

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 101

BY SENATOR MIGUEZ

VOTERS/VOTING. Provides relative to ranked-choice voting and instant runoff voting.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:2(6.1) and 405, relative to elections; to define ranked-choice voting and
3 instant runoff voting; to prohibit for certain elections; to provide for an effective
4 date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:2(6.1) and 405 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §2. Definitions

8 As used in this Code, the following words and terms shall have the meanings
9 hereinafter ascribed to each, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning:

10 * * *

11 **(6.1)(a) "Ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" means a**
12 **method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office as follows:**

13 **(i) Voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference.**

14 **(ii) Tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round, one or more**
15 **candidates are nominated or elected, or a last-place candidate is defeated.**

16 **(iii) Votes are transferred from nominated, elected, or defeated**
17 **candidates to the voter's next-ranked candidate or candidates in order of**

1 **preference.**

2 **(iv) Tabulation ends when a candidate receives the majority of the votes**
3 **cast or when the number of candidates nominated or elected equals the number**
4 **of offices to be filled, as applicable.**

5 **(b) "Ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" shall not mean**
6 **a method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office via**
7 **absentee voting by military and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed and**
8 **Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.**

9 * * *

10 **§405. Ranked-choice voting and instant runoff voting prohibited**

11 **A. A ranked-choice voting or instant runoff voting method, as those**
12 **terms are defined in R.S. 18:2, shall not be used in determining the election or**
13 **nomination of any candidate to any local, state, or federal elective office in this**
14 **state.**

15 **B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, a**
16 **ranked-choice voting or instant runoff voting method of nominating or electing**
17 **one or more candidates to an office may be used for absentee voting by military**
18 **and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee**
19 **Voting Act.**

20 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
21 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
22 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
23 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
24 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

SB 101 Original DIGEST 2024 Regular Session Miguez

Present law provides definitions for terms used in the Election Code.

Proposed law adds a definition for "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting".

Provides that such terms will mean a method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office when:

- (1) Voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference.
- (2) Tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round, one or more candidates are nominated or elected, or a last-place candidate is defeated.
- (3) Votes are transferred from nominated, elected, or defeated candidates to the voter's next-ranked candidate or candidates in order of preference.
- (4) Tabulation ends when a candidate receives the majority of the votes cast or when the number of candidates nominated or elected equals the number of offices to be filled, as applicable.

Proposed law further defines that "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" does not mean a method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office via absentee voting by military and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Proposed law prohibits the method of ranked-choice voting or instant runoff voting for determining the election or nomination of any candidate to any local, state, or federal elective office.

Proposed law allows for use of a ranked-choice voting or instant runoff voting method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office by military and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:2(6.1) and 405)