

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 1 (SB 1)

2025 First Extraordinary Session

Kleinpeter

New law provides that notwithstanding current provisions in the Louisiana Election Code, the following dates shall apply for spring elections in 2026:

- (1) There shall be a spring primary election held on May 16, 2026, for municipal and ward officers elected in the spring of a nonpresidential congressional election year and for candidates in a party primary election for a party primary office to be elected in that year. Provides that any contest, proposition, question, or constitutional amendment scheduled to appear on the ballot for the April 18, 2026, election shall instead appear on the ballot for the May 16, 2026, election.
- (2) There shall be a spring general election held on June 27, 2026, for municipal and ward officers and, if necessary, a second party primary for candidates in a party primary election for a party primary office to be elected that year. Provides that any contest, proposition, or question scheduled to appear on the ballot for the May 30, 2026, election shall instead appear on the ballot for the June 27, 2026, election.

New law provides that the qualifying period for candidates for the spring primary election in 2026 and for all candidates for a party primary office to be elected in 2026, and those in any special primary election to be held at the same time, shall open on February 11, 2026.

New law provides that any signature collected on or after September 16, 2025, on a nominating petition for an office for which qualifying opens on February 11, 2026, shall be considered timely.

New law provides that the number of qualified voters who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for United States representative in Congress to be elected in 2026, is 750 from within the state. Provides that the number of qualified voters who must timely sign a nominating petition for a candidate for United States senator to be elected in 2026, is 2,500 from within the state.

New law requires that each committee participating in the election of a candidate for major office in the May 16, 2026, election, excluding a candidate for party primary office, file a report as required by existing law no later than November 20, 2025, which is to be complete through the 190th day prior to the May 16, 2026, election. Provides that it is not a violation of the election campaign finance law for a committee to fail to file this report prior to November 20, 2025.

New law requires each candidate for major office in the May 16, 2026, election, excluding a candidate for party primary office, file a report as required by existing law no later than November 20, 2025, which shall be complete through the 190th day prior to the May 16, 2026, election. Provides that it is not a violation of the election campaign finance law for a committee to fail to file this report prior to November 20, 2025.

New law provides that a candidate required to file a supplemental report by February 15, 2026, pursuant to existing law shall instead file the supplemental report by March 2, 2026. Provides that a candidate required to file an annual report by February 15, 2026, pursuant to existing law shall instead file the annual report by March 2, 2026.

New law authorizes the secretary of state to make necessary changes to any rules, regulations, forms, instructions, statements, ballots, nominating petitions, early voting ballot instructions, or absentee by mail ballot envelopes, instructions, certificates, or other balloting paraphernalia to reflect the dates and deadlines provided for in new law without approval as otherwise required by existing law. Further authorizes the secretary of state to proceed with emergency rulemaking if necessary to implement the provisions of new law.

New law provides that the change of election dates as provided by new law are not to be construed to invalidate any action undertaken by the governing authority of a political subdivision in an effort to place a bond, debt, tax, or proposition election or other question to be presented to the voters on either the April 18, 2026, or May 30, 2026, ballot. Provides that any notice, resolution, proclamation, or certification that states either the April 18, 2026,

or May 30, 2026, election date shall not be invalidated for failure to state the May 16, 2026, or June 27, 2026, election date as provided in new law.

Effective October 30, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 18:419.1 and 419.2)