



LOWER 9TH WARD VOTER'S COALITION

# Louisiana 2026 Closed Party Primaries & Election Overview

## Statutory Authority – Act 1 (2024 First Extraordinary Session)

Act 1 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session amended Louisiana election law to establish closed party primaries for certain federal and state offices beginning in 2026.

For U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Louisiana Supreme Court, Public Service Commission, and BESE races, Louisiana now uses a **closed party primary system**.

If you are registered with a political party, you may only vote in that party’s primary. If you are registered with “No Party” affiliation, you may choose one party’s primary to participate in. If a runoff is required, you must remain in the same party’s primary for the runoff.

### Impact on Voters

POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	PRIMARY BALLOT ACCESS
Democrat	Democratic Primary Only
Republican	Republican Primary Only
No Party	May choose the Democratic or Republican ballot to vote in primary election; if there is a runoff from the primary election, the “No Party” voter must vote with the same chosen party’s ballot for the primary runoff election.

NOTE: Voters may change party affiliation by paper up to 30 days before an election, or online at [GeauxVote.com](http://GeauxVote.com) up to 20 days before an election.

### Primary Election Sample Ballot for Offices 2026

CLOSED PARTY PRIMARY OFFICES	MUNICIPAL OFFICES
U.S. Senate	Judge Civil District Court, Division M
U.S. House of Representatives (Congressional District 1 and 2)	Judge Civil District Court, Division N
Louisiana Supreme Court (Associate Justice, 1 <sup>st</sup> District)	Judge Criminal District Court, Section J
Public Service Commission (District 1)	
Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (District 1)	

## Louisiana Election Systems

QUESTIONS	CLOSED PARTY PRIMARY	OPEN MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION	GENERAL ELECTION (MUNICIPAL RUNOFF)
<b>Which offices use it?</b>	U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Louisiana Supreme Court, Public Service Commission, BESE	All state, parish, and municipal offices not covered by the closed-primary	All offices
<b>Who appears on the ballot?</b>	Only candidates from the voter's registered political party	All candidates, regardless of party	Party nominees plus independents; or top two from municipal primary
<b>Who can vote?</b>	Only voters registered with that party; 'No Party' voters may choose one party's ballot on election day	All voters may vote for any candidate	All eligible voters
<b>Can "No Party" voters participate?</b>	Yes, but they must choose one party's ballot and stay with that party through that party's runoff election	Yes, freely	Yes
<b>What's the purpose of the election?</b>	Select each party's nominee for the general election	Elect a candidate outright with a majority or determine top two for a runoff	Final election of the office holder
<b>How does a candidate win?</b>	Must win the party's primary by a majority vote; may require a runoff	Must receive over 50% to win outright; otherwise, top two advance to a runoff	A closed party office winner is determined by the most votes. Winners of municipal offices and other non-closed party offices are determined by the majority vote

<b>What are the runoff rules?</b>	If no candidate wins the closed party primary outright, top two candidates of that party advance to its party runoff: winner than advances to the general election	If no candidate gets a majority of votes, the top two candidates, regardless of party affiliation, advance to the general election	Runoff is required for municipal offices only where no candidate gets the majority vote; no runoff is required for closed party primary offices.
<b>What is the ballot structure?</b>	Separate ballots for each political party	One unified ballot for all candidates	One final ballot listing all qualifying candidates

### Important 2026 Election Dates

ELECTION TYPE	DATE
Closed Primary (Party Primary) Municipal/Local (Open Municipal Primary)	May 16, 2026
Closed Primary (Party Primary Runoff) Municipal /Local (Open Municipal General Runoff)	June 27, 2026
Congressional General (Closed Party Primary Offices) Municipal /Local (Open Municipal Primary Election)	November 3, 2026
Municipal /Local (Open Municipal General Runoff)	December 12, 2026

### Orleans Parish Political Party Voter Registration (February 1, 2026)

POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION	REGISTRATION VOTERS	PERCENT
Democrat	164,544	62.5%
Republican	24,914	9.5%
No Party	73,943	28.1%
Total	263,401	100.0%



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