

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 359

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Provides relative to the death of a candidate for a party primary office who is not affiliated with a major political party

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:410.8(C), relative to candidates who are not affiliated with a major political  
3 party; to provide for qualifying for the general election for a party primary office;  
4 to provide for the death of a candidate following the close of the qualifying period;  
5 to provide for the removal of the deceased candidate's name from the ballot; to  
6 provide relative to the counting of votes under certain circumstances; and to provide  
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:410.8(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §410.8. Candidates not affiliated with a major political party; qualifying for the  
11 general election; death of a candidate

12 \* \* \*

13 C. If a person who qualified as a candidate pursuant to this Section dies after  
14 the close of the qualifying period and before the time for closing the polls on the day  
15 of the general election, the name of the deceased candidate shall not be printed on  
16 the general election ballot. If the general election ballot was printed with the  
17 deceased candidate's name on it, any votes received by the deceased candidate shall  
18 be void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever.

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**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)]

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HB 359 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Beaulieu

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the death of a candidate who is not affiliated with a major political party after the close of the qualifying period.

Present law provides for qualifying for the general election for a party primary office for candidates not affiliated with a major political party. Provides for who is allowed to sign the nominating petition for a candidate not affiliated with a major political party.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that if a person qualifies as a candidate pursuant to present law and subsequently dies after the close of the qualifying period, the candidate's name shall not be printed on the general election ballot. Provides that if the deceased candidate's name is printed on the ballot, any votes received for the deceased candidate shall be void and shall not be counted for any purpose.

(Adds R.S. 18:410.8(C))