



## **LOUISIANA'S CLOSED-PARTY PRIMARIES WILL CHANGE HOW WE VOTE**

In 2024, the Louisiana Legislature adopted Closed-Party Primaries which will go into effect for several races on the ballot May 16 and June 27, 2026, and all future Closed-Party Primary elections. This system varies greatly from the Open-Party Primary elections that have taken place in New Orleans and Louisiana over the decades.

### **WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN CLOSED-PARTY PRIMARY RACES?**

Under the new system, Orleans Parish voters who are registered as Democrats or Republicans will be eligible to cast their ballots only for candidates with the same political party affiliation in the May 16 and June 27, 2026 elections. The races governed by the Closed-Party Primary elections include U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. Voters who reside in Congressional District 1 will also be able to vote for Public Service Commission District 1 and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education 1st District.



### **WHAT ABOUT VOTERS WHO ARE REGISTERED NO PARTY?**

Voters registered as No Party will be able to select either the ballot featuring candidates registered as Democrat or Republican. They must vote the same ballot for both the May 16 and June 27, 2026 elections. The choice they make will not impact their voter registration or prohibit future voting choices. No Party registrants can choose from any candidate on the ballot in the November 3, 2026 and December 12, 2026 elections.

### **WHO WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN CLOSED-PARTY PRIMARY RACES?**

Orleans Parish voters who are registered as Libertarian, Green or other parties are not eligible to vote for the Closed-Party Primary elections on May 16 and June 27, 2026. They will be able to vote for the candidates of their choice in the general and run-off elections on November 3, 2026 and December 12, 2026.

### **WHAT ABOUT RACES NOT COVERED BY THE CLOSED-PARTY SYSTEM?**





## **HOW WILL THIS SYSTEM WORK DURING EARLY VOTING & ON ELECTION DAY?**

More than 1500 Orleans Parish Poll Commissioners and Registrar of Voters staff are receiving special training on the new Closed-Party Primary system. They will be prepared to help voters answer any questions that may arise.

Voters who are registered as Democrats or Republicans will receive a ballot featuring candidates registered with their same party. Voters who are registered as No Party will select from the Democrat or Republican ballot and signify that choice on the form provided. After confirming a voter's party affiliation, the Commissioner will lock in the corresponding ballot on the voting machine.

## **WILL THE CLOSED-PARTY PRIMARY SYSTEM AFFECT VOTERS WHO MAIL IN BALLOTS?**

Citizens who vote by mail will receive a ballot that corresponds with their current voter registration. If registered as No Party, the voter already received a letter from the Secretary of State requesting that they select a Democratic or Republican ballot.

## **WHY SHOULD I CHECK MY VOTER REGISTRATION NOW?**

Many voters, including older New Orleanians originally registered years ago and may not recall their political party affiliation or even have selected a party. Now is the time for voters to ensure their registration information is up to date.

## **HOW CAN I CHANGE MY VOTER REGISTRATION?**

Voters can change their registration up to 30 days before an election (April 15, 2026) if the change is in person, or 20 days before (April 25, 2026) if the change is being made online. The office of Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Lisa Manning Bridges (504 658-8300) can assist voters in checking or changing their registration. The Registrar of Voters is located at City Hall Room 1W24 and at 225 Morgan Street, Room 105. The office of Orleans Parish Chief Elections Officer Darren Lombard (504 658-9000) can research voter registration. Changes can also be made online and in person through the office of Louisiana Secretary of State Nancy Landry.

**Call 1-800-883-2805 or <https://geauxvote.com>**



## **CAN I STILL VOTE IF I AM ON THE INACTIVE VOTER LIST?**

Yes! Inactive voters are encouraged to update their voter registration information. At the polls, inactive voters will be asked to sign a document verifying their current address.

## **HOW CAN I BECOME A POLL COMMISSIONER?**

Poll Commissioners must be 17 years of age and registered to vote in Orleans Parish