

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 586

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CONSTITUTION/CONVENTION: Provides for calling a constitutional convention

1 AN ACT

2 To provide for the calling of a constitutional convention for the purpose of framing a new
3 constitution; to provide for legislative findings; to fix the time and place for the
4 convention; to provide for the delegates of the convention; to provide for the
5 organization and staff of the convention; to require that the constitution as adopted
6 by the convention be submitted to the qualified electors for adoption and to provide
7 relative to such submission; to provide for the application of specified laws,
8 including provisions of law containing criminal penalties, to delegates and staff of
9 the convention; to provide for the disbursement of funds for the convention and
10 otherwise provide with respect to funds for the convention; to fix the effective date
11 of the new constitution if approved by the electorate; to provide for an effective date;
12 and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that:

15 (A) It has been over fifty years since the Constitution of Louisiana became effective
16 at midnight on December 31, 1974, and during these years the document which constitutes
17 the state's basic law has been amended two hundred twenty-one times. At more than
18 seventy-five thousand words, the Constitution of Louisiana is one of the top five largest
19 constitutions in the nation.

20 (B) The constitution today contains too many provisions that restrict the legislature
21 from effectively addressing state and constituent needs, and the document also includes

1 extensive provisions that are so detailed as to be statutory rather than constitutional in nature
2 and, as a result, require continual constitutional amendment when change is needed.

3 (C) The state constitution needs to be streamlined to the fundamental and
4 foundational law of the state, including the basic principles of the state, the structure of
5 government, and the fundamental rights of citizens. Other extremely detailed provisions in
6 the constitution should be transitioned out of the constitution and made statutory to allow
7 for flexibility and innovation in legislative solutions to problems of the present and the
8 future.

9 Section 2. Call for convention; delegates. (A) A constitutional convention is hereby
10 called, to convene on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 12:00 noon, which shall be held for the
11 purpose of framing a new constitution for the state of Louisiana.

12 (B)(1) There shall be one hundred five delegates to the convention who shall be
13 selected as follows:

14 (a) Two delegates shall be elected from each of the following parishes: Ascension
15 Parish, Bossier Parish, Caddo Parish, Calcasieu Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, Jefferson
16 Parish, Lafayette Parish, Livingston Parish, Orleans Parish, Ouachita Parish, Rapides Parish,
17 St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, and Terrebonne Parish.

18 (b) One delegate shall be elected from each of the remaining parishes.

19 (c) One delegate shall be appointed by each of the following: the Louisiana Supreme
20 Court, the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeal Judges, the Louisiana District Judges
21 Association, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Sheriffs'
22 Association, the Louisiana Assessor's Association, the Louisiana Clerks of Court
23 Association, the Louisiana State Coroner's Association, the Louisiana Municipal
24 Association, and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

25 (d) The commissioner of higher education, or if unable or unwilling to serve, a
26 delegate appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Regents.

27 (e) The state superintendent of education, or if unable or unwilling to serve, a
28 delegate appointed by a majority vote of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
29 Education.

1 (f) Fifteen delegates shall be appointed by the governor, none of whom shall be the
2 governor or a member of the governor's executive staff.

3 (2) Each delegate to the convention shall be an elector of the state of Louisiana, shall
4 be at least eighteen years of age and shall be a resident of the state of Louisiana. In addition,
5 each delegate elected from a parish shall be a resident of the parish from which he is elected
6 at the time he qualifies as a candidate for election as a delegate. Any public official of the
7 governmental subdivisions of the state, whether holding office by election or appointment,
8 if otherwise qualified, shall be eligible for election or appointment as a delegate of the
9 convention.

10 (3) The secretary of state shall issue a commission to each delegate.

11 (4)(a) The service of a legislator or other public official or public employee as a
12 delegate to the convention and the employment or appointment of any public official or
13 public employee to the staff of the convention and his service on such staff, as authorized
14 and provided in this Act, shall not be construed to constitute dual officeholding or dual
15 employment within the prohibitions of Part III of Chapter 2 of Title 42 of the Louisiana
16 Revised Statutes of 1950.

17 (b) The service of a judge as a delegate to the convention shall not be construed as
18 grounds for recusal.

19 (c) Each delegate shall be considered to be an elected official within the scope of and
20 subject to the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the
21 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Each staff member of the convention shall be
22 considered to be a public employee within the scope of and subject to the provisions of the
23 Code of Governmental Ethics, Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
24 1950. For purposes of Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the
25 agency and the governmental entity of delegates and staff members of the convention shall
26 be the convention. For purposes of any other office or employment of any such delegate or
27 staff member, the provisions of Chapter 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
28 1950 shall remain applicable.

29 (d) Each delegate to the convention and each staff member of the convention shall
30 be considered to be a public officer, public official, public employee, or person in a position

1 of public authority for purposes of the application of the provisions of the Louisiana
2 Criminal Code.

3 (e) No delegate shall accept or deposit a campaign contribution as defined in R.S.
4 18:1483 and no campaign fundraising function shall be held for or by a delegate during the
5 period of time from Tuesday, December 2, 2025, through Friday, October 2, 2026.

6 (f) The provisions of the Public Records Law shall apply to the convention, its
7 committees, and delegates to the same extent and with the same limitations as applicable to
8 records of the legislature and members of the legislature.

9 (g) The provisions of the Open Meetings Law shall apply to the convention and its
10 committees in the same manner as applicable to the legislature and either house or
11 committees thereof.

12 (5) Any attorney at law serving as a delegate to the convention or as a member of
13 the staff of the convention shall be entitled to the absolute right of the continuance of any
14 case in which he is bona fide counsel of record in any court of the state during his attendance
15 upon the sessions of the convention or meetings of its committees of which he is a member.

16 (C)(1) The election for the delegates to the convention from each parish shall be held
17 at the open primary election to be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025. The governor shall
18 make proclamation and give notice of the election to be held under this Subsection not less
19 than forty-five days before the date of said election. Each person desiring to become a
20 candidate for election as a delegate from a parish shall qualify as a candidate from the parish
21 in which he resides by filing a statement of candidacy with the secretary of state beginning
22 Wednesday, July 9, 2025, and ending Friday, July 11, 2025. Qualification as a candidate
23 shall be without regard to party affiliation. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the
24 election provided for in this Section shall be held and the results shall be promulgated in
25 accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. All qualified electors shall be entitled to vote
26 without regard to party affiliation. The costs of the election shall be paid as provided in the
27 Louisiana Election Code for elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the
28 ballot.

29 (2) Delegates shall be elected by the qualified electors participating in the election
30 in the manner provided in the Louisiana Election Code for the election of candidates. The

1 candidate receiving a majority of the total vote in each parish and candidates who are
2 unopposed shall be declared elected. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of
3 the votes cast in a parish on Saturday, October 11, 2025, the candidates who received the
4 greatest and second greatest number of votes shall be voted on at the general election on
5 Saturday, November 15, 2025. In the event that the candidates in a parish receive the same
6 number of votes at the general election, the delegate shall be selected by a public drawing
7 of lots conducted by the State Board of Election Supervisors. If any such candidate dies or
8 withdraws leaving one candidate remaining, the remaining candidate shall be declared
9 elected.

10 Section 3. Vacancies. (A) In the event of the resignation, death, or inability to serve
11 due to a documented illness of an elected delegate, whether before or during the convention,
12 the governing authority of the parish that elected the delegate shall fill such vacancy by
13 appointment of a person from the same parish who possesses the qualifications provided in
14 Section 2 of this Act.

15 (B) In the event of the resignation, death, or inability due to a documented illness
16 of an appointed delegate to serve, whether before or during the convention, the vacancy shall
17 be filled in the same manner and subject to the same qualifications as the original
18 appointment.

19 Section 4.(A) Except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, the convention
20 shall have full authority to frame a new constitution for the state which shall be submitted
21 to the electors of the state for their approval or rejection at the 2026 general congressional
22 election to be held on Saturday, December 12, 2026.

23 (B) The proposed revision of the constitution shall provide that provisions of the
24 Constitution of Louisiana of 1974, as amended, that are not included in the new constitution
25 for the state shall be continued as statutes in a statutory title of the Louisiana Revised
26 Statutes of 1950, as amended, dedicated to that purpose. The proposed revision of the
27 constitution shall provide that such provisions made statutory and contained in the dedicated
28 statutory title, which shall be established as Title 57, may only be changed by law adopted
29 by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

1 (C) Any action by the convention in contravention of the provisions of this Section
2 shall be null and void and of no effect.

3 (D)(1) Any action to determine a question of the construction or validity of this Act,
4 to determine the scope of authority of the convention, or to determine the conformity of any
5 action of the convention with the provisions of this Act shall be brought in the Nineteenth
6 Judicial District Court subject to direct appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court. The matter
7 shall be tried by preference over other matters, and the court shall render a decision as soon
8 as practicable.

9 (2) If the action is to determine the validity or conformity of an action of the
10 convention, such action shall be brought within fifteen days of the action of the convention.

11 Section 5.(A) The provisions of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be
12 severable. If any provision of the proposed revision of the constitution is deemed null and
13 void and of no effect by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction after adoption
14 by the convention but prior to its submission to the electors, then the provision deemed null
15 and void shall be removed from the proposed revision of the constitution by the Secretary
16 of State and the remainder of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be submitted to
17 the electors in accordance with this Act.

18 (B) If any provision of the revision of the constitution, or the application thereof, is
19 deemed invalid after ratification by the electors, such invalidity shall not affect other
20 provisions, items, or applications of the revision which can be given effect without the
21 invalid provision, item, or application.

22 Section 6. Convention organization. (A)(1) The delegates to the convention chosen
23 as provided in this Act shall convene in the House Chamber in the state capitol on Tuesday,
24 December 2, 2025, at 12:00 noon. The secretary of state shall preside until the chairman has
25 been elected. The secretary of state, or her designee, shall attend the opening of the
26 convention and call the roll of the delegates and shall administer the following oath to the
27 delegates:

28 "I, . . . , do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution and laws of
29 the United States and the constitution and laws of this state and that I will faithfully and
30 impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as a delegate to the

1 convention, according to the best of my ability and understanding, and that I will observe
2 and obey the limitation of authority contained in the Act under which this convention has
3 assembled. So help me God."

4 (2) No delegate shall be qualified to serve as such unless and until he has taken and
5 subscribed to the oath in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

6 (B) After the oath has been administered, the delegates shall proceed to effect the
7 permanent organization of the convention and shall:

8 (1) Elect from among their number a chairman and a vice chairman.

9 (2) Elect from among their number an executive committee, the membership of
10 which shall be determined by the delegates but which shall include the chairman and vice
11 chairman.

12 (3) Adopt rules of procedure for the convention, which rules shall not be inconsistent
13 with the provisions of this Act.

14 (4) Select a chief clerical officer of the convention from among the chief clerical
15 officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate and their assistants, who shall not
16 be a delegate and whose duties shall be provided by the rules of procedure for the
17 convention.

18 (5) Take such other actions as they deem necessary to effect a permanent
19 organization of the convention.

20 (C) The elections provided for in this Section shall be conducted in the method
21 provided for the election of candidates as provided in R.S. 18:511 and 512.

22 (D) Prior to the convening of the convention, members of the House of
23 Representatives and Senate staffs as designated by the presiding officers of the legislature
24 shall prepare a draft of rules of procedure for consideration, amendment, and adoption by
25 the convention when it convenes. Such proposed rules shall be based upon the rules of the
26 constitutional convention convened in 1973, except as inconsistent with the provisions of
27 this Act, and shall provide that on any question of legislative procedure, when the rules are
28 silent or inexplicit, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall be considered as
29 authority. The rules of procedure adopted by the convention shall be subject to later change
30 as the delegates shall provide therein. No action shall be taken by the convention without

1 the favorable vote of at least a majority of the delegates. No delegate shall be allowed to vote
2 by proxy and the rules shall so provide.

3 (E) The convention shall establish fourteen committees, one committee for each
4 article of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, which shall be charged with the
5 duty of reviewing and recommending changes to the article of the Constitution of the State
6 of Louisiana of 1974 to which it is assigned and one executive committee as provided in
7 Subsection (B)(2) of this Section. No committee of the convention, including the executive
8 committee, shall exceed seventeen members and the rules shall so provide. No committee
9 of the convention may establish subcommittees and the rules shall so provide.

10 (F) After completing organizational activities, the convention shall meet in
11 committees, each committee meeting at least once a month until it completes its duties as
12 provided in this Act. Each committee that meets shall provide a report of its activities to the
13 full convention no later than Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

14 (G) The full convention shall convene beginning Thursday, September 3, 2026, to
15 consider as a committee of the whole the report of each committee. The chairman and vice
16 chairman of the convention shall serve as chairman and vice chairman of the committee of
17 the whole. The convention shall complete its work no later than Thursday, October 2, 2026.

18 Section 7. Legal advisor; staff; budget; committees.

19 (A)(1) The attorney general or her designee shall be the legal advisor to the
20 convention.

21 (2) Staff support for the convention shall be provided by the staffs of the House of
22 Representatives, the Senate, the legislative fiscal office, the legislative auditor's office, and
23 other legislative agencies. In addition, as soon as possible after the members of the
24 executive committee are selected, the executive committee shall request the provision of
25 professional, research, technical, and clerical employees from any public or private sources
26 the committee deems necessary to accomplish the work of the convention.

27 (B) The staff of the constitutional convention may include but shall not be limited
28 to the following who shall not be delegates to the convention or registered as a legislative
29 or executive branch lobbyist with the Louisiana Board of Ethics on or after Wednesday,

1 January 1, 2025, as provided in Chapter 1 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
2 1950 or in Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950:

3 (1) A director of research who shall possess such qualifications as determined by the
4 executive committee.

5 (2) Research assistants in such number and possessing such qualifications as
6 determined by the executive committee.

7 (3) Personnel from the faculty of in-state law schools as requested by the executive
8 committee.

9 (4) Such other staff as the executive committee deems necessary.

10 (C) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a staff member provided
11 to the convention is engaged in regular, bona fide employment, the staff member may
12 continue to be paid and receive the usual compensation and benefits from his employer while
13 the staff member is engaged in the work of the committee or the convention.

14 (D) As soon as possible after the members of the executive committee are elected,
15 the executive committee shall prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention
16 based on the amount of the appropriation for the convention and any other funds of the state
17 general fund available for expenditure.

18 (E) The executive committee shall appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and the
19 membership of each committee provided for in Section 6(E) of this Act.

20 (F) Unless the legislature is in session, the House chamber, the Senate chamber, and
21 the legislative committee rooms in the state capitol shall be available for use by the
22 convention and its committees. If the facilities at the state capitol are not available or are
23 not sufficient for use by the convention or its committees, the convention or its committees
24 shall meet at a suitable location in the capital city, which location shall be determined by the
25 chairman of the convention, and public notice of the location shall be given and posted at
26 suitable locations in the state capitol. The convention shall have full authority to use the
27 facilities and services of any board, commission, department, or agency of the state or of any
28 political subdivision of the state, and all such entities shall cooperate with the convention to
29 the fullest extent in furnishing services, facilities, and employees upon request. In addition,
30 the convention may use the facilities and services of other persons and organizations.

1 Section 8. Compensation of delegates. The delegates to the convention shall receive
2 the same per diem and travel allowances provided for members of the legislature pursuant
3 to R.S. 24:31 and 31.1 for their attendance at the convention or any committee thereof. No
4 delegate shall receive a per diem or travel allowance for any day for which the delegate also
5 received a per diem or travel allowance for his duties for other public service. No delegate
6 may accept any compensation from any other source for work performed as a delegate to the
7 convention. However, if a delegate is engaged in regular, bona fide employment, should the
8 delegate's employer choose to continue to pay the usual compensation while the delegate is
9 engaged in the work of the convention, such delegate may accept that compensation,
10 notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary.

11 Section 9. Appropriation; use of funds. (A) Any appropriation for the expenses of
12 the convention shall be used solely to defray the necessary expenses of the constitutional
13 convention for which provision is made in this Act, including the payment for supplies,
14 materials, equipment, printing, and reproduction of materials, and all other necessary
15 expenses incurred in connection with the convention and its work.

16 (B) Any funds appropriated for the convention shall be withdrawn from the state
17 treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the chairman of the convention, and all
18 checks for the disbursement of funds shall be signed by the chairman and the vice chairman
19 of the convention or by the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as shall be
20 designated by the convention.

21 (C) Expenses of the convention shall not be paid for by and the convention shall not
22 accept any grants, moneys, aid, facilities, or services from private sources.

23 (D) The convention shall not be deemed to be a budget unit of the state and therefore
24 shall not be subject to the provisions of Chapter 1 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised
25 Statutes of 1950. The financial books and records of the convention, however, shall be
26 subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

27 Section 10. Submission of proposed constitution; election. (A) Upon completion
28 of its work, and not later than Friday, October 2, 2026, and subject to the limitations
29 provided in Section 4 of this Act, the convention shall submit a proposed draft of a new
30 constitution for the state to the governor. The constitution as drafted by the convention shall

1 be submitted to the people for adoption or rejection. Within ten days after submission of the
2 proposed draft to the governor, he shall by proclamation call an election to be held at the
3 same time as the 2026 general congressional election to be held on Saturday, December 12,
4 2026, for the purpose of submitting the proposed draft to the people for adoption or
5 rejection.

6 (B) The election on Saturday, December 12, 2026, shall be held and the results shall
7 be promulgated in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. All electors duly qualified
8 to vote in the state at the time of the election shall be entitled to vote without regard to party
9 affiliation on the proposition for or against adoption of the revision of the constitution
10 proposed by the convention. The costs of the election shall be paid as provided in the
11 Louisiana Election Code for elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the
12 ballot.

13 (C)(1) The convention shall submit to the electors of the state the proposal of
14 acceptance or rejection of the constitution and may direct the proper election officials to take
15 the necessary steps to effectuate such determination of the convention in presenting the
16 proposed constitution to the electors. The ballot language shall be as follows:

17 "Do you support the adoption of the proposed 2027 Constitution?

18 (Vote for one)

19 FOR adoption of the proposed 2027 Constitution. ____

20 AGAINST adoption of the proposed 2027 Constitution. ____"

21 (2) Adoption of the constitution shall require the favorable vote of a majority of the
22 electors voting on the proposition.

23 (D) Upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state, if the
24 constitution is ratified and adopted by the people in the election for which provision is made
25 in this Section, the governor shall proclaim the constitution to be the Constitution of
26 Louisiana. The constitution shall become effective at midnight on Thursday, December 31,
27 2026, except as otherwise provided in the constitution adopted.

28 Section 11. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
29 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
30 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

- 1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 586 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

McMakin

Abstract: Calls a constitutional convention to convene at noon on Dec. 12, 2025. Provides the convention is composed of 105 delegates. Requires the convention to complete a new constitution by Oct. 2, 2026. Provides for the proposed constitution to be presented to the electors of the state at the congressional general election on Dec. 2, 2026.

Constitutional Convention

Proposed law provides for a constitutional convention as follows:

- (1) Calls the convention to convene at noon on Dec. 2, 2025, to frame a new constitution for the state.
- (2) Provides for 105 delegates as follows: 78 elected delegates, 10 delegates appointed by various entities, the commissioner of higher education, the superintendent of education, and 15 delegates appointed by the governor
- (3) Excepts service of delegates and staff of the convention from dual employment/dual officeholding laws. Delegates and staff are subject to the La. Code of Ethics. Further, delegates and staff are considered public officers, public officials, public employees, or persons in a position of public authority for purposes of the application of the provisions of the La. criminal code. Provides that service of a judge as a delegate is not grounds for recusal. Attorney delegates and staff are entitled to continuance of cases in which they are counsel of record while attending sessions and committee meetings. Prohibits acceptance or deposit of campaign contributions and fundraisers by delegates during the time of the convention. Provides that records of the convention and delegates are subject to the Public Records Law to the same extent and limitations applicable to the legislature and legislators.
- (4) Provides for filling of vacancies through appointment. A vacancy in an elected office shall be filled by a person from the same parish appointed by the governor. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law provides for the qualification and election of delegates from each parish at the fall 2025 elections. Provides that two delegates shall be elected from each of the following parishes: Ascension Parish, Bossier Parish, Caddo Parish, Calcasieu Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, Jefferson Parish, Lafayette Parish, Livingston Parish, Orleans Parish, Ouachita Parish, Rapides Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, and Terrebonne Parish. Provides that one delegate shall be elected from the remaining parishes.

Proposed law grants to the convention the authority to frame a new state constitution. Provides that the proposed constitution shall provide that provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana of 1974, as amended, that are not included in the new constitution shall be continued as statutes in a statutory title of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 dedicated to that purpose. The proposed constitution shall provide that such provisions made statutory and contained in the dedicated statutory title, which shall be established as Title 57, may

only be changed by law adopted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed law provides that any action to determine a question of the construction or validity of proposed law, to determine the scope of authority of the convention, or to determine the conformity of any action of the convention with proposed law shall be brought in the 19th Judicial District Court subject to direct appeal to the supreme court. The matter shall be tried by preference over other matters, and the court shall render a decision as soon as practicable. If the action is to determine the validity or conformity of an action of the convention, such action shall be brought within 15 days of the action of the convention.

Proposed law provides for convention organization as follows:

- (1) Includes provisions for oath for delegates; election of chairman, vice chairman, and chief clerical officer; and election of an executive committee which shall include the chairman and vice chairman; adoption of rules; and other actions necessary to organize.
- (2) Provides for the establishment of 15 committees, only: 14 committees, each dedicated to a single Article of the Constitution of La. of 1974, and one executive committee. Limits committee membership to 17 members. Provides for the appointment of members to the 14 committees. Provides for the election of the executive committee. Prohibits establishing subcommittees.
- (3) Provides for House and Senate staff designated by the presiding officers of the legislature, prior to the convention, to prepare rules of procedure for adoption by the convention, based on the 1973 convention rules, such rules to be subject to change and adoption by the convention. Provides that action by the convention requires a favorable vote of a majority of the convention. Prohibits proxy voting.

Proposed law provides for the initial meeting of the convention on noon Dec. 2, 2025. Provides that after organizational activities are completed, the convention shall meet in committees and each committee shall provide a report of its activities to the full convention no later than Sept. 2, 2026. Requires the full convention to convene beginning Sept. 3, 2026 to consider the report of each committee as a committee of the whole. The chairman and vice chairman of the convention shall serve as the chairman and vice chairman of the committee of the whole. The convention shall complete its work no later than Oct. 2, 2026.

Proposed law provides for convention staff, budget, committees, meeting site, and other assistance as follows:

- (1) Requires the executive committee to request the provision of professional, research, technical, and clerical staff from public or private sources as deemed necessary.
- (2) Provides that the attorney general or her designee shall serve as legal advisor to the convention and that convention staff may include but not be limited to a research director, research assistants, personnel from the faculty of in-state law schools as requested by the executive committee, and such other staff as deemed necessary by the executive committee. Allows the staff of the convention to continue to receive compensation from the staff person's regular bona fide employment. Prohibits delegates and lobbyists from serving as convention staff.
- (3) Requires the executive committee to prepare a budget of anticipated expenses of the convention, based on the amount of the appropriation for the convention and any other funds available for expenditure.
- (4) Provides that the executive committee of the convention appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and membership of each committee of the convention.

- (5) Requires that the House and Senate Chambers and the legislative committee rooms in the state capitol be available for convention use, unless the legislature is in session. Authorizes the convention to meet elsewhere in Baton Rouge as determined by the chairman when state capitol facilities are not available or are insufficient.
- (6) Authorizes convention use of facilities and services of state departments and agencies and of political subdivisions and requires their cooperation in furnishing services, facilities, and employees.

Proposed law provides for compensation of delegates and payment of convention expenses as follows:

- (1) Delegates to the convention shall receive the same per diem and travel allowances provided for members of the legislature pursuant to present law (R.S. 24:31 and 31.1). Prohibits a delegate from accepting any compensation from any other source for work performed as a delegate to the convention, but allows a delegate to continue to receive compensation for the delegate's regular bona fide employment while a delegate.
- (2) Requires that the legislature make adequate appropriations to the convention for the payment of the necessary expenses of the convention such as supplies, materials, equipment, and printing for so long as the convention remains in existence and for so long thereafter as is necessary to pay the expenses of the convention. Prohibits used of funds from private sources to pay the expenses of the convention. Provides that the convention is not a state budget unit. Specifies that the convention is subject to audit by the legislative auditor. Authorizes the presiding officers to utilize funds appropriated to the legislature to defray expenses of the convention.
- (3) Requires that funds appropriated be withdrawn from the state treasury in accordance with warrants signed by the convention chairman and that checks be signed by the chairman and vice chairman, or the chairman or vice chairman and such other person as designated by the convention.

Submission to Voters/Effectiveness

Proposed law requires the convention, upon completion of its work to submit to the governor the proposed constitution by Oct. 2, 2026. Provides that the constitution proposed for submission shall be submitted to the people for their adoption or rejection at a special election. Requires the governor to call the election within 10 days after the draft is submitted, to be held at the same time as the 2026 congressional general on Dec. 12, 2026. Provides for the election to be held and the results thereof promulgated in accordance with the La. Election Code and for costs to be paid as provided in the election code for elections in which a constitutional amendment appears on the ballot. Provides for the ballot language. Voters are allowed to vote without regard to party affiliation. Requires a majority vote to approve the constitution.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be severable and provides that if any provision is deemed null and void and of no effect by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction after adoption by the convention but prior to its submission to the electors, then the provision deemed null and void shall be removed from the proposed revision of the constitution by the secretary of state and the remainder of the proposed revision of the constitution shall be submitted to the electors in accordance proposed law. Further provides that if any provision of the revision of the constitution, or the application thereof, is deemed invalid after ratification by the electors, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of the revision which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item, or application.

Proposed law requires, upon promulgation of the results of the election by the secretary of state if the constitution is ratified and adopted by the people, that the governor proclaim the constitution as adopted, to be the Constitution of La. Provides that the constitution shall

become effective at midnight on Dec. 31, 2026, except as otherwise provided in the constitution.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

Timetable of Events

<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>
Qualification period for delegate candidates	7/9/25-7/11/25
Primary election of delegates	10/11/2025
General election of delegates	11/15/2025
Convention to convene	12/2/2025 (noon)
Convention committees to submit reports to the full convention no later than	9/2/2026
Convention to submit draft constitution to the governor no later than	10/2/2026
Election for submission of proposed constitution	12/12/2026 (Congressional general)
Constitution becomes effective if adopted	12/31/26 (midnight)