

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL AND GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the registrar of voters of each parish to submit to the Department of State, and for the Department of State to subsequently submit to the Louisiana House of Representatives, an annual report on the results of the annual canvass of registered voters and the removal of deceased voters from the voter registration rolls in each parish.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's voter rolls should only include living United States citizens who reside at the address listed in the voter rolls; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides for the right to vote and was amended, with the approval of seventy-three percent of the vote at the December 10, 2022, election, to provide that no person who is not a citizen of the United States shall be allowed to register and vote in this state; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by the successful passage of the constitutional amendment, Louisiana voters value the integrity of the right to vote and the voter registration process; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 18:192 and 193 requires the registrar of voters of each parish to conduct an annual canvass for the purpose of identifying registered voters who are no longer qualified to be registered or have changed their residence; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the canvass process, the law further requires the Department of State to use the United States Postal Service or its licensee to verify the names and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 18:173, which provides for the removal of deceased voters from the voting rolls, was amended by Act No. 364 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature, which passed unanimously in the House of Representatives and Senate and was subsequently signed by the governor; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 18:173 requires the registrar of voters of each parish to remove from the voter registration rolls the names of deceased voters upon receipt of a certified copy of the voter's death certificate and requires the registrar of voters to search obituaries for deceased persons whose registrations were not cancelled and to cancel such registrations accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the law further requires the Department of State to cancel the registration of any deceased person as deaths are reported to the department by the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by the unanimous vote of the legislature in passing Act No. 364, the legislature finds it a priority that the voting rolls be properly maintained and that deceased voters be promptly removed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Department of State and the registrar of voters of each parish complete the legal requirements of R.S. 18:173 in a timely manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby urge and request the registrar of voters of each parish to annually submit a report to the Department of State, on or before July thirtieth, that includes the following:

- (1) Actions taken by the registrar's office in the prior year to canvass and verify voter registration information, the total number of voters verified by the canvass, the total number of voters not verified by the canvass, and any actions taken as a result of the canvass process.
- (2) The number of deceased voters removed from the voter rolls in the prior year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby urge and request that the Department of State annually submit a report to the House of Representatives, on or before August thirtieth, that includes the following:

- (1) Actions taken by the Department of State and each registrar of voters in the prior year to canvass and verify voter registration information, the total number of voters verified by the canvass, the total number of voters not verified by the canvass, and any actions taken as a result of the canvass process.
- (2) The number of deceased voters removed from the voter rolls in each parish in the prior year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of state and the registrar of voters of each parish.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES