



# Louisiana

## *Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide*

*Provided by*

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# State Guide to Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Statutes

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to voter registration and voter list maintenance.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

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# Who can I contact with election related questions?

## [Link to Elections Official](#)

<b>Chief Elections Office:</b>	Nancy Landry, Secretary of State Sherri Wharton Hadskey, Commissioner of Elections <a href="#">Elections Division</a>
<b>Physical Address:</b>	8585 Archives Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70809
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	P.O. Box 94125 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125
<b>Phone Number:</b>	225-922-0900
<b>Fax Number:</b>	225-922-0945
<b>Online Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:elections@sos.la.gov">elections@sos.la.gov</a>

# How do I register to vote?

[Link to Register](#)  
[Link to Statutes](#)

## [RS 18:101. Registration to vote: qualifications](#)

To register to vote you must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be 17 years old (16 years old if registering in person at the Registrar of Voters Office or at the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles), but must be 18 years old to vote;
- not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony or, if under such an order not have been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years and not be under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction for election fraud or any other election offense pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1461.2;
- not be under a judgment of full interdiction for mental incompetence or partial interdiction with suspension of voting rights;
- reside in the state and parish in which you seek to register; and
- must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our GeauxVote Online Registration System with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering in person or by mail to be eligible to vote in that particular election. If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.

# How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Link to Form](#)

## [RS 18:110. Removal from precinct; removal from parish.](#)

D. Any registrant may have his name cancelled from the file of eligible voters by filing a written statement of such request with the [registrar of voters](#) for the parish in which he is registered.

# How is voter list maintenance handled?

## RS 18:108. Prior registration; surrender of certificate or notice of registration before new registration; change of place of registration

A. If the registrant's application indicates that the applicant previously registered as a voter in any other parish, and if the previous voter registration certificate or notice of registration is available, then before making a new registration the registrar shall require the applicant to surrender his previous certificate or notice for cancellation. The registrar shall promptly notify the registrar of the parish in which the applicant has registered previously, through the statewide voter registration system, of the present registration. The other registrar shall verify the cancellation of the voter's registration in the other parish; however, the cancellation shall not be made as long as the registrant has the right to vote in the parish of his former residence as provided in R.S. 18:110(C).

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, the statewide voter registration system may identify a duplicate registration based upon criteria as established by the Department of State. If all criteria correspond exactly, the Department of State or the registrar receiving a new registration shall transfer the registration through the statewide voter registration system to the parish of the registrar receiving the new application, which shall cancel such duplicate registration in the other parish; however, the cancellation shall not be made as long as the registrant has the right to vote in the parish of his former residence as provided in R.S. 18:110(C). The Department of State shall promptly give notice of any cancellation made pursuant to this Subsection to the registrar of the parish in which the applicant was previously registered.

C. For any voter whose registration has been canceled because the voter has registered in another parish or in another state, if such voter makes application to register in the parish in which he was previously registered to vote within three years after the cancellation of his registration in that parish, and the registrar determines that he is qualified to register to vote in that parish, the voter's information in the statewide voter registration system from his previous registration shall be reinstated, except that any necessary changes shall be made to such information, including but not limited to the voter's new address, and he shall receive an updated certificate or notice of registration.

## RS 18:109. Notice of registration and change in registration

After receiving from the registrar the information concerning a new registrant or a change in name, address, or polling place made with respect to the registration of any person, the Department of State promptly shall deliver a notice to the appropriate registrar that the person is registered or that his registration has been changed. The department shall mail the notice, postage prepaid, to each new registrant and to each person whose registration was changed. The notice shall show the parish, ward, precinct, and registration address of the registrant. The notice shall list an abbreviation of the name of the political party if the registrant is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party, "other" if the registrant is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not recognized, or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if the registrant is registered with no political party affiliation. However, the department shall not be required to send such a notice to any voter who is on the inactive list of voters unless the change in registration involves a change in the voter's address. The secretary of state shall prescribe the form to be used on the notice; however, "Return Service Requested" shall be printed on the front of the notice, and the return address shall be that of the appropriate registrar. When a notice is returned by the postmaster, the registrar shall proceed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Part V of this Chapter.

### **RS 18:110. Removal from precinct; removal from parish.**

A.(1) At any time prior to closing of registration for any election a registrant who changes his residence within the parish may change his registration without reregistering by making application by mail or electronically to the registrar or by appearing in person at the office of the registrar.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for a change of registration, the registrar shall compare the signature on the application with the signature on the original application card, any subsequent signature in the records of the registrar, or the signature on any microfilm, microfiche, or scanned or electronically captured computerized images of documents in the records of the registrar. If the signatures are sufficiently alike to identify the applicant as the registered voter, the change shall be made and the date of the change of residence and the new ward and precinct shall be recorded in the registrant's information on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application form. If the application is signed by a mark witnessed by the signatures of two witnesses, the registrar shall make the change on the basis of the application.

(3) Repealed by Acts 2023, No. 91, §2, eff. June 6, 2023.

B.(1) A change of registration based upon a change of residence within a parish received after the closing of registration for a primary election shall become effective the day after the general election or special general election when a special primary election is held in conjunction with a general election except as follows:

(a) A person whose registration has been canceled pursuant to R.S. 18:193(G).

(b) A person whose registration has been canceled or whose address has been corrected pursuant to R.S. 18:196 (C).

(2) The change of residence of a registrant from one precinct to another in the same parish does not deprive him of the right to remain as a legal registrant, as to all issues upon which he was entitled to vote prior to his change of residence, in the precinct from which he has removed until he changes his registration as provided in Subsection A of this Section and has the right to vote in the precinct to which he has moved.

(3) However, in a regularly scheduled general election where the only candidate's election appearing on any ballot in the parish is a special primary election, then in such instance, the change shall become effective prior to the special primary election. In a regularly scheduled or special general election, where the change of registration does not change any issues or candidate offices upon which the voter was entitled to vote prior to the change, the change shall become effective prior to the regularly scheduled or special general election.

C. The removal from one parish to another parish does not deprive any registrant of the right to remain a legal registrant in the parish from which he has removed, as to all issues upon which he was entitled to vote prior to his change of residence, until he registers and has the right to vote in the parish to which he has moved or until three months after he moved, whichever is sooner.

D. Any registrant may have his name cancelled from the file of eligible voters by filing a written statement of such request with the registrar of voters for the parish in which he is registered.

### **RS 18:171. Report of convictions of felony.**

A. The clerk of a court having jurisdiction over a criminal proceeding shall record in the minute book in his office each conviction of a felony for which there is an order of imprisonment and for which the person is incarcerated pursuant to the order and the name, aliases, date of birth, sex, and address of the person subject to the conviction. This recordation shall be made immediately after the judgment is signed.

B.(1) If requested, the sheriff and district attorney shall provide information regarding a person convicted of a felony to a registrar of voters, if available, including the convicted felon's date of birth, driver's license number, address, mother's maiden name, the type of felony offense, and whether the conviction resulted in an order of imprisonment pursuant to which the person is incarcerated.

(2) If requested, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his authorized representative shall provide information to a registrar of voters regarding a person who is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, including whether the person is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony offense of election fraud or any other election offense pursuant to R.S. 18:1461.2 and whether the person has been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years.

### **RS 18:171. Cont.**

C.(1) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall send to the Department of State a report, certified as correct over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing the name, date of birth, sex, and address as such information exists in the database of any person currently under the custody or supervision of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections who meets either of the following:

- (a) The person is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony and has been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years.
- (b) The person is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony offense of election fraud or any other election offense pursuant to R.S. 18:1461.2.

(2) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall send to the Department of State supplemental reports, certified as correct over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing the required information for persons described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection who were not included in the report sent pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection or in any subsequent supplemental report.

(3) Upon receipt of any report, the Department of State shall confirm that the information therein has been entered into the department's databases and provide for correction, if necessary.

(4) The Department of State shall send to the registrar of voters of each parish such information received from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on no less than a quarterly basis.

D. If a conviction recorded by a clerk pursuant to this Section is overturned, the clerk of court shall give written notice of the vacation of the judgment to the appropriate registrar of voters.

### **RS 18:171.1. Conviction of felony in federal court; notification.**

A.(1) Each United States attorney shall give written notice to the secretary of state of any felony conviction of a person in a district court of the United States for which there is an order of imprisonment and for which the person is incarcerated pursuant to the order.

(2) The notice shall include the name of the offender, the offender's age and residence address, the date of entry of the judgment, a description of the offenses of which the offender was convicted, and the sentence imposed by the court.

B. The secretary of state shall send to the registrar of voters of each parish such information received from a United States attorney regarding persons with a definitive felony conviction.

C. Upon request of the registrar of voters, the United States attorney shall provide such additional information as the United States attorney may have concerning the identity of the offender and the offense of which the offender was convicted.

D. If a conviction of which notice was given pursuant to this Section is overturned, the United States attorney shall give written notice of the vacation of the judgment to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall send such notice of the vacation of the judgment to the appropriate registrar of voters.

### **RS 18:172. Judgment of interdiction for mental incompetence**

The clerk of a court having jurisdiction over an interdiction shall record in a conveyance book each judgment of full interdiction or a limited interdiction for mental incompetence which specifically suspends the right to register and vote and which has become definitive. This recordation shall be made immediately after the judgment becomes definitive. By the tenth day of each calendar month, the clerk shall transmit to the registrar of voters for his parish a certified copy of the judgment. If the registrar of voters for the parish in which the judgment was rendered determines that the person interdicted is registered to vote in a parish other than the parish in which the judgment was rendered, the registrar of voters for the parish in which the judgment was rendered shall transmit a copy of the judgment to the registrar of voters for the parish where the person interdicted is registered to vote.

### **RS 18:173. Deaths**

A. Within thirty days after receipt of a certified copy of a death certificate, the registrar of voters shall remove from the voter registration rolls the name of the deceased.

### **RS 18:173. Cont.**

B. By the tenth day of each month the parish health officer shall send notice to the registrar of voters of the death of each person in the parish during the preceding month and shall include the deceased person's parish of residence.

C.(1) By the tenth day of each month, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall send to the Department of State a report, certified as correct over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing the name, address, date of birth, sex, social security number, place of birth, mother's maiden name, and alias name, as such information exists in the database of the Louisiana Department of Health, of any person sixteen years of age or older who died in each parish of the state within the preceding calendar month.

(2) Within thirty days after receipt of the report described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the Department of State shall cancel the registration of any deceased person when the information provided by the Louisiana Department of Health corresponds exactly to the criteria for cancellation of voter registration as established by the secretary of state. The Department of State shall promptly notify the registrar of the parish in which the voter was registered of such cancellation.

(3) The information received from the Louisiana Department of Health regarding deceased persons whose registrations were not canceled pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection shall be sent monthly to the registrar of voters for each parish by the Department of State. Within thirty days after receipt of the report from the Department of State, the registrar of voters shall review the information received from the Louisiana Department of Health to determine if the matches of information are sufficient to cancel or challenge the registration of deceased persons.

D. The registrar of voters shall search obituaries for deceased persons whose registrations were not canceled. The registrar of voters shall use information from an obituary notice to cancel a deceased voter's registration if the notice provides sufficient information to properly identify the voter and the registrar has confirmed the voter's death with the office of vital records.

### **RS 18:176. Suspension and cancellation of registration and challenge of unlawful registration on the basis of reports**

A.(1) The registrar shall send a notice to each person listed on a report received pursuant to R.S. 18:171 or 171.1 and to any person the registrar has reason to believe is ineligible to register or vote pursuant to R.S. 18:102(A)(1). The notice shall be mailed first class, postage prepaid, to the address on file at the registrar's office.

(2) The notice shall state that the registrar has information that the registrant is under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony and that the conviction is for an election offense or the registrant has been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years. The notice shall inform the person that he must appear in person at the office of the registrar of voters within twenty-one days after the date on which the notice was mailed to show cause why his registration should not be suspended.

### **RS 18:176. Suspension and cancellation of registration and challenge of unlawful registration on the basis of reports, cont.**

(3)(a) If the registrant appears and shows cause within the twenty-one days, the registrar shall not suspend the registration.

(b) If the registrant fails to appear within the required twenty-one days, the registrar shall suspend the registration in the state voter registration computer system and, if necessary, by drawing in red ink a line through the registrant's name on the precinct register and the duplicate precinct register. Such line shall be initialed by the registrar or employee of the registrar. The registrar shall note in the registrant's information on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application for registration that the registrar has been notified of an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony which makes the registrant ineligible to register or vote pursuant to R.S. 18:102(A)(1), and he shall note also the date of the suspension and the date of the report, when applicable. If the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, the registrar shall remove the original application from his file of eligible voters and shall place it in his suspension file. In addition, each person whose registration is suspended under this Subsection shall immediately be notified of the suspension and the reason therefor.



**RS 18:176. Suspension and cancellation of registration and challenge of unlawful registration on the basis of reports, cont.**

(4) A list of names and addresses of the notices sent under this Subsection and whether or not each registrant responded to such notice shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection and copying as provided in R.S. 18:154.

B. Upon receipt of the report required by R.S. 18:172, the registrar shall suspend the registration of the interdict for the period of interdiction. The registrar shall suspend the registration of each person listed on the report in the state voter registration computer system and, if necessary, by drawing in red ink a line through the name of such person on the precinct register and the duplicate precinct register. Such line shall be initialed by the registrar or employee of the registrar. The registrar shall note in the registrant's information on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application for registration that the registrar has been notified of an order of a judgment of interdiction, and he shall note also the date of the suspension and the date of the report. If the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, the registrar shall remove the original application from his file of eligible voters and shall place it in his suspension file. In addition, each person whose registration is suspended under this Subsection shall immediately be notified of the suspension and the reason therefor.

C. Immediately upon receipt of a report required by R.S. 18:173, the registrar shall cancel the registration of each person listed on the report in the state voter registration computer system and, if necessary, by drawing in red ink a line through the name of such person on the precinct register and the duplicate precinct register. Such line shall be initialed by the registrar or employee of the registrar. The registrar shall note in the registrant's information on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application for registration that the registrar has received a report of death, and he shall note the date of the cancellation and the date of the report. If the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, the registrar shall remove the original application from his file of eligible voters and shall place it in his cancellation file.

D. Repealed by Acts 2017, No. 176, §5, eff. June 14, 2017.

E. If the registrar determines that a voter's registration has been suspended or cancelled through error of the registrar, the registrar shall reinstate the voter's registration as though the suspension or cancellation had never occurred and shall notify the registrant of the reinstatement.

**S 18:177. Reinstatement of registration after suspension**

A.(1) The registration of a person whose registration has been suspended by the registrar of voters pursuant to R.S. 18:176(A) shall be reinstated when the person appears in the office of the registrar and provides documentation from the appropriate correction official showing that such person is no longer under an order of imprisonment or, if the person is under such an order, that the person has not been incarcerated pursuant to the order within the last five years and the person is not under an order of imprisonment related to a felony conviction pursuant to election fraud or any other election offense pursuant to R.S. 18:1461.2.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, such documentation may be provided by mail, facsimile, commercial carrier, or hand delivery for the following:

A person who has been approved by the parish board of election supervisors as being eligible to participate in the Special Program for Handicapped Voters as such program existed prior to January 1, 2010.

A person who has submitted to the registrar current proof of disability from a physician along with a certification from the physician indicating that by reason of the person's disability the person is unable to appear in person to vote either during early voting or at the polling place on election day.

B. The registration of a person who has been interdicted and judicially declared mentally incompetent and whose registration has been suspended by the registrar pursuant to R.S. 18:176 shall be reinstated upon receipt by the registrar of a certified copy of a definitive judgment revoking such interdiction.

### **RS 18:177.1. Satisfaction of order of imprisonment; provision of information relative to registration and reinstatement**

The Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall provide each person who completes all orders of imprisonment applicable to him for felony convictions with the following:

- (1) Information apprising the person of the requirements and procedures for registering to vote and for reinstatement of registration.
- (2) A state mail voter registration application.

### **RS 18:178. Notification on jury venire**

A. In each parish that sends out jury duty notices or questionnaires, by the tenth day of each month, the clerk of court shall notify, in writing, the registrar of voters of any returned jury duty notice or questionnaire indicating the person is unable to serve because he no longer resides in the parish. In a parish where the clerk of court is not responsible for handling the jury duty notices or questionnaires, the responsible entity shall notify, in writing, the registrar of voters of any such returned jury duty notices or questionnaires.

B.(1) In each parish that sends out jury duty notices or questionnaires, by the tenth day of each month, the clerk of court shall notify, in writing, the Department of State of any returned jury duty notice or questionnaire indicating the person is unable to serve because he is not a United States citizen. In a parish where the clerk of court is not responsible for handling jury duty notices or questionnaires, the responsible entity shall notify, in writing, the Department of State of any such returned jury duty notices or questionnaires.

(2) The Department of State shall send information received pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection to the registrar of voters of each parish.

C.(1) Upon the expiration of each jury selection panel, each federal district court in the state shall notify the Department of State of any person identified as out of the jurisdiction within the time limit of a particular panel for jury selection or as not being a United States citizen.

(2) The Department of State shall send such information received from the federal district courts to the registrar of voters of each parish.

### **RS 18:191. Permanent registration**

The registration of any person as provided in this Chapter shall remain in effect for so long as the registration is not canceled for a cause and in the manner set forth in this Chapter.

### **RS 18:192. Annual canvass; costs**

A.(1)(a) No later than June thirtieth in each parish, the registrar of voters shall annually canvass the names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish. Failure of the registrar to conduct an annual canvass as provided in this Paragraph shall constitute willful misconduct relating to his official duty for the purposes of R.S. 18:53. The Department of State shall use the United States Postal Service or its licensee to verify the names and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state. A verification by the United States Postal Service or its licensee shall constitute a valid canvass of the registered voter.

(b) In conducting the verification, if the United States Postal Service or its licensee provides a corrected address, the Department of State shall furnish the corrected address to the appropriate registrar of voters. Upon receiving a corrected address inside the parish, the Department of State may make the change on the statewide registration system and the registrar of voters may make the change on his records. If a change is made, the registrar shall mail a new voter identification card to the voter using the corrected address provided and an address confirmation notice as provided in R.S. 18:193. In the event the new voter identification card using the corrected address is returned to the registrar and the voter has failed to return the address confirmation notice, the registrar shall consider the address not corrected. The registrar shall change his records to reflect the prior address on file for that voter. If the corrected address is outside of the parish, the registrar of voters shall not make the change on his records and shall send an address confirmation notice as provided in R.S. 18:193.

### **RS 18:192. Cont.**

(2) For a registrant whose address was not verified or whose corrected address is outside of the parish, the registrar shall send an address confirmation notice as set forth in R.S. 18:193.

B. The parish governing authority shall provide to the registrar of voters the funding necessary for the mailing of new voter identification cards in the conduct of the canvass.

C. For the purposes of this Section, "residence address" shall mean the registrant's place of residence except in the case of a registrant to whom the United States Postal Service will not deliver mail to his place of residence, it shall mean the registrant's mailing address.

### **RS 18:193. Challenge and cancellation of registration; notice; procedures**

A. When the registrar has reason to believe that a registrant no longer is qualified to be registered, or that a registrant has changed his residence, he shall immediately notify the person by sending the address confirmation card to the registrant and place the voter on the inactive list of voters. However, a person shall not be placed on the inactive list of voters if there is address information available to the registrar from the United States Postal Service or its licensee which indicates the voter has moved to another address within the parish.

B. For the purposes of this Section, "address confirmation notice" shall mean a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return notice sent by forwardable mail. The Department of State shall be responsible for developing the address confirmation notice and for informing the registrant about his voting rights under the address confirmation process, and the address confirmation notice shall be submitted by the Department of State to the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs for review.

C. If the registrant responds to the address confirmation notice and has not moved or has moved within the parish, the registrar shall remove the person's name from the inactive list of voters if it is on the inactive list and correct the voter's address if necessary.

D.(1) If the voter responds to the address confirmation notice and has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the voter's registration information to the new parish of residence.

(2) If the voter responds to the address confirmation notice and has permanently moved outside of the state, the registrar shall cancel the voter's registration.

E. A voter on the inactive list of voters who fails to respond to the address confirmation notice shall remain on the inactive list of voters until his address is confirmed in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S. 18:196 or not later than a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections, at which time the registrar shall cancel the voter's registration.

F. A list of names and addresses to whom address confirmation notices are sent and whether or not each person responded to the confirmation notice shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection and copying as provided in R.S. 18:154. Ninety days prior to a regularly scheduled federal primary election, the names and addresses of those persons on the inactive list shall be published for one day in the official journal of the parish governing authority or in a newspaper calculated to provide maximum notice in the parish.

G.(1) If the registrar has reason to believe that the name of a person has been illegally or fraudulently placed upon the registration records or that a registrant no longer is qualified to be registered for a reason other than a change of residence or address, or that the registrant has deliberately given an incorrect address, he shall immediately notify the person. The notice shall be mailed first class, postage prepaid, to the address on file at the registrar's office.

(2) The notice shall state the alleged irregularity in the registration and shall inform the person that he must appear in person at the office of the registrar of voters within twenty-one days after the date on which the notice was mailed to show cause why his name should not be removed.

(3) If the registrant fails to appear within the required twenty-one days, the registrar shall cancel his name from the list of eligible voters. If the registrant appears and shows cause within the twenty-one days, the registrar shall not cancel the registration.

(4) Records of such activity shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions provided in Subsection F of this Section.

### **RS 18:193., Cont.**

H. If the registrar determines that a voter's registration has been cancelled through error of the registrar, the registrar shall reinstate the voter's registration as though the cancellation had never occurred and shall notify the registrant of the reinstatement.

I. For the purposes of this Section, "residence address" shall mean the registrant's place of residence except in the case of a registrant to whom the United States Postal Service will not deliver mail to his place of residence, it shall mean the registrant's mailing address.

### **RS 18:195. Challenge of registrants in the United States or temporarily residing outside United States**

A. If the registrant whose registration is challenged for any lawful cause is a member of the United States Service or is a person who is temporarily residing outside of the territorial limits of the United States, the registrar shall mail the registrant an address confirmation notice. The registrant's name shall be placed on the inactive list of voters upon mailing of such notice.

B.(1) Upon receipt of the address confirmation notice or any written request for continued registration, the registrar shall place the registrant's name on the official list of voters.

(2) Upon receipt of a request for an absentee by mail ballot, the registrar shall consider such request an affirmation of registration, place the registrant's name on the official list of voters, and forward the proper ballots.

### **RS 18:196. Inactive list of voters; procedure for voting**

A.(1) In addition to the official list of voters, there shall be an inactive list of voters which shall consist of registrants who have been mailed an address confirmation notice. The names of registrants on the inactive list of voters shall not be counted in computing the number of ballots required for an election, the number of voters required to divide or constitute a precinct, the number of signatures required on any petition, the number of commissioners at a precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:425, the number of voting machines to be allocated and used in each voting precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:1363, or the number of registered voters necessary to recognize or determine the organization of a political party or committee.

(2) However, any registrant whose name appears on the inactive list of voters shall be eligible to sign a petition and such petition signature, if valid, shall be sufficient to return the registrant to the official list of voters. If the registrant still resides at the address on file at the office of the registrar of voters, the address on the petition shall be considered written confirmation of the continuation of that address for that registrant. However, if the address is different from that on file at the office of the registrar of voters, the address on the petition shall be considered written confirmation of the change of address of the registrant.

B. A registrant whose name is on the inactive list of voters may vote:

(1) If the registrant has not changed residence, at the polling place of the registrant's last address upon affirming in writing by completing an address confirmation notice affirming that the registrant still resides at the address on file at the office of the registrar of voters.

(2) If the registrant has moved to an address within the parish in the same precinct, at the polling place of the registrant's last address on file at the office of the registrar of voters upon affirming in writing that the registrant resides in the precinct by completing an address confirmation notice affirming the new address within the precinct.

(3) If the registrant has moved to an address within the parish in a different precinct, at the polling place of the registrant's last address on file at the office of the registrar of voters for that election only upon affirming in writing that the registrant still resides in the parish by completing an address confirmation notice affirming the new address within the parish.

(4) If the registrant has moved to an address outside of the parish, at the polling place of the registrant's last address on file at the office of the registrar of voters for that election only upon affirming in writing that the registrant has moved within the last three months and no longer resides in the parish by completing an address confirmation notice affirming the new address outside of the parish and that the length of time since the move has not exceeded three months. If the registrant does not affirm that he has moved within the last three months, the registrant shall not be permitted to vote.

### **RS 18:196, Cont.**

(2)(a) If a registrant whose name is on the inactive list of voters votes absentee by mail or during early voting, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's name to the official list of voters and make any necessary corrections in the registrant's registration records if the information on the address confirmation notice, as required by R.S.

18:1309, or the residence address provided in an application to vote by mail so indicates.

(b) If the registrant confirms that he has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's registration information to the registrar of the new parish of residence.

(c) If the registrant confirms that he has permanently moved outside the state, the registrar shall cancel the registrant's registration.

(3) If a registrant whose name appears on the inactive list of voters has returned an address confirmation notice or other signed notice confirming an address change to the registrar of voters that was received after the close of books prior to a primary election and before the close of books for the general election, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's name to the official list of voters prior to the general election and make any necessary corrections in the registrant's registration records.

D. If a registrant who has failed to respond to an address confirmation notice and whose name appears on the inactive list of voters does not vote in any election from the date the registrant is placed on the inactive list of voters until the day after the second regularly scheduled general election for federal office held after such date, the registrar shall cancel the registration of the registrant.

### **RS 18:197. Registration; cancellation**

No registrar of voters shall cancel the registration of any voter in his parish between any primary election and the subsequent general election occurring in that parish as a result of any of the processes authorized by this Part, except in the case of a person who has been fraudulently placed upon the registration records or in the case of a person whose registration is canceled pursuant to the annual canvass conducted by the registrar.

### **RS 18:198. Change of residence or change in address; inquiry by registrar; change of records**

A. Whenever a registrar has reason to believe that a registrant has changed his residence within the parish or that a change has occurred in the registrant's mailing address within the parish, the registrar shall mail the address confirmation notice as provided in R.S. 18:193(B) to the registrant but shall not place the voter on the inactive list of voters.

B. The notice shall inform the voter that he must notify the registrar of his current address.

C. The registrar shall send the notice to the registrant's address shown on the registration records and to the address the registrar believes to be the registrant's new address. Upon return of the notice, signed by the registrant, the registrar shall enter any change in the registrant's information on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application for registration.

D. If the registrant fails to return the notice within thirty days after the date on which the notice was mailed, the registrar shall place the registrant on the inactive list of voters. The registrant shall remain on the inactive list of voters in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S. 18:196 or not later than a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections, at which time the registrar shall cancel the registration of the registrant.

## [The National Voter Registration Act of 1993](#)

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the “NVRA” and the “Motor Voter Act”), to enhance voting opportunities for every American. The Act has made it easier for all Americans to register to vote and to maintain their registration. Section 8 of the NVRA contains requirements with respect to the administration of voter registration by States and requires States to implement procedures to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists.

For more information about the NVRA, please visit the [Department of Justice website](#).

# List of voter registration statuses and their definitions

## [Link to Statutes](#)

Registration Statuses	Statute
<b>Active</b> —Status after the information on a voter registration application has been verified and the voter is added to the official list of voters.	<a href="#">RS 18:101.1</a>
<b>Inactive</b> —Registrants who have been mailed an address confirmation notice. Must complete and return an address confirmation notice before voting.	<a href="#">RS 18:196</a>
<b>Canceled</b> — A person whose registration has been canceled shall not be permitted to vote except upon making a new registration.	<a href="#">RS 18:199</a>
<b>Suspended</b> — If the registrar has reason to believe a registrant is no longer qualified to be registered for a reason other than a change of residence or address, he shall notify the person. If the registrant fails to appear in person to show cause why his name should not be removed within 21 days, the registrar shall cancel the name from the list of eligible voters.	<a href="#">RS 18:176</a> <a href="#">RS 18:193</a>

# How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

All official complaints concerning non-compliance with HAVA legislation should be reported to the [state board of election supervisors](#) by forwarding the complaint to the secretary of state's office utilizing the [Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\) Complaint Form](#) (HAVA-COM).

# How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Process](#)

The Elections Compliance Unit, as part of the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office, is charged with the investigation and reporting of matters involving violations of the Louisiana election code. The unit is composed of law enforcement officers with statewide jurisdiction. The unit conducts investigations that involve voter fraud, vote buying and voter intimidation during early voting, absentee by mail voting and election day voting. In addition, the unit also investigates allegations of persons providing false or misleading information to a registrar or to a commissioner during the registration or voting process.

During early voting and on election day, electioneering complaints should be brought to the attention of the commissioners who are working at the various precincts. The commissioners, along with local law enforcement, can address any problem areas.

Complaints that may involve violations of the election code, including but not necessarily limited to those areas listed above, should be reported to the unit at 1.800.722.5305.



# Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

<b>Secretary of State:</b>	State Board of Election Supervisors
<b>Physical Address:</b>	8585 Archives Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70809
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	State Board of Election Supervisors c/o Charlton Meginley P.O. Box 94125 Baton Rouge, LA 70809-9125
<b>Phone Number:</b>	225-287-7477
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:charlton.meginley@sos.la.gov">charlton.meginley@sos.la.gov</a>
<b>Online Contact:</b>	<a href="https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/ContactUs/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.sos.la.gov/ ElectionsAndVoting/ContactUs/Pages/ default.aspx</a>

<b>Election Compliance Unit</b>	
<b>Phone Number:</b>	800-722-5305
<b>Fax Number:</b>	225-925-4771