



2024 Policy PRIORITIES: VOTING RIGHTS

Power Coalition is advocating for legislation that will increase democratic opportunities in Louisiana. Contact your legislators today and ask them to support these important bills!

HB 319

Reason for Polling Place Changes

Sponsored by Representative Candace Newell

House Bill 319 would require that when a polling location is changed, that the reason for the change must be identified online. In recent years, polling locations have been changed ahead of elections due to storms, power outages, staffing concerns, and other last minute local changes.

This legislation would ensure voters and organizers are able to better understand why a polling site changed and if it is a permanent or temporary relocation.

Requiring the parish governing authority or parish president to include the reason for the change with his notice of the change of a polling location will make this process more transparent and work to reduce voter suppression.



HB 412

Publication of Proposed Recommendations of the State Board of Election Supervisors

Sponsored by Representative Denise Marcelle

House Bill 412 would require the State Board of Election Supervisors to post their draft recommendations on the Secretary of State's website at least 72 hours before the Board votes on them.

Many recent policies regarding voting rights and election laws were the direct product of this Board's recommendations. Currently, the draft recommendations and final report are not provided to the public in advance of the Board's meeting or after.



SB 96

Clarify Voter Registration Deadlines

Sponsored by Senator Samuel Jenkins

Senate Bill 96 would clarify voter registration deadlines. Currently, Louisiana has two separate voter registration deadlines:

- ➔ The deadline to register to vote in person, by mail or at the OMV Office is generally 30 days prior to the election.
- ➔ The deadline to register to vote through the GeauxVote Online Registration System is generally 20 days prior to the election.

To register through the GeauxVote portal, voters must have a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card that has the four-digit audit code on Louisiana IDs.

This legislation would update the law so that a person registering to vote in person at a Registrar of Voters Office who has a Louisiana ID and can provide the audit code would be eligible to register up to 20 days before an election instead of 30 days.

This updated legislation helps people who otherwise may not have access to a computer/internet or who need help navigating the online portal and can get assistance from staff at the Registrar of Voters. Registrar staff could assist voters in completing the online application to ensure there are no delays in transcribing information from a written form.

This bill would alleviate confusion regarding voter registration deadlines.





Power Coalition is dedicated to ensuring that every citizen of Louisiana can vote in elections. Complicated voter registration rules, closure of polling locations, and frequent elections are just some of the reasons that many residents find it hard to participate in every election.

Power Coalition is opposed to the following bills that create new challenges for voting.

HB 506

Sponsored by Representative Polly Thomas

Currently, individuals and organizations throughout Louisiana can host voter registration drives and may choose to register with the state, but they are not required to. The Secretary of State has recommended best practices for voter registration drives, and if people complete voter registration forms, the host of the voter registration drive is required to turn the forms in for finalization of the registration.

This proposed legislation would require all voter registration drives in Louisiana to register with the state. This creates an additional burden for student groups, churches, non-profits, and others that regularly host voter registration drives.

Additionally, this changes long standing practices to increase voter registration and creates penalties for not registering voter registration drives including fines and up to imprisonment. We should not be making it more burdensome to register voters in Louisiana.

HB 581

Sponsored by Representative Polly Thomas

Voting absentee by mail is available for a variety of reasons in Louisiana. When you choose to vote by mail, completing the ballot requires a witness to sign the ballot before mailing it in. **This proposed legislation would update the regulations so that a person may only provide a witness signature on ONE absentee vote by mail certificate.**

This means that friends, organizations, congregations, and other groups that support vote by mail would have to be very careful not to witness multiple ballots. Violations of this proposed legislation would be punishable by fines and up to imprisonment.

We should be making it easier for people to access the vote in Louisiana, not creating more hurdles.

HB 483

Sponsored by Representative Polly Thomas

This proposed legislation would make it illegal for anyone registered as a sex offender or child predator to serve as an election commissioner. Louisiana does not have enough election commissioners at the moment and it is a job that does not require interaction with children. Creating new barriers to filling these roles when there is already a shortage of election workers sets a dangerous precedent.