

ORLEANS 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



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 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

Judge Civil District Court, Division M

- Stephanie Bridges – Democrat, Black, Female
- Richard Perque – Democrat, White, Male

Judge Civil District Court, Division N

- Sheryl Howard – Democrat, Black, Female
- Elroy James – Democrat, Black, Male

Judge Criminal District Court, Section J

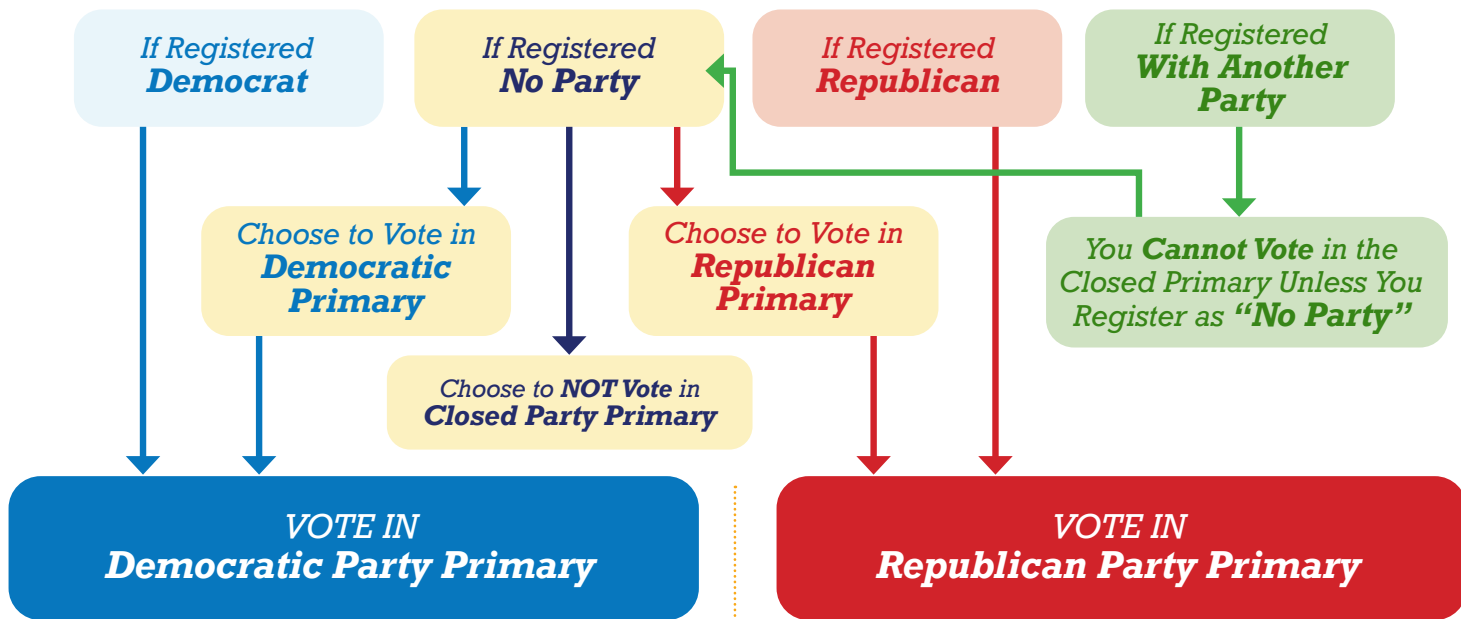
- John T. Fuller – Democrat, Other, Male
- Andre Gaudin – Democrat, White, Male

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
2nd Congressional District**

- Troy Carter – Democrat, Black, Male
- Renada 'Honey' Collins – Democrat, Other, 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
1st Congressional District**

- Randall Arrington – Republican, White, Male
- Steve Scalise – Republican, White, Male

Associate Justice Supreme Court, 1st District

- William 'Billy' Burris – Republican, White, Male
- Blair Downing Edwards – Republican, White, Female

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

BESE District 1 - Republican Party

- Joseph Cao – Republican, Asian, Male
- Michael Hollis – Republican, White, Male
- Ellie Schroder – Republican, White, Female

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



Ballot Initiatives

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

Ballot Initiatives

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.**

Ballot Initiatives

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.

Castle Manor Improvement District Proposition

Shall the City of New Orleans be authorized to impose and collect an annual fee of up to \$100 on each residential parcel of land and up to \$200 on each commercial parcel of land for the first three years that the fee is collected, and up to \$125 on each residential parcel of land and up to \$225 on each commercial parcel of land for the next two years of collection on each parcel (excluding any parcel whose owner qualifies for the special assessment level provided by Article VII, Section 18(G)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana) located within the Castle Manor Improvement District ("District"), delineated by La. R.S. 33:9091.28(B) as the area bounded by Cerise Avenue, the south side of Chef Menteur Highway, Gawain Drive, and the north side of Dwyer Road canal, for five (5) years, beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2031, which fee (estimated to be \$65,000 in the first year of collection) shall be set by the resolution of the District board of commissioners and used exclusively, subject to a 1% City collection fee, to promote and encourage beautification and security within the District and to promote the overall betterment of the District?

Yes No

Upper Hurstville Security District Proposition

Shall the City of New Orleans be authorized to renew the imposition and collection of an annual fee of up to \$650 on each parcel of land (excluding any parcel whose owner qualifies for the special assessment level provided by Article VII, Section 18(G)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana) located within the Upper Hurstville Security District ("District"), delineated by La. R.S. 33:9091.6(B) as the area bounded by Exposition Boulevard, Prytania Street, Nashville Avenue, and Magazine Street, for eight (8) years, beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2034, which fee (estimated to be \$222,750 in the first year of collection) shall be set by the resolution of the District board of commissioners and used exclusively, subject to a 1% City collection fee, to promote and encourage security within the District and to promote the overall betterment of the District?

Yes No