
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 906 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Billings

Abstract: Provides for nominating petitions for presidential nominee and for participation in party primary elections by unaffiliated voters.

Present law (R.S. 18:410.3) provides that political parties make all nominations of candidates for party primary office by direct primary elections. Provides that each voter may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the voter.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that voters not affiliated with a political party may vote in a major party primary if a party primary ballot is selected by the voter prior to casting his ballot, but such a voter may vote only in one major party primary.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides that a state central committee of a major political party may, through its bylaws, allow unaffiliated voters to participate in its party primary elections. Provides that a state central committee of a major political party shall notify the Dept. of State at least 180 days prior to the opening of qualifying for the first party primary that its bylaws either allow or prohibit participation by voters who are not affiliated with a political party.

Present law (R.S. 18:445.1) provides that if the presidential preference primary is repealed, all elections for members of a state central committee or a parish executive committee of a recognized political party shall occur at the same time as the statewide presidential general election.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that if a state central committee of a major political party allows unaffiliated voters to participate in its party primary elections, then the unaffiliated voters are also allowed to participate in elections for the state central committee and parish executive committee elections.

Present law (R.S. 18:521(B)) provides that in a primary or general election at which members of a political party committee are voted on, only qualified voters who are registered as being affiliated with the same political party as the candidates for membership on a political party committee may vote on such candidates. Requires the secretary of state to adjust the voting machines so that the candidates for membership on a political party committee may only be voted on by voters who are registered as being affiliated with the same political party.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that a state central committee of a major political

party may, through its bylaws, allow unaffiliated voters to participate in its party committee elections.

Present law (R.S. 18:1280.21) provides for when a statewide presidential preference primary election is to be held. Provides that each voter voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the voter.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that if a state central committee of a major political party, through its bylaws, allows unaffiliated voters to participate in its party primary elections, then the unaffiliated voters shall also be allowed to vote in the statewide presidential preference primary election.

Present law (R.S. 18:1280.22(A)) provides for the manner in which a candidate for presidential nominee shall qualify. Provides that a candidate, prior to qualifying, shall either pay a qualifying fee of \$1,000 or shall have obtained a nominating petition bearing the handwritten signatures of no less than 1,000 registered voters affiliated with the party from each congressional district. Provides for the method of paying the qualifying fee.

Proposed law changes the signature requirement for the nominating petition from 1,000 from each congressional district to 2,500 with at least 250 from each of the congressional districts. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1280.22(B)) provides for when the qualifying period is to open and close. Requires a presidential candidate to file a notice of candidacy with the secretary of state and further provides that the notice of candidacy shall be in writing and contain certain information. Provides for what is to be included in the nominating petition.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that each voter who signs a nominating petition shall include his name and residence address.

Proposed law instead provides that in addition to his signature, each voter who signs a nominating petition shall provide the information required by present law (R.S. 18:3). Further provides that once a voter has signed a nominating petition he may not withdraw the nomination.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 18:410.3, 445.1, 521(B)(1), 1280.21, and 1280.22(A) and (B)(3)(b))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Add language giving the ability for a state central committee of a major political party to allow, through its bylaws, unaffiliated voters to participate in its party primary elections and provide that unaffiliated voters can only vote in one major political party's primary elections, if allowed.
2. Require a state central committee to notify the Dept. of State if it allows or prohibits unaffiliated voters from participating in its party primary elections.
3. Provide that if a state central committee allows unaffiliated voters to participate in its party primary elections, then the unaffiliated voters shall also be allowed to participate in the elections for the state central committee, parish executive committee, and the statewide presidential preference primary.
4. Make technical changes.
5. Add effective date of Jan. 1, 2027.