

2024 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

ELECTIONS/CANDIDATES: Provides for the nature of elections for judicial offices
(Items #7 and #10)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:551(D) and to enact R.S. 18:401.5 and 464(C)(5) and (D)(3),
3 relative to elections; to provide for the nature of judicial elections; to exempt
4 candidates for judicial office from additional fees imposed by political party
5 committees at qualifying; to provide relative to the designation of political party
6 affiliation for candidates for judicial office on ballots; to provide for an effective
7 date; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:551(D) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:401.5 and
10 464(C)(5) and (D)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §401.5. Nature of judicial elections

12 All qualified voters of this state may vote on candidates for judicial office in
13 primary and general elections without regard to the voter's party affiliation or lack
14 of it, and all candidates for judicial office who qualify for a primary or general
15 election may be voted on without regard to the candidate's party affiliation or lack
16 of it.

17 * * *

18 §464. Qualifying fees; additional fees imposed by political party committees;
19 financial statements

20 * * *

1 C. Additional fees imposed by state central committees.

2 * * *

3 (5) The additional fee imposed by a state central committee of a recognized
4 political party pursuant to this Subsection shall not apply to candidates for judicial
5 office.

6 D. Additional fees imposed by parish executive committees.

7 * * *

8 (3) The additional fee imposed by a parish executive committee of a political
9 party of a recognized political party pursuant to this Subsection shall not apply to
10 candidates for judicial office.

11 * * *

12 §551. Ballots

13 * * *

14 D. Political party designation. (1) The political party designation of a
15 candidate who is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party shall
16 be listed on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately
17 after or below the candidate's name. If a candidate is affiliated with a political party,
18 but such party is not a recognized political party, the word "other" shall be placed
19 after his name. If a candidate is not affiliated with any political party, the words "no
20 party" or an abbreviation thereof shall be placed after his name.

21 (2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the political party
22 designation of a candidate for a judicial office shall not be listed on any primary or
23 general election ballot.

24 (3) The secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to
25 effectuate the provisions and purposes of this Subsection.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on May 1, 2024.

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 6 Original

2024 First Extraordinary Session

Mandie Landry

Abstract: Provides that all qualified voters may vote on candidates for judicial office without regard to the voter's party affiliation or lack thereof and all candidates for judicial offices may be voted on without regard to the candidate's party affiliation or lack thereof; exempts candidates for judicial office from additional fees imposed by political party committees; and prohibits indication of party affiliation of judicial candidates on ballots.

Proposed law provides that all qualified voters may vote on candidates for judicial office without regard to the voter's party affiliation or lack of it, and all candidates for judicial office may be voted on without regard to the candidate's party affiliation or lack of it.

Present law (R.S. 18:464) provides the amounts of qualifying fees for candidates. Provides different amounts based on the category of office. Further authorizes the state central committee of a political party to impose an additional fee on state candidates and presidential candidates affiliated with that party in an amount up to one-half of the qualifying fee for the office and further authorizes parish executive committees to impose an additional fee on local or municipal candidates affiliated with that party in an amount up to one-half of the qualifying fee for the office.

Proposed law exempts candidates for judicial offices from paying the additional fee imposed by political party committees.

Present law provides that the political party designation of a candidate shall be listed on the primary or general election ballot on the same line and immediately after or below the candidate's name.

Proposed law retains present law but prohibits listing the political party designation of judicial candidates on ballots.

Effective May 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:551(D); Adds R.S. 18:401.5 and 464(C)(5) and (D)(3))