie, LA 70001
504-736-6191

LAFAYETTE PARISH

➤ **1010 Lafayette Street, Suite 313**

Lafayette, LA 70501-6885
337-291-7140

➤ *** Martin Luther King
Recreational Center**

309 Cora Street
Lafayette, LA 70501

➤ *** East Regional Library**

215 La Neuville Road
Youngsville, LA 70592

ORLEANS PARISH

➤ **City Hall**

1300 Perdido Street, #1W24
New Orleans, LA 70112-2127
504-658-8300

➤ **Algiers Courthouse**

225 Morgan Street Room #105
New Orleans, LA 70114
504-658-8323

➤ *** Voting Machine Warehouse**

8870 Chef Menteur Hwy
New Orleans, LA 70127
504-658-8300

➤ *** Lake Vista Community Center**

6500 Spanish Fort Blvd
2nd Floor Meeting Room
New Orleans, LA 70124
504-658-8300

OUACHITA PARISH

➤ **Registrar of Voters**

1650 Desiard Street
Suite 125
Monroe, LA 71201-7722
318-327-1436

➤ *** West Ouachita Senior Center**

1800 N 7th Street West
Monroe, LA 71291
318-327-1436

RAPIDES PARISH

➤ **Rapides Parish Courthouse**

701 Murray Street
Alexandria, LA 71301-8060
318-473-6770

➤ *** Kees Park Community Center**

2450 Hwy 28 E
Pineville, LA 71360

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH

➤ **Courthouse Annex Building**

883 7th Street Suite A
Port Allen, La 70767-0031
225-336-2421

➤ *** 158 E St Francis St**

Brusly, La 70719
225-336-242

BECOME A

- 1** Vote in every election
- 2** Hold your elected officials **accountable**
- 3** Stand in **Power**



Take the Power Voter Pledge



PowerCoalition.org/PowerVoter



POWER COALITION For Equity & Justice

PowerCoalition.org

PowerCoalition @PowerCoEJ @PowerCoEJ

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