



1 (1) Primary elections for members of congress and officers elected at the  
2 same time as members of congress, **except in presidential election years**, shall be  
3 held on the ~~first Tuesday after the first Monday in November~~ **last Saturday in**  
4 **September** of an election year.

5 (2) **Primary elections for members of congress and officers elected at the**  
6 **same time as members of congress in presidential election years shall be held on**  
7 **the first Saturday in August of an election year.**

8 (3) General elections for members of congress and officers elected at the  
9 same time as members of congress shall be held on the ~~fifth Saturday after the first~~  
10 Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year.

11 \* \* \*

12 E. Special elections to fill newly created office or vacancy in office. An  
13 election to fill a newly created office or vacancy in an existing office, except the  
14 office of representative in congress, shall be held on the dates fixed by the  
15 appropriate authority in the proclamation ordering a special election as follows:

16 (1) A special primary election shall be held on the first of the following days  
17 that is after the date on which the proclamation calling the special primary election  
18 was issued, provided that the proclamation was issued at least four weeks prior to the  
19 opening of the qualifying period for the special primary election:

20 (a) The third to last Saturday in October, when the special general election  
21 is held on the fifth Saturday after the third to last Saturday in October.

22 (b) ~~The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November~~ **last Saturday in**  
23 **September, except in presidential election years**, when the special general election  
24 is held on the ~~fifth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in~~  
25 November.

26 (c) **The first Saturday in August in presidential election years, when the**  
27 **special general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in**  
28 **November.**

29 (d) The last Saturday in March, when the special general election is held on

1 the fifth Saturday after the last Saturday in March or on the first Saturday in March  
2 during the presidential election year.

3 ~~(d)~~**(e)** The second Saturday in October, when the special general election is  
4 held on the fifth Saturday after the second Saturday in October of 1985 and every  
5 fourth year thereafter.

6 ~~(e)~~**(f)** The second Saturday in October of an election year for parish and  
7 municipal officers in a parish containing a municipality with a population of three  
8 hundred thousand or more.

9 (2) A special general election shall be held on one of the following days:

10 \* \* \*

11 (b) The ~~fifth Saturday after the~~ first Tuesday after the first Monday in  
12 November of even-numbered years.

13 \* \* \*

14 F. Bond, tax, or other elections. Every bond, tax, or other election at which  
15 a proposition or question is to be submitted to the voters shall be held only on one  
16 of the following dates:

17 \* \* \*

18 (2)(a) The ~~first Tuesday after the first Monday in November or the fifth~~  
19 ~~Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of~~  
20 ~~even-numbered years~~ **last Saturday in September of even-numbered years, except**  
21 **in presidential election years.**

22 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the  
23 ~~fifth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November shall not~~  
24 ~~be applicable in a parish containing a municipality with a population of three~~  
25 ~~hundred thousand or more for an election relative to a parcel fee imposed within a~~  
26 ~~security or neighborhood improvement district. For purposes of this Subparagraph,~~  
27 ~~"security or neighborhood improvement district" means a special district one of the~~  
28 ~~primary purposes of which is aiding in crime prevention and adding to the security~~  
29 ~~of district residents by providing for an increased presence of law enforcement~~

1 ~~personnel in the district or otherwise promoting and encouraging security in the~~  
2 ~~district.~~ **The first Saturday in August of even-numbered years in presidential**  
3 **election years.**

4 **(c) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-**  
5 **numbered years.**

6 \* \* \*

7 §467. Opening of qualifying period

8 The qualifying period for candidates in a primary election shall open:

9 (1) For candidates in a gubernatorial primary election and those in any special  
10 primary election to be held at the same time, on the first Tuesday after the first  
11 Monday in August of the year of the election.

12 (2) For candidates in a congressional primary election and those in any  
13 special primary election to be held at the same time, **except in presidential election**  
14 **years,** on the ~~third last~~ **last** Wednesday in ~~July~~ **June** of the year of the election.

15 (3) **For candidates in a congressional primary election and those in any**  
16 **special primary election to be held at the same time in presidential election**  
17 **years, on the second Wednesday in May of the year of the election.**

18 (4) For candidates in a primary election for municipal and ward officers who  
19 are not elected at the same time as the governor or members of congress in  
20 municipalities with a population of less than three hundred thousand and those in any  
21 special primary election to be held at the same time, on the second Wednesday in  
22 January of the year of the election, unless the primary election is held on the first  
23 Saturday in March; in such case the qualifying period for candidates in such primary  
24 election shall open on the first Wednesday in December of the year prior to the  
25 election.

26 ~~(4)~~(5) For candidates in a primary election for parochial and municipal  
27 officers in a parish containing a municipality with a population of three hundred  
28 thousand or more and in which the municipal and parochial elections are held at the  
29 same time, on the second Wednesday in July in the year of the election.



1 the qualifying period for candidates in a primary election, **other than a primary**  
2 **election for United States senator or representative in congress in a regularly**  
3 **scheduled congressional primary election**, the number of candidates for a public  
4 office does not exceed the number of persons to be elected to the office, the  
5 candidates for that office, or those remaining after the withdrawal of one or more  
6 candidates, are declared elected by the people, and their names shall not appear on  
7 the ballot in either the primary or the general election.

8 C. Election of unopposed candidates for membership on party committees.  
9 If, after the close of the qualifying period for candidates in a primary election, the  
10 number of candidates for membership on a political party committee does not exceed  
11 the number of members to be elected to the committee, the candidates for  
12 membership on that political party committee, or those remaining after the death or  
13 withdrawal of one or more candidates, are declared elected by the people, and their  
14 names shall not appear on the ballot in either the primary or the general election.

15 D. **Election of unopposed candidates for the public office of United States**  
16 **senator or representative in congress in a regularly scheduled congressional**  
17 **primary election. If, after the close of the qualifying period for candidates in a**  
18 **regularly scheduled congressional primary election, the number of candidates**  
19 **for the public office of United States senator or representative in congress does**  
20 **not exceed the number of persons to be elected to the office, the candidates for**  
21 **that office, or those remaining after the withdrawal of one or more candidates,**  
22 **are declared elected by the people on the first Tuesday after the first Monday**  
23 **in November of an election year, and their names shall not appear on the ballot**  
24 **in either the regularly scheduled congressional primary or general election.**

25 E. Effect of a tie vote. If, as a result of a tie vote in a primary election, the  
26 number of candidates who would be elected to an office exceeds the number of  
27 persons to be elected to the office, the candidates who received the same majority of  
28 the votes cast in the primary election are not elected, but they are qualified as  
29 candidates in the general election.

1 §512. Election of candidates in a general election

2 A. Generally. The candidate who receives the most votes cast for an office  
3 in a general election is elected. If there are two or more offices of the same character  
4 to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest total number of votes shall be  
5 elected, to the number required to fill all of the offices.

6 B. Election of unopposed candidates. If, as a result of the death or withdrawal  
7 of one or more candidates, other than a candidate for United States senator or  
8 representative in congress in a regularly scheduled congressional general  
9 election, the number of candidates for an office in a general election does not exceed  
10 the number of persons to be elected to the office, the remaining candidates are  
11 declared elected by the people, and their names shall not appear on the ballot in the  
12 general election.

13 C. Election of unopposed candidates for United States senator or  
14 representative in congress in a regularly scheduled congressional general  
15 election. If, as a result of the death or withdrawal of one or more candidates,  
16 the number of candidates for an office in a regularly scheduled congressional  
17 general election does not exceed the number of persons to be elected to the  
18 office, the remaining candidates are declared elected by the people on the first  
19 Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year.

20 D. Effect of a tie vote. If, as a result of a tie vote in a general election, the  
21 number of candidates who would be elected to an office exceeds the number of  
22 persons to be elected to the office, the candidates who received the same number of  
23 votes for that office in the general election are not elected. The election for officers  
24 thus not elected shall be returned to the people on the third Saturday after the date  
25 on which the results in the election at which the tie vote occurred were promulgated.

26 \* \* \*

27 §1253. Nominating by political parties; certificates of nomination

28 \* \* \*

29 E. If the nominees for the offices of president and vice president nominated

1 by a national convention of a recognized political party, together with a slate of  
 2 candidates for the offices of presidential electors to support such nominees, are not  
 3 properly certified to the secretary of state by the state central committee of that party  
 4 prior to 4:30 p.m. on the ~~third~~ **second** Tuesday in August of each year in which a  
 5 presidential election is to be held, the national chairman of the political party, after  
 6 notifying the chairman of the state central committee of that political party, shall  
 7 certify a slate of electors to support such nominees by 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday  
 8 following the ~~third~~ **second** Tuesday in August. Such certificate filed with the  
 9 secretary of state shall be accompanied by the notarized affidavit of each candidate  
 10 for elector signifying that the certificate constitutes his acceptance of the nomination.

11 \* \* \*

12 §1254. Slates of independent candidates; nominating petitions and qualifying by  
 13 payment of qualifying fees

14 A. A slate of independent candidates for presidential elector may be  
 15 nominated by nominating petition or may qualify by the payment of a qualifying fee  
 16 of five hundred dollars. Such qualifying fee shall be paid in accordance with the  
 17 provisions of R.S. 18:464(A). The period for filing such qualifying fee shall begin  
 18 on the third Tuesday in July and shall end at 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday following  
 19 the ~~third~~ **second** Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is  
 20 to be held. Each qualifying fee shall be accompanied by the notice of candidacy and  
 21 notarized affidavit of each candidate for elector signifying his acceptance of the  
 22 nomination. An independent candidate for presidential elector may be registered to  
 23 vote with or without a declaration of party affiliation.

24 \* \* \*

25 §1272. United States senators; representatives in congress; time of electing

26 A. All general elections for representatives in congress shall be held on the  
 27 ~~fifth Saturday after the~~ first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-  
 28 numbered years. The primary election, **except in presidential election years,** shall  
 29 be held on the ~~first Tuesday after the first Monday in November~~ **last Saturday in**



Proposed law provides that the election for members of congress and officers elected at the same time in a presidential election year shall be held on the first Saturday in August.

Present law provides that a special primary election shall be held on the first of the following days that is after the date on which the proclamation calling the special primary election was issued, provided that the proclamation was issued at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the special primary election: the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, when the special general election is held on the fifth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the special primary election to the last Saturday in September, except in presidential election years, when the special general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Also provides that the special primary election may be held on the first Saturday in August in presidential election years, when the special general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Present law provides that bond, tax, and other elections at which a proposition or question is to be submitted to the voters shall be held only on one of the specified dates, to include the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November or the fifth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that bond, tax and other elections can be held on the last Saturday in September of even-numbered years, except in presidential years.

Proposed law also adds that the bond, tax and other elections can be held on the first Saturday in August of even-numbered years in presidential election years.

Proposed law changes the option of holding the election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November or the fifth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years.

Proposed law deletes provisions which make inapplicable a bond, tax, or other election date of the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 300,000 or more for an election relative to a parcel fee imposed within a security or neighborhood improvement district.

Present law provides that the qualifying period for candidates in a primary election shall open on specified dates and includes the dates for candidates in a congressional primary election and those in any special primary election to be held at the same time, on the third Wednesday in July of the year of the election.

Proposed law retains present law but specifies that except in presidential election years, the congressional primary election or another special primary election, to be held at the same time, the qualifying period shall open on the last Wednesday in June of the year of the election.

Proposed law also adds that the qualifying period shall open for candidates in a congressional primary election and those in any special primary election to be held at the same time in presidential election years, on the second Wednesday in May of the year of the election.

Proposed law provides that in congressional regularly scheduled general elections, the candidates who qualify for the office of United States senator or representative in congress in the regularly scheduled congressional general election are those who received the two highest numbers of votes in the primary election. Present law is retained concerning other general elections.

Proposed law retains present law concerning the election of candidates in a primary election but proposed law excludes candidates for United States senator or representative in congress in a regularly scheduled congressional primary election.

Proposed law adds that the unopposed candidates for U.S. senator or representative in congress in a regularly scheduled congressional primary election are declared elected by the people on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year, and their names shall not appear on the ballot in either the regularly scheduled congressional primary or general election.

Proposed law retains present law concerning the election of candidates in a general election but proposed law excludes candidates for United States senator or representative in congress in a regularly scheduled congressional general election.

Proposed law adds that if, as a result of the death or withdrawal of one or more candidates, the number of candidates for an office in a regularly scheduled congressional general election does not exceed the number to be elected to the office, the remaining candidates are declared elected by the people on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year.

Proposed law retains present law concerning the payment of qualifying fees but changes the period for filing qualifying fees from: beginning on the third Tuesday in July and ending at 4:30 p.m. on the first Friday following the third Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is to be held, to the second Tuesday in August of each year in which a presidential election is to be held.

Present law provides that all general elections for representatives in congress shall be held on the fifth Saturday after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that, except in presidential election years, the primary election shall be held on the last Saturday in September of an election year and that the primary election in presidential election years shall be held on the first Saturday in August of an election year.

Present law provides that written notice of the election and the certificate required by Subparagraph (b) of R.S. 18:1285 shall be transmitted to the secretary of state and each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the election. If the election is to be held on a primary election date, then such notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the primary election. If the election is not to be held on a primary election date, then the notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the 54th day prior to the election. The secretary of state shall not accept any revisions to propositions, including but not limited to changes in title, text, or numerical designations, after the last day for submission of the notice and certificate to the secretary of state.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that if the election is on a general election date, except the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year, then the notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the fifty-fourth day prior to the election. If the election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year, then the notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the eighty-first day prior to the election. The secretary of state shall not accept any revisions to propositions, including but not limited to changes in title, text, or numerical designations, after the last day for submission of the notice and certificate to the secretary of state.

Effective March 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 18:402(B), (E)(1) and (2)(b) and (F)(2), 467, 481, 511, 512, 1253(E), 1254(A), 1272(A), and 1285(B)(1)(a))