

NATCHITOCHEES SAMPLE BALLOT

U.S. Senate General,
Open U.S. Representative Primary, & Open Primary



EARLY VOTING October 20-27

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

ELECTION DAY TUESDAY November 3, 2026

Polls are open 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM CST

Register to Vote

Last day in
person or by
mail:

Oct. 5

Last day
online:

Oct. 13



pcej.org/Vote



Vote by Mail

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 October 30 in order to have it postmarked by election day.*

REQUEST
a Vote by Mail
Ballot:

Oct. 30

by 4:30 PM

RETURN
a Completed
Vote by Mail Ballot:

Nov. 2

by 4:30 PM

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.



U.S. Senate General

The Senate is part of the legislative branch of the U.S. Government that makes laws. The Senate votes on bills, resolutions, motions, amendments, nominations, and treaties in a variety of ways. The Senate also tries impeachment cases for federal officials referred to it by the House.

U. S. Senator

- ☐ Jamie Davis – Democrat, Black, Male
- ☐ Julia Letlow – Republican, White, Female

U.S. Representative Open Primary

The House of Representatives is part of the legislative branch of the U.S. Government that makes laws.

Representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees. The House has several powers assigned exclusively to it, including the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach federal officials, and elect the President in the case of an electoral college tie.

U. S. Representative, 4th Congressional District

- ☐ Conrad Cable – Democrat, White, Male
- ☐ Matt Gromlich – Democrat, White, Male
- ☐ Gordon Heslop – Republican, White, Male
- ☐ Mike Johnson – Republican, White, Male
- ☐ Mike Nichols – Republican, White, Male

PSC General

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) is an independent regulatory agency dedicated to serving the public interest by assuring safe, reliable, and reasonably priced service from public utilities and motor carriers. The LPSC consists of five elected Commissioners who serve overlapping terms of six years.

Responsibilities: The goals of the Commission are to ensure a regulatory balance that enables utilities to provide customers with safe, adequate and reliable service, at rates that are just and reasonable, equitable and economically efficient. The LPSC also takes an active and cautious role in the development of a competitive, market-based approach to utility regulation.

PSC District 5

- ☐ John E. Atkins – Republican, White, Male
☐ James Edward Green – Democrat, Black, Male

Open Primary

City and Parish Courts typically have civil jurisdiction over cases involving small claims, evictions, and traffic violations. Different parishes and cities may have individual rules about the maximum claims to be made in their courts.

City Judge, City Court, City of Natchitoches

- ☐ Cloyd Benjamin Jr. – No Party, Black, Male
☐ Robert Owsley – No Party, White, Male

A city marshal is the elected executive officer of a city court. The marshal executes the orders of city court, including serving warrants, subpoenas, and eviction notices, providing courtroom security, collecting and disbursing fines, and processing wage garnishments and property seizures. In carrying out arrests and preserving the peace, a marshal has the same authority as a sheriff.

City Marshal, City Court, City of Natchitoches

- ☐ Carl Sias – No Party, Black, Male
☐ Randy Williams – Democrat, White, Male

The school board sets policy for the parish or city school system, hires and oversees the superintendent, and adopts the district's budget. Boards make decisions on school staffing formulas and salaries, facilities and construction, school boundaries and closures, and disciplinary policy, and they provide financial oversight for the entire district. Because school boards control local education budgets and policy, school board elections have a direct, immediate impact on the classroom experience of students in a parish.

Member of School Board District 1

- ☐ Barbara Page – No Party, White, Female
☐ Lee Waskom – No Party, White, Male

Member of School Board District 8

- ☐ Chris Bush – Democrat, Black, Male
☐ Linda Davidson – Democrat, White, Female
☐ J D Samuel Jr. – Democrat, Black, Male

Justices of the peace have no criminal jurisdiction, except as committing magistrates and for the issuance of peace bonds. They have original civil jurisdiction in cases up to \$5,000, but are NOT allowed to decide lawsuits involving title to real estate, the right to public office, divorce proceedings, suits against public bodies, and executory proceedings.

Justice of the Peace, Ward 3

- ☐ Celeste Ocon – No Party, White, Female
☐ George 'Dwain' Spillman Jr. – Republican, White, Male

The role of the constable is to preserve the public peace, execute the process in City Courts and Justice of Peace Courts, and discharge other functions assigned by law. They serve warrants and summonses, collect garnishments, and process evictions and other matters pertaining to the court.

Constable, Justice of the Peace Ward 2

- ☐ Lynn 'Hoppy' Layfield – No Party, White, Male
- ☐ Monty Trichel – No Party, White, Male

The mayor is the chief executive officer of a city, town, or village. The mayor directs the day-to-day operations of municipal departments, prepares and administers the city's budget, and appoints (subject to council approval) officials like the clerk, tax collector, and other municipal officers. The mayor can veto ordinances passed by the council, presides over council meetings in some cities, and represents the municipality in dealings with other governments and agencies.

Mayor, Town of Campti

- ☐ Katrina Evans – Democrat, Black, Female
- ☐ Jasmine Lewis – No Party, Black, Female

Mayor, Village of Robeline

- ☐ Chase Collins – No Party, White, Male
- ☐ Rodney Lane French – No Party, White, Male
- ☐ Gordon Ocon – Republican, Am Ind, Male

The chief of police leads a city or town's police department. Where the chief is elected, they have full authority over hiring, promoting, disciplining, and firing police department personnel, and over how the department is run day to day though the mayor and council still control the department's budget. The chief of police is responsible for law enforcement within the municipality's limits, working alongside the parish sheriff and other local agencies.

Chief of Police, Town of Campti

- ☐ Rickey Armstead – No Party, Black, Male
- ☐ Syreetta Evans – No Party, Black, Female
- ☐ Christopher Houston Sr. – Republican, Black, Male
- ☐ Quatashia 'Shae' Phillips – No Party, Black, Female

Chief of Police, Village of Ashland

- ☐ Tom Ouzts Jr. – Republican, White, Male
- ☐ Shellie Pullig – No Party, White, Female

Chief of Police, Village of Provencal

- ☐ Virginia Salter – No Party, White, Female
- ☐ Eric Upchurch – Republican, White, Male

An alderman is a member of a municipal assembly or council that represents a specific area of a municipality. The alderman board (by ordinance) sets the salaries of the mayor, aldermen, clerk, chief of police and all other municipal officers. The board approves or disapproves the annual operating and capital improvements budgets submitted by the mayor.

Aldermen, Village of Goldonna, 3 to be elected

- ☐ Reed Franklin – Republican, White, Male
- ☐ Norvel Garner – No Party, White, Male
- ☐ Timmy Harris – Republican, White, Male
- ☐ Larry McGee – Republican, White, Male

Aldermen, Village of Robeline, 3 to be elected

- ☐ Anthony Freeman – Republican, White, Male
- ☐ Wannetta French – No Party, White, Female
- ☐ Bubba Ivy – Republican, White, Male
- ☐ Pamela Jennings – Republican, White, Female
- ☐ Martha Solice – Republican, White, Female
- ☐ James Walker – No Party, White, Male

City Council members represent districts within their parishes or municipalities.

Councils hold regular public meetings and have the opportunity to reshape how their parish or municipality addresses crucial issues, like public safety, equitable economic opportunity, and infrastructure. They vote on policy decisions governing their jurisdictions--which are often introduced based on citizen input--and approve budgets, and can appoint members of commissions, civil service boards, and other governing bodies within a parish or city.

Councilmen, Town of Campti, 5 to be elected

- ☐ Laquita 'Quita' Arnold – No Party, Black, Female
- ☐ La-Tia Beavers – No Party, Black, Female
- ☐ Mary Donaway Collins – Democrat, Black, Female
- ☐ James Evans Jr. – Democrat, Black, Male
- ☐ Da'Netta Prudhomme – Democrat, Black, Female
- ☐ Sarah Ann Reliford – Democrat, Black, Female
- ☐ Robin Washington – Democrat, Black, Female

Fire Protection District No. 5 Proposition (Millage Renewal)

Shall Fire Protection District No. 5 of the Parish of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 7.19 mills (the "Tax") on all property subject to taxation within the District for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2028 and ending with the year 2037 (an estimated \$191,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and operating the District's fire protection facilities, including equipment and paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes, provided that a portion of the Tax proceeds is required to be contributed to state and statewide retirement systems as provided in R.S. 11:82?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Unopposed Races

Associate Justice, Supreme Court, 3rd Supreme Court District
Cade R. Cole – Republican, White, Male

Judge, Court of Appeal, 3rd Circuit, 1st Dist., Division B
Greg Beard – Republican, White, Male

Judge, Court of Appeal, 3rd Circuit, 1st Dist., Division C
Shannon Gremillion – Republican, White, Male

District Judge, 10th Judicial District Court, Division A
Desiree Duhon Dyess – No Party, White, Female

District Judge, 10th Judicial District Court, Div. B
Lala Brittain Sylvester – No Party, White, Female

District Attorney, 10th Judicial District Court
Billy 'Billy Joe' Harrington – No Party, White, Male

Member of School Board, District 2
Tan'Keia Palmer – Democrat, Black, Female

Member of School Board, District 3
Dorothy McGaskey – Democrat, Black, Female

Member of School Board, District 4
Billy Benefield Jr. – No Party, White, Male

Member of School Board, District 5
Lela Harvey – No Party, Black, Female

Member of School Board, District 6
Jennifer 'Reba' Phelps – No Party, White, Female

Member of School Board, District 7
Chad Fredieu – No Party, White, Male

Member of School Board, District 9
Micah Nicholson – Republican, White, Male

Member of School Board, District 10
Kevin Warner – No Party, White, Male

Member of School Board District 11
Dane Terrell – Democrat, White, Male

Justice of the Peace, Ward 2
Patrice Trichel Harper – No Party, White, Female

Justice of the Peace, Ward 4
Rhonda Sanders – No Party, White, Female

Constable, Justice of the Peace Ward 3
Wayne O'Con – No Party, White, Male

Constable, Justice of the Peace Ward 4
Dale Carter – No Party, White, Male

Mayor, Village of Ashland
Denise Pardee – Republican, White, Female

Mayor, Village of Goldonna
Gayle Cloud – Republican, White, Female

Mayor, Village of Provencal
Daniel Gongre – No Party, White, Male

Chief of Police, Village of Goldonna
Shannon Garner – No Party, White, Male

Chief of Police, Village of Robeline
Shelby Borders – Republican, White, Male

Aldermen, Village of Provencal, 3 to be elected
Dustin Adcock – Republican, White, Male
James Dupree – No Party, White, Male
Dewayne 'Boogey' Lindsey – Democrat, White, Male

Council Member(s), Village of Ashland, 3 to be elected
Connie Adams – Republican, White, Female
BayLeigh Quick – Republican, White, Female
Kim Schmidt – Republican, White, Female

Constitutional Amendments

Proposed Amendment 1 Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption

Do you support an amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with a service-connected disability, who receives the additional property tax exemption, to make a one-time transfer of the additional property tax exemption to a subsequent qualifying property? (Effective January 1, 2027) (Amends Article VII, Section 21(K)(1))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran can transfer an existing additional property tax exemption to one new qualifying home after moving.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ The additional tax exemption stays with the original property and cannot be transferred to a new home.
- ➔ **Why NO:** We support veterans and their families, but we do not need another special tax exception written into the state constitution.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Surviving spouses of disabled veterans
- ➔ Local governments.

Potential Impact

Eligible surviving spouses would have **greater flexibility to move** without losing their property tax benefit. Local governments may collect slightly less property tax revenue from qualifying properties.

Proposed Amendment 2 Local Property Tax Rates (Millages)

Do you support an amendment to allow a local taxing authority to continue to levy a lower millage rate without losing its ability to adjust to the maximum authorized millage rate from a prior year's reassessment? (Effective January 1, 2027) (Amends Article VII, Section 23(C))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ Local governments can temporarily lower property tax rates and later restore them to their previously authorized maximum without voter approval.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ Current law remains. A government that lowers its millage may lose some ability to return to the previous maximum rate.
- ➔ **Why NO:** It **would** make it easier for property tax rates to go back up. Keep the current rules in place.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Homeowners
- ➔ Businesses
- ➔ Local governments
- ➔ Taxpayers

Potential Impact

Gives local governments **more flexibility in managing tax rates**. Supporters say it allows temporary tax relief without permanently reducing future revenue options. Critics say it could make future property tax increases easier.

Constitutional Amendments

Proposed Amendment 3

Post-Conviction Bail for Crimes Against Children

Do you support an amendment to prohibit a defendant from being released on any post-conviction bail if the defendant is convicted of an aggravated offense against a minor child? (Adds Article I, Section 18(C))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ A person convicted of certain aggravated crimes against a minor cannot be released on bail while appealing the conviction.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ Judges continue to follow existing laws when deciding whether someone may be released on bail after conviction.
- ➔ **Why NO:** Judges should be able to look at each case. Our justice system makes mistakes, and appeals are an important part of due process.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Defendants
- ➔ Crime victims
- ➔ Courts
- ➔ Law enforcement

Potential Impact

People convicted of these offenses would remain in custody during the appeals process. Supporters say this increases public safety. Critics may argue it limits judicial discretion before appeals are complete.

Proposed Amendment 4

Governor Term Limits

Do you support an amendment to prohibit a person who has served more than one and one-half terms as governor from being elected as governor for any future term? (Amends Article IV, Section 3(B))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ Anyone who has served more than one and one-half terms as governor could never run for governor again.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ Current constitutional term-limit rules stay in place—two terms consecutively, but can serve an unlimited amount of terms as long as they are not consecutive.
- ➔ **Why NO:** Let the voters decide who they want to elect.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Future Governors
- ➔ Voters

Potential Impact

Creates a lifetime limit for governors who exceed one and one-half terms, increasing leadership turnover while limiting future voter choices.

Constitutional Amendments

Proposed Amendment 5 State Retirement Debt

Do you support an amendment to authorize a state retirement system to apply any nonrecurring state monies it receives to any of its unfunded accrued liability rather than requiring application to its oldest unfunded accrued liability? (Amends Article VII, Section 10(D)(2)(b)(iii))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ State retirement systems can decide which unfunded pension debt to pay first when receiving extra one-time state money.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ Retirement systems must continue paying their oldest debt first.
- ➔ **Why NO:** Keep a clear and predictable rule for paying retirement debt.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ State retirement systems
- ➔ Retirees
- ➔ Taxpayers

Potential Impact

Gives retirement systems more flexibility in managing pension debt. Supporters say it allows smarter financial planning; critics may prefer keeping the current repayment rules.

Proposed Amendment 6 Additional Property Tax Exemption for Seniors

Do you support an amendment to authorize parishes and municipalities to extend an additional property tax exemption for property subject to the homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a person who is at least sixty-five years of age and who qualifies for the special assessment level? (Effective January 1, 2028) (Adds Article VII, Section 21(P))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ Local governments may choose to offer an additional property tax exemption to qualifying homeowners age 65 and older.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ Local governments cannot offer this new exemption.
- ➔ **Why NO:** More property tax exemptions will mean **less** money for our schools and local services.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Senior homeowners
- ➔ Local governments
- ➔ Taxpayers

Potential Impact

Eligible seniors could pay less in property taxes if their parish or municipality adopts the exemption. Local governments choosing to offer it may collect less tax revenue.

Constitutional Amendments

Proposed Amendment 7 Drinking Water Service Lines

Do you support an amendment to allow for the use of public funds by a political subdivision for the purpose of identifying, inventorying, removing or replacing drinking water utility service lines made of or affected by materials as specified or prescribed by the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, promulgated October 30, 2024, or subsequent promulgation, on property owned by utility customers? (Amends Article VII, Section 14)

☒ **YES** ☐ **No**

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ Public funds can be used to identify, remove, and replace hazardous drinking water service lines—even on private property.
- ➔ **Why YES:** Get dangerous pipes out of our communities and protect families from unsafe drinking water. The federal government has over \$150 million available to fix dangerous lead pipes, but it can only be used if this amendment passes.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ Public funds can continue to be used on public water infrastructure, but cannot be used to remove or replace hazardous service lines on private property.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Homeowners
- ➔ Renters
- ➔ Water Utilities
- ➔ Local Governments

Potential Impact

Could speed up the replacement of lead and other hazardous water pipes, improving drinking water safety. May require additional public spending for infrastructure improvements.

Proposed Amendment 8 Property and Foreign Adversaries

Do you support an amendment to prohibit expropriation of property by a foreign adversary or an agent of a foreign adversary? (Amends Article I, Section 4(B)(4))

☐ **Yes** ☒ **NO**

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ A company owned, controlled, or directed by a foreign adversary, (even partially, or without majority ownership) could not use Louisiana's private expropriation laws to force the sale of someone's property.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ No new constitutional prohibition would be added.
- ➔ **Why NO:** We don't need to change the constitution for something that can be handled through regular state law.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Property owners
- ➔ Government Entities

Potential Impact

Adds a constitutional restriction related to property rights and foreign adversaries. Because expropriation by foreign adversaries is uncommon, the practical impact may be limited unless such situations arise.

Constitutional Amendments

Proposed Amendment 9

Income Limit for Senior Property Tax Assessment Freeze

Do you support an amendment to increase the maximum amount of income a person may receive and still qualify for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead exemption? (Effective January 1, 2027) (Amends Article VII, Section 18(G)(1)(a)(iii))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ Raises the income limit from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for seniors to qualify for Louisiana's special assessment level, which keeps property taxes from increasing because of higher property values.

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ The current income limit stays at \$100,000.
- ➔ **Why NO:** Expanding property tax breaks will mean less money for schools and local services.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Senior homeowners
- ➔ Local Governments

Potential Impact

More older homeowners may qualify for property tax protection, making it easier to remain in their homes as property values rise. Local governments could collect less property tax revenue from eligible properties.

Proposed Amendment 10

Tax Exemptions for Rehabilitated Blighted Properties

Do you support an amendment to allow property tax exemptions for blighted or derelict properties that have been rehabilitated, and to require the legislature to enact laws providing for administration of these exemptions? (Effective January 1, 2027) (Adds Article VII, Section 21(P))

☐ Yes ☒ NO

What a YES Vote Means

- ➔ Creates an optional property tax exemption for rehabilitated blighted or derelict property, with the Legislature required to define eligible property, set the exemption's length, and establish rules for local governments to administer it

What a NO Vote Means

- ➔ The Legislature would not be constitutionally required to do this
- ➔ **Why NO:** Voters should know who gets the tax break, how it works, and how long it lasts before putting it in the constitution.

Who is Affected?

- ➔ Property owners
- ➔ Developers
- ➔ Neighborhoods
- ➔ Local Governments

Potential Impact

May encourage investment in abandoned or deteriorating properties, helping revitalize neighborhoods. Local governments could receive less property tax revenue from qualifying properties during the exemption period.