



## **Are You Registered to Vote?**

**Check Again.**

There are many changes in voting laws from the State Legislative sessions in 2024 and 2025. If you have not voted recently or attempts by the Registrar of Voters to contact you due to address changes have gone unanswered, you may not be able to vote.

Now it is more important than ever to make sure you are able to vote so your voice is heard.

### **Check your voting status, precinct, and location:**

- Download the free app "Geaux Vote"
- Go [www.geauxvote.com](http://www.geauxvote.com)
- Call your parish Registrar of Voter's office. (St Tammany-Covington is 985-809-5500)

### **Eligibility to Vote:**

**To Register to Vote or to update your name, address, or party, complete a Louisiana Voter Registration Application:**

**You must be 18 years of age on or before election day, and be a US citizen.**

Documents required to register include those documents that prove your age, residency, and identity, pay attention to the deadlines for submission. Attached is a list of the St. Tammany Elections in 2025 with the schedule of due dates. Now is the time to update your important records and documents.

- Act 500 / SB436: Requires proof of citizenship be attached to the voter registration application. The specific documents that will be accepted as proof of citizenship for voter registration are still being determined by the Louisiana Secretary of State's office as of July 24, 2025.
- You cannot register to vote if you have been declared mentally incompetent or incarcerated in the last five years. If you have been on parole for five years, you can register to vote with a confirming letter from the Louisiana Department of Corrections parole office.

**On-line-**

- GeauxVote mobile app or website [www.geauxvote.com](http://www.geauxvote.com)
- Secretary of State website, [www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov) (Choose the top tab, Elections and Voting).
- You must register or change your registration 20 days before the election.

**In Person-**

- At your local Registrar of Voter's office, you must present your current LA driver's license, or LA special ID. If you do not have these, you can present other documents that include a picture ID, name, and address.
- You must register or change your registration 30 days before the election.
- At the following locations no further ID is required, other than that needed for services received that you have applied for.
  - Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles;
  - Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services;
  - WIC offices;
  - food stamp offices;
  - Medicaid offices;
  - offices serving persons with disabilities such as the Deaf Action Centers and Independent Living Offices; or
  - Armed Forces recruitment offices

**By Mail-**

Download and print the Louisiana Voter Registration Application form and mail it with required documents to the Registrar of Voter's Office, 701 N. Columbia St., Covington, LA 70433.

**Absentee Voting (Voting by Mail):**

Several new Louisiana laws have taken effect in 2025, which impact absentee voting. It is important for voters to be aware of these new regulations when requesting, completing, and returning absentee ballots.

Military service members have a separate application for voting absentee by mail. Check the Secretary of State website for the changes that may apply to you. [www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov)

**Restrictions on absentee ballots applications:**

There are several references to immediate family as defined here.

- Definition of Immediate family:
  - The individual's children
  - The spouses of their children

- Their brothers and their spouses
- Their sisters and their spouses
- Their parents
- Their spouse
- The parents of their spouse
- Restrictions on distributing absentee ballot applications:
  - Act 317 / SB218: Prohibits individuals, organizations, or entities from distributing absentee by mail ballot applications to voters who have not specifically requested them.
  - It is a crime to give an application for absentee by mail ballot form **no more than one** person who is not an immediate family member.
  - Act 317 / SB218: Only immediate family members can submit absentee by mail ballots on a voter's behalf in person.
  - Act 380 / HB476: Only immediate family members can deliver more than one marked absentee by mail ballot by any means, including sending through the U.S. Postal Service or commercial carrier.
- Absentee by mail ballot witnesses:
  - Act 712 / HB581: Requires witnesses to be at least 18 years of age and to provide their mailing address on the absentee by mail ballot certificate.
  - It is a crime to be a witness on more than one absentee by mail ballot if you are not an immediate family member.
- Challenging absentee by mail ballots:
  - Act 321 / SB226: Any absentee by mail ballot with invalid information or parts not filled out will be challenged. Note: The Registrar of Voters in St. Tammany will attempt to contact the voter to come in to correct errors or omissions first.
  - If a challenge is sustained, the vote will not be counted, and the voter will be notified in writing of the challenge, rejection, and cause.
- Reapplying for absentee by mail ballots (for certain voters):
  - Act 317 / SB218: Seniors and people with disabilities who are enrolled in the program for receiving absentee by mail ballots automatically will need to reapply every four years, with the cycle beginning in 2025. Note: The Registrar of Voters has extended the current voters on this program until December 31, 2029.

### **Closed Primaries begin on the first election of 2026**

Act 84 / HB420: Closed primaries are delineated for elections that choose the U.S. Senate, U.S. Representatives, LA Supreme Court Justice, the Public Service Commissioner, and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education members (BESE).

- Only two parties are currently recognized to be able to vote in closed primaries- Republicans for Republican candidates, and Democrats for Democratic candidates.
- Anyone who is registered with “No Party” can choose to vote either Republican or Democrat. Registered voters of other parties, such as the Green and Libertarian Party cannot vote in closed election primaries.
- Louisiana is eliminating the registration designation of Independent. Registered Independent voters as of August 31, 2025 will be reassigned the “No Party” designation.

Louisiana is the first state to utilize a new voter list maintenance database. Although it has yet to be developed and dictated, it merges personal information from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Service and the Social Security Administration. The database will allow the state to verify your identity and citizenship.

The League of Women Voters of St. Tammany is a nonpartisan; volunteer political advocacy organization committed to keeping our citizens informed. The League does not support political candidates, but we do take policy positions regarding individual rights, good government and other issues that we deem significant for democracy and public participation in civic life. The right to vote is essential.

**Don't be surprised on election day! Update your Voter Registration, Driver's License, Special LA ID, and citizenship documents NOW.**



Written by Gay DiGiovanni on behalf of the St. Tammany League of Women Voters.

For more information or to schedule a speaker, contact Eileen deHaro, President of the St. Tammany League at [edeharo@bellsouth.net](mailto:edeharo@bellsouth.net)

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