

POLL WATCHER BOOKLET



INFORMATION FOR

Poll Watchers

Rev. 08/2024

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(La. R.S. 18:427, 18:435, 18:1309, and 18:1486)

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EARLY VOTING POLITICAL PARTY POLL WATCHERS

I. Right to have Early Voting Political Party Poll Watchers

The parish executive committee of a recognized political party having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered as being affiliated with the political party is entitled to have an early voting watcher at each early voting location in the parish, as space permits, at which a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot.

Currently, only the Democratic and Republican parties may have early voting poll watchers.

II. Early Voting Political Party Watcher List

- A. A list of early voting watchers shall be filed with the registrar of voters by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the fourteenth business day before the first day of early voting for the primary or general election; however if the fourteenth business day before the first day of early voting for the primary or general election falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday
- B. The chairman of the parish executive committee of the political party shall sign and be responsible for filing the list of early voting watchers.
- C. The chairman of the state central committee of a recognized political party may designate early voting watchers for the parish in any parish without a parish executive committee of the recognized political party in accordance with R.S. 18:1309 (N)(9).
- D. A list of early voting watchers submitted by a party for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the chairman of the parish executive committee or the state central committee of the party notifies the registrar of voters in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the start of early voting for the general election that he wants to use the same list of early voting watchers.

III. Powers and Duties of Early Voting Political Party Watchers

- A. Shall be admitted within the designated early voting location during the conduct of early voting where a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot
- B. Shall be subject to the authority of the registrar of voters or deputy registrar, who shall regulate the number of watchers inside the early voting location as provided in La. R.S. 18:427;
- C. Shall not interfere with the registrar or deputy registrar in the performance of their duties;
- D. Shall notify the registrar of voters or deputy registrar of any infraction of the law;
- E. Shall not participate in performing the procedures listed in La. R.S. 18:1309(D), (E), or (F);
- F. Shall not electioneer (electioneering includes soliciting a person in any manner to vote for or against a candidate or proposition being voted on in the election, and handing out, placing or displaying campaign cards, pictures or other campaign literature, which includes t-shirts, hats, bumper stickers, etc.), engage in political discussions, or unnecessarily delay a voter at the polling place; and

- G. May keep notes on the conduct of the election.

IV. Early Voting Political Party Watchers – Early Voting Procedures

- A. BRING YOUR COMMISSION ALONG WITH A PERSONAL PHOTO ID TO THE EARLY VOTING LOCATION!
- B. The registrar of voters or deputy registrar will verify that the watchers and/or alternate watchers have commissions. After verification, the registrar or deputy registrar shall return the commission to the watcher.
- C. The parish executive committee of a political party shall be entitled to have a watcher and an alternate watcher serve at the same early voting location, but the watcher and the alternate watcher may not serve at a single voting location at the same time.
- D. The registrar of voters or deputy registrar shall regulate the number of watchers inside the early voting location as provided in La. R.S. 18:427.

ELECTION DAY POLL WATCHERS AND POLITICAL PARTY SUPER WATCHERS

I. Right to have Election Day Poll Watchers

- A. A candidate is entitled to have one watcher and one alternate watcher at every precinct on Election Day where the office they seek is on the ballot in a primary or general election.
- B. In addition, a candidate may designate one (1) watcher per parish as a “Super Watcher” who shall have the same qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided by La. R.S. 18:427, and who shall be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is on the ballot.
- C. Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition (including the recall of a public officer) and who has filed a report required by La. R.S. 18:1486 (Campaign Finance Disclosure Act) is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct in which the proposition is on the ballot.
- D. Federal monitors and court-ordered monitors are subject to these guidelines.

II. Right to have Election Day Political Party Super Watchers

- A. The parish executive committee of a recognized political party having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered as being affiliated with the political party is entitled to have political party super watchers in the parish if a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot.
 - 1. In a parish with fewer than fifty thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate one (1) political party super watcher.
 - 2. In a parish with fifty thousand or more but fewer than one hundred thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate two (2) political party super watchers.

3. In a parish with one hundred thousand or more but fewer than one hundred-fifty thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate three (3) political party super watchers.
 4. In a parish with one hundred-fifty thousand or more but fewer than two hundred thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate four (4) political party super watchers.
 5. In a parish with two hundred thousand or more registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate five (5) political party super watchers.
- B. Each political party super watcher shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided for by La. R.S. 18:427 and shall be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where a candidate affiliated with his political party is on the ballot, except that not more than one political party super watcher may serve at a single precinct at the same time.

III. Election Day Poll Watcher List

- A. The candidate files one list of watchers with the clerk of court (for Orleans Parish candidates, you must file with the Clerk of Criminal District Court) by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth (10th) business day before the primary or general election. If the tenth (10th) business day before the primary or general election falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday.
- B. A list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court in each parish where the candidate will have watchers for a multi-parish office.
- C. When a list of watchers is filed by the authorized representative, a letter of authorization shall accompany the list of watchers. The list of watchers shall be signed by the candidate.
- D. Any person filing a list of watchers for a proposition or recall election shall attach a certified statement that the report required by La. R.S. 18:1486 has been filed with the Division of Campaign Finance (225-219-5600).
- E. A list of watchers submitted by a candidate for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the candidate notifies the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth (10th) business day before the general election that they want to use the same list of watchers.
- F. A list of watchers shall contain only one watcher and one alternate watcher for each precinct where the candidate is entitled to have a watcher. The same person may be listed as the watcher or alternate watcher for more than one precinct.
- G. The list shall be submitted on a form provided by the secretary of state which is available from the clerk of court, or typed or legibly written on a form which contains the same information.
- H. The list shall contain the name and mailing address of each watcher and a designation of the precinct where they are to serve.
- I. For candidates, only one (1) watcher in each parish may be designated as a "Super Watcher" for every precinct in the designated parish on election day in the candidate's election.

IV. Election Day Political Party Super Watcher List

- E. The chairman of the parish executive committee of the political party shall sign and be responsible for filing the list of political party super watchers.

- F. The chairman of the state central committee of a recognized political party may designate super watchers for the parish in any parish without a parish executive committee of the recognized political party in accordance with R.S. 18:435(A)(4)(e).
- G. The chairman of the parish executive committee shall file one list of super watchers with the clerk of court (the clerk of criminal district court in Orleans Parish) by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth (10th) business day before the primary or general election. If the tenth (10th) business day before the primary or general election falls on a Saturday, Sunday or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. A list of political party super watchers submitted by a party for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the chairman of the parish executive committee or the state central committee of the party notifies the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the general election that he wants to use the same list of political party super watchers.
- H. The certified statement that the report required by La. R.S. 18:1486 has been filed with the Division of Campaign Finance is not necessary.

V. Presidential Election Day Watcher List

- A. The state central committee of each recognized political party is responsible for filing the watcher list for its slate of candidates for presidential elector.
- B. The list of watchers shall be signed by the chairman of the state central committee.
- C. Watcher lists for candidates not affiliated with a recognized political party must be signed and filed by a person authorized by the presidential candidate supported by the slate of electors. A letter of authorization from the presidential candidate, or an authorized agent of their campaign, shall accompany the list of watchers.
- D. The certified statement that the report required by La. R.S. 18:1486 has been filed with the Division of Campaign Finance is not necessary.

VI. Powers and Duties of Election Day Watchers

- A. Shall be admitted to all parts of the polling place during the election and during the counting and tabulation of votes;
- B. Shall not take part in the counting and tabulation of votes;
- C. Shall be subject to the authority of the commissioners;
- D. Shall not interfere with the commissioners in the performance of their duties;
- E. Shall notify the commissioners of any infraction of the law;
- F. Shall not electioneer (electioneering includes soliciting a person in any manner to vote for or against a candidate or proposition being voted on in the election, and handing out, placing or displaying campaign cards, pictures or other campaign literature, which includes t-shirts, hats, bumper stickers, etc.), engage in political discussions, or unnecessarily delay a voter at the polling place; and
- G. May keep notes on the conduct of the election.

VII. Commissioners – Election Day Procedures

- A. Identification of Voters
 - 1. Each person is to be identified by one of the following:
 - a. a Louisiana driver's license

- b. a LA Wallet digital driver's license
 - c. a United States military identification card that contains the applicant's name and picture
 - d. a Louisiana special identification card issued by the Office of Motor Vehicles
 - e. Other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the applicant.
2. If the applicant does not have the picture identification as specified above, the applicant shall complete and sign a Voter Identification Affidavit (AV-34) before the commissioners, which shall include the applicant's date of birth and mother's maiden name. If the applicant is unable to read or write or is otherwise unable to complete the affidavit due to disability, the applicant may receive assistance in completing the affidavit and the commissioner shall make a notation on the affidavit. The applicant may receive the assistance of any person of their choice, including a commissioner, except a candidate, commissioner-in-charge, applicant's employer or employer's agent, or applicant's union agent. A voter who refuses to complete the affidavit shall not vote.
3. An applicant who votes after executing a Voter Identification Affidavit (AV-34) is subject to challenge.

B. Challenge of Voter at Polls

1. Grounds for challenge. A commissioner, watcher or qualified voter may challenge a person applying to vote on any of the following grounds:
 - a. The applicant is not qualified to vote in the election;
 - b. The applicant is not qualified to vote in the precinct; or
 - c. The applicant is not the person whose name is on the precinct register.
2. Disposition of the challenge.
 - a. If a challenge is made, a majority of the commissioners must determine whether the challenge is valid or invalid. If invalid, the applicant shall be permitted to vote.
 - b. If the commissioners determine by majority vote that the challenge is valid, the applicant shall not be permitted to vote.
 - c. If the valid challenge is based on change of residence and the applicant has moved within the parish or has moved outside the parish within the last three months, the voter shall be allowed to vote upon completing an Address Confirmation Card (ACC-Election Day).

VIII. Election Day Watchers – Election Day Procedures

- E. BRING YOUR COMMISSION ALONG WITH A PERSONAL PHOTO ID TO THE POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY!
- F. Precinct commissioner-in-charge will verify that the super watcher, watchers, and/or alternate watchers have commissions. After verification, the precinct commissioner-in-charge shall return the commission to the watcher.
- G. A watcher and super watcher for the same candidate may serve at the same precinct at the same time. However, a watcher and alternate watcher may not serve at the same time, but may alternate and replace one another throughout the day.
- H. If the number of watchers inside a polling place interferes with the orderly conduct of the election, the commissioners shall limit the number of watchers by allowing the watchers to draw lots to determine which watchers shall be first to wait outside.

- I. The commissioners will try to make sure the amount of time each watcher spends inside shall be equal, if possible.
- J. Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition (including the recall of a public officer) and who has filed a report required by La. R.S. 18:1486 (Campaign Finance Disclosure Act) is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct in which the proposition is on the ballot.

POLL WATCHERS QUALIFICATIONS AND COMMISSIONS

I. Poll Watcher Qualifications

- A. Must be a qualified voter of the state of Louisiana.
- B. Must not be a candidate in the election.
- C. Must not be a law enforcement officer. "Law enforcement officer" is any employee of the state, a municipality, a sheriff, or other public agency, whose permanent duties actually include the making of arrests, the performing of searches and seizures, or the execution of criminal warrants, and who is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or for the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of this state (La. R.S. 18:428).
- D. Must not be register as a sex offender or child predator pursuant to La. R.S. 15:542.

II. Poll Watcher Commissions

- A. The parish board of election supervisors issues a commission to each qualified watcher.
- B. The commission shall specify the precinct(s) or early voting location for which the watcher is eligible to serve on election day or during early voting. If a watcher is designated as a "Super Watcher," the commission shall specify such designation.
- C. A person shall not be commissioned as a watcher if they have been appointed as a commissioner-in-charge or selected as a commissioner in the election.
- D. A person selected as an alternate commissioner may be commissioned as a watcher; however, if they are called upon to replace an absent or unqualified commissioner, they shall not serve as a watcher in the election, and their watcher commission shall be deemed void.
- E. Prior to election day, the Parish Board of Election Supervisors will deliver to each precinct a list of the watchers and alternate watchers who are entitled to serve at the election; the list will specify the precinct(s) for which each watcher is eligible to serve.

Attachment A: Election Code Excerpts



§426.1. Election commissioners; compensation

A. Each commissioner who serves at the polling place on election day shall be paid according to the following:

- (1) A commissioner-in-charge shall receive two hundred fifty dollars.
- (2) A commissioner-in-charge who serves at more than one precinct shall receive three hundred fifty dollars.
- (3) A commissioner who has received a certificate of instruction, as provided in R.S. 18:431(A), shall receive one hundred dollars.
- (4) A commissioner who has received a certificate of instruction, as provided in R.S. 18:431(B), shall receive two hundred dollars.
- (5) An uncertified commissioner shall receive thirty-five dollars.

B. For an election held within one year following the date of the issuance of any gubernatorial declaration of an emergency, upon application of a parish board of election supervisors, the secretary of state may approve payment of up to one hundred dollars per election or each day of assistance, if applicable, as compensation to each commissioner in addition to compensation provided for in Subsection A of this Section.

Acts 2004, No. 693, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2005; Acts 2007, No. 254, §1, eff. July 1, 2007; Acts 2007, No. 297, §1; Acts 2020, 2nd Ex. Sess., No. 11, §1, eff. Oct. 27, 2020; Acts 2022, No. 423, §1.

§427. Watchers

A. Qualifications. (1) A qualified voter of the state of Louisiana who is not a candidate in the election may serve as a watcher; however, a watcher who is not a resident of the parish where the watcher serves may not serve as a commissioner.

(2) No person who is required to register as a sex offender or child predator pursuant to R.S. 15:542 may serve as a watcher.

B. Powers and duties. A watcher shall be admitted within all parts of the polling place during the election day and the printing of results from the voting machines, and shall call any infraction of the law to the attention of the commissioners. A watcher may keep notes on the conduct of the election, but he shall not take part in the printing of results from the voting machines. A watcher shall not electioneer, engage in political discussions, or unnecessarily delay a voter at the polling place. A watcher shall be subject to the authority of the commissioners and shall not interfere with the commissioners in the performance of their duties.

C. Number of watchers inside a polling place. If the number of watchers inside a polling place is so great as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, the commissioners shall regulate the number of watchers inside the polling place for each precinct so that the election may be conducted in an orderly manner. The watchers shall draw lots under the supervision of the commissioners to determine which watchers shall be the first to wait outside the polling place, but the amount of time each watcher spends inside the polling place shall, as nearly as practicable, be equal.

Acts 1976, No. 697, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1978. Amended by Acts 1979, No. 229, §1, eff. July 13, 1979; Acts 1991, No. 201, §1, eff. July 2, 1991; Acts 1995, No. 300, §1, eff. June 15, 1995; Acts 2009, No. 369, §1; Acts 2012, No. 138, §1, eff. May 14, 2012; Acts 2017, No. 176, §1, eff. June 14, 2017; Acts 2022, No. 178, §1, eff. May 31, 2022; Acts 2023, No. 221, §1, eff. June 8, 2023.

§428. Law enforcement assistance to commissioners

A. Presence at polling places on election day. Law enforcement officers shall not be stationed at polling places on election day, but the commissioners or the clerk of court may summon law enforcement officers

alternate commissioners available, the parish board of election supervisors shall select a person to serve as commissioner from the list containing the names of persons within that ward who have received certificates of instruction from the clerk of court pursuant to R.S. 18:431(A)(1). If no person on that list is available to serve as commissioner, the parish board of election supervisors shall select any person within the parish who has received a certificate of instruction from the clerk of court pursuant to R.S. 18:431(A)(1). If there is no such qualified person available, the parish board of election supervisors shall select a watcher.

(2) If a commissioner fails to appear at the polling place at least thirty minutes before the time when the polls are to open on election day, or if a commissioner is selected as commissioner-in-charge, the commissioner-in-charge shall select an alternate commissioner to serve in place of the absent commissioner. An alternate commissioner who replaces an absent commissioner in a primary election shall replace the absent commissioner in the general election. If there are no alternate commissioners or an insufficient number of alternate commissioners available, the commissioner-in-charge shall select a person to serve as commissioner from the list containing the names of those who have received certificates of instruction that was furnished him by the parish board of election supervisors pursuant to R.S. 18:431(B)(4). If no person on that list is available to serve as commissioner, the commissioner-in-charge shall select any person present at the polls who possesses the qualifications of a commissioner as set forth in R.S. 18:425(B). If there is no such qualified person available, the commissioner-in-charge shall select a watcher.

(3) If by 8:00 a.m. on the day of the election the commissioner-in-charge has been unable to replace a commissioner pursuant to this Subsection, any replacement thereafter made shall require the approval of the clerk of court.

E. Disqualification. (1) A commissioner who fails to appear at the polling place at least thirty minutes before the opening of the polls on election day is disqualified from serving as such in the next primary and general elections held in the ward where he is registered to vote unless he establishes to the satisfaction of the parish board of election supervisors that his absence was for just cause.

(2) Upon a finding by the parish board of election supervisors that a certified commissioner has performed his duties in a negligent manner, after appropriate hearing and opportunity for the commissioner to be heard, the board shall disqualify the commissioner from service as a commissioner. Such disqualification shall continue until the commissioner has been recertified as having again attended the course of instruction for commissioners conducted pursuant to R.S. 18:431(A) and as having achieved a satisfactory score on the test prepared by the secretary of state for that course of instruction. Performance of duties in a negligent manner shall include failure to perform any of the duties of commissioner or performance of any of the duties of commissioner incorrectly.

F. Removal for cause. Any commissioner selected under the provisions of this Section may be removed for cause by the parish board of election supervisors at any time after his selection and before the closing of the polls on election day. Any commissioner removed for cause under the provisions of this Subsection shall not serve as a commissioner in any election for twelve months after his removal.

Acts 1976, No. 697, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1978. Amended by Acts 1977, No. 471, §1; Acts 1978, No. 292, §1, eff. July 6, 1978; Acts 1979, No. 229, §1, eff. July 13, 1979; Acts 1981, No. 77, §1, eff. June 26, 1981; Acts 1983, No. 519, §1, eff. July 8, 1983; Acts 1984, No. 672, §1; Acts 1986, No. 669, §1; Acts 1987, No. 831, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1988; Acts 1988, No. 374, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1989; Acts 1988, No. 907, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1989; Acts 1988, No. 909, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1989; Acts 1989, No. 179, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1990; Acts 1990, No. 107, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1991; Acts 1991, No. 201, §1, July 2, 1991; Acts 1993, No. 418, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1994; Acts 1997, No. 1420, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1998; Acts 2001, No. 363, §1; Acts 2001, No. 451, §6, eff. Jan. 12, 2004; Acts 2006, No. 403, §1, eff. June 15, 2006; Acts 2006, No. 560, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2007; Acts 2007, No. 240, §1; Acts 2010, No. 570, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2011; Acts 2017, No. 176, §1, eff. June 14, 2017; Acts 2022, No. 274, §1, eff. June 3, 2022.

§435. Watchers; appointment and commission

A.(1)(a) Each candidate is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct on election day where the office he seeks is voted on in a primary or general election. The candidate or his authorized representative shall

file one list of watchers on a form provided by the secretary of state or on a form which contains the same information as required by the form provided by the secretary of state. When a candidate's list of watchers is filed by the candidate's authorized representative, a letter of authorization from the candidate shall accompany the list of watchers; however, the list of watchers shall be signed by the candidate.

(b) In the case of a presidential election, each slate of candidates for presidential elector is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct. The state central committee of each recognized political party shall be responsible for filing the list of watchers for its slate of candidates for presidential elector, and the list of watchers shall be signed by the chairman of the state central committee. The list of watchers for a slate of candidates for presidential elector who are not affiliated with a recognized political party shall be signed and filed by any person so authorized by the presidential candidate supported by the slate of electors. A letter of authorization from the presidential candidate, or from an authorized agent of his campaign, shall accompany the list of watchers.

(2) In addition to the watchers provided for in Paragraph (1), each candidate may designate one watcher as a "super watcher" who shall have the qualifications, powers, and duties of watchers provided for by R.S. 18:427 and who shall be admitted as a watcher in every precinct in the designated parish where the office the candidate seeks is on the ballot in the primary and general election. The selection of the super watcher shall be made in the same manner as for watchers set forth in this Section.

(3) Any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition or question to be submitted to the voters or supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer and who has filed a report required by R.S. 18:1486 for such election is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct where the issue he seeks to influence is voted on in an election. For the purposes of this Subsection, "person" means any individual, partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal entity, including its subsidiaries.

(4) The commissioners shall regulate the number of watchers inside the polling place as provided in R.S. 18:427.

B.(1)(a) A list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the primary or general election; however, if the tenth business day before the primary or general election falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. For purposes of this Paragraph, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). If the office that the candidate seeks is voted on in more than one parish, a list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court in each parish where the candidate will have watchers.

(b) A list of watchers submitted by a candidate for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the candidate notifies the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the general election that he wants to use the same list of watchers.

(2) Except for a candidate or recognized political party filing for a slate of candidates for presidential elector, any person filing a list of watchers must attach a certified statement that the report required by R.S. 18:1486 has been filed with the supervisory committee in compliance with the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

(3) A list of watchers shall contain only one watcher and one alternate watcher for each precinct where the candidate or person submitting the list is entitled to have a watcher. The list shall be typed or legibly written, and it shall contain the name and mailing address of each watcher and alternate watcher, and a designation of the precinct where he is to serve.

C. The parish board of election supervisors shall promptly issue a commission to each watcher named on a timely filed list of watchers. A person shall not be commissioned as a watcher if he has been appointed as a commissioner-in-charge or selected as a commissioner in the same election. A person selected as an alternate commissioner may be commissioned as a watcher. However, if the alternate commissioner must replace an absent or unqualified commissioner, he shall not serve as a watcher in the same election and his

commission as a watcher shall be deemed void. Prior to the opening of the polls on election day, the parish board of election supervisors shall deliver to each precinct a list of the watchers and alternate watchers who are entitled to serve at the election. The list shall specify the precinct or precincts for which each watcher is eligible to serve. A watcher must present his commission to the commissioner-in-charge of the precinct for which he is eligible to serve prior to serving at the polling place.

D. A candidate, or person as defined in Subsection A of this Section, shall be entitled to have both a watcher and an alternate watcher serve at the same precinct on election day. However, the watcher and alternate watcher may not serve at the same time.

Acts 1976, No. 697, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1978. Amended by Acts 1977, No. 471, §1; Acts 1978, No. 292, §1, eff. July 6, 1978; Acts 1985, No. 58, §1; Acts 1987, No. 831, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1988; Acts 1989, No. 179, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1990; Acts 1990, No. 107, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1991; Acts 1991, No. 201, §1, eff. July 2, 1991; Acts 1993, No. 317, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1994; Acts 1999, No. 697, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2000; Acts 2001, No. 1181, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2002; Acts 2003, No. 1220, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2004; Acts 2004, No. 526, §2, eff. June 25, 2004; Acts 2006, No. 560, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2007; Acts 2007, No. 240, §1; Acts 2010, No. 570, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2011; Acts 2010, No. 759, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2011; Acts 2012, No. 138, §1, eff. May 14, 2012; Acts 2014, No. 60, §1, eff. May 16, 2014; Acts 2015, No. 307, §1, eff. June 29, 2015; Acts 2019, No. 374, §1, eff. June 19, 2019; Acts 2020, No. 28, §1, eff. June 4, 2020; Acts 2021, No. 381, §3, eff. Feb. 1, 2022; Acts 2022, No. 274, §1, eff. June 3, 2022.

§436. Election officials at certain special elections

A. When a special primary election to fill a vacancy or an anticipated vacancy in elective public office is called to be held at the same time as a previously scheduled general election, or if a previously scheduled election is delayed for any reason, the commissioners who were selected to serve at the previously scheduled primary and general election also shall be the commissioners for the special primary and general elections and any such delayed primary or general election, and the compensation for each shall be only that amount provided for in R.S. 18:426.1 for a day of service as a commissioner or commissioner-in-charge. Each candidate to be voted on in the special primary election or delayed primary election may appoint one watcher for each precinct in which that candidate is to be voted on. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 18:427(C) or of any other law to the contrary, the watchers so appointed shall be allowed to remain in the polling place at all times.

B. When a special general election to fill a vacancy or an anticipated vacancy in elective public office is called to be held at the same time as a previously scheduled primary election, the commissioners who were selected to serve at the special primary election for which the special general election is to be held shall also be the commissioners for both the previously scheduled primary and general elections. In such case the compensation for each shall be only that amount provided for in R.S. 18:426.1 for a day of service as a commissioner or commissioner-in-charge.

Added by Acts 1980, No. 792, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1981. Amended by Acts 1981, No. 77, §1, eff. June 26, 1981; Acts 1995, No. 300, §1, eff. June 15, 1995; Acts 2006, No. 560, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2007; Acts 2007, No. 240, §1; Acts 2010, No. 570, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2011.

PART III. POLITICAL PARTIES

§441. Recognition

A. A political party shall be recognized in this state pursuant to the provisions of Subsection B or C of this Section.

B.(1) A political party shall be recognized if ninety days prior to the opening of the qualifying period for any election at least one thousand registered voters in the state are registered as being affiliated with such political party; such political party has filed a notarized registration statement as described in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection with the secretary of state; and the political party has paid a registration fee of one

D. If a report that is required to be filed pursuant to this Chapter is determined by the supervisory committee to be illegible, the supervisory committee may require the person who has filed such report to resubmit a legible report; however, the report shall be deemed to be received by the supervisory committee on the date that the original, illegible report was received.

E.(1) Each person and political committee required to file reports pursuant to this Chapter that receives contributions or loans in excess of fifty thousand dollars in a calendar year or which makes expenditures in excess of fifty thousand dollars in a calendar year, other than a candidate or an authorized political committee of a candidate or a political committee of a recognized political party, shall file all reports required by this Chapter electronically with the supervisory committee through the Board of Ethics Computerized Data Management System as provided in R.S. 42:1158.

(2) In addition to any other applicable penalties, the failure of a person or political committee required by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection to file a report electronically shall subject such person or political committee to penalties of five hundred dollars per day until the report is filed as required by this Subsection.

F.(1) If a person or committee required by this Section to electronically file a report through the Board of Ethics Computerized Data Management System is unable to do so because of a technical problem beyond the person's or committee's control, the person or committee shall file the report by the date the report is due via other means specified in Subsection A of this Section.

(2) The person or committee shall file with such report a certification detailing the technical problem that prevented the person or committee from electronically filing the report through the Board of Ethics Computerized Data Management System.

(3) The person or committee shall electronically file the report through the Board of Ethics Computerized Data Management System no later than five days after the date the report was originally due.

Acts 1980, No. 786, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1981; Acts 1984, No. 466, §1, §2; Acts 1998, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 123, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1999; Acts 1999, No. 164, §1; Acts 1999, No. 254, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2000; Acts 2005, No. 431, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2006; Acts 2008, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 17, §1, eff. July 1, 2009; Acts 2008, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 25, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2010; Acts 2008, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 25, §2, eff. Jan. 1, 2012; Acts 2010, No. 766, §1, eff. June 30, 2010.

§1486. Proposition elections; required reports; recall elections

A.(1) Any person, including a political committee, who receives and accepts any contribution, loan, or transfer of funds, or makes any expenditure in support of or in opposition to a proposition or question submitted to the voters shall be required to file reports of such contributions and expenditures.

(2) Any person, including a political committee, who receives and accepts any contribution, loan, or transfer of funds, or makes any expenditure in support of or in opposition to the recall of a public officer shall be required to file reports of such contributions and expenditures.

(3) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Section and in R.S. 18:1505.4 and 1505.5, the provisions for reporting and filing requirements, prohibited practices, recordkeeping, and penalties applicable to political committees shall apply to persons subject to the provisions of Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Subsection.

B. These requirements shall be applicable only if the aggregate amount of contributions, loans, and transfers of funds received and accepted or expenditures made equals or exceeds two hundred dollars at any time during the aggregating period; except that, with regard to expenditures made in support of or in opposition to a proposition or question submitted to the voters by a person who is not a candidate or a member of the principal campaign committee of a candidate or of a political committee, these requirements shall be applicable only if the aggregate amount of expenditures made equals or exceeds one thousand dollars. "Aggregating period" for purposes of this Section shall mean the period from the date on which the

first contribution is received or the first expenditure is made by the person or political committee, whichever is earlier, through the closing date for the last report required to be filed in accordance with this Chapter.

C.(1) The reports required as provided in Paragraph A(1) of this Section shall be filed not later than the thirtieth day prior to the election, which shall be complete through the fortieth day prior to the election, not later than the tenth day prior to the election, which shall be complete through the twentieth day prior to the election, and not later than the fortieth day after the election, which shall be complete through the thirtieth day after the election. During the period from midnight of the twentieth day prior to the election and extending through midnight of election day a report shall be filed within forty-eight hours after the time any contribution, loan, or transfer of funds is received and accepted or expenditure in excess of two hundred dollars is made; if such time falls other than during regular working hours, this report shall be filed with the supervisory committee on the next working day after the report is otherwise due. Such report shall provide information relative to such contributions, loans, and transfers of funds and expenditures in excess of two hundred dollars as provided in R.S. 18:1491.6(C). If the report filed on the fortieth day after the election shows a deficit, the person or political committee reporting shall be required to file supplemental reports as required by R.S. 18:1491.6(D).

(2) Any person or political committee who is required to file reports as provided in Paragraph A(2) of this Section shall file reports as provided in this Chapter according to the following schedule:

(a) Not later than the forty-fifth day after the initial filing of the copy of the recall petition with the secretary of state as provided in R.S. 18:1300.2(C), which report shall be complete through the thirty-fifth day after the filing of the copy of the recall petition with the secretary of state.

(b) Not later than the one hundred thirty-fifth day after the filing of the copy of the recall petition with the secretary of state, which report shall be complete through the one hundred twenty-fifth day after the filing of the copy of the recall petition with the secretary of state.

(c) Not later than the two hundredth day after the filing of the copy of the recall petition with the secretary of state, which report shall be complete through the one hundred ninetieth day after the filing of the copy of the recall petition with the secretary of state, which report shall be the final report, unless the report shows a deficit, in which case supplemental reports shall be filed as required in R.S. 18:1491.6(D), or unless the person or committee is required to file reports as provided in Subparagraph (d) of this Paragraph.

(d) If the recall effort is successful in having the recall question submitted to the voters, the person or political committee shall be required to file reports as provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

Acts 1987, No. 722, §1, eff. July 16, 1987; Acts 1988, No. 994, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1989; Acts 1990, No. 180, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1991; Acts 1995, No. 1046, §1, eff. June 29, 1995; Acts 2010, No. 778, §1, eff. June 30, 2010.

§1487. Reports, name and address

Whenever the full name and address of a person is required to be in a report in this Chapter, the party responsible for filing the report shall list the full name and address of the person or the best information he can obtain regarding that person if the full name and/or address is not available.

Added by Acts 1988, No. 994, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1989.

PART II. POLITICAL COMMITTEES

§1491.1. Registration of political committees

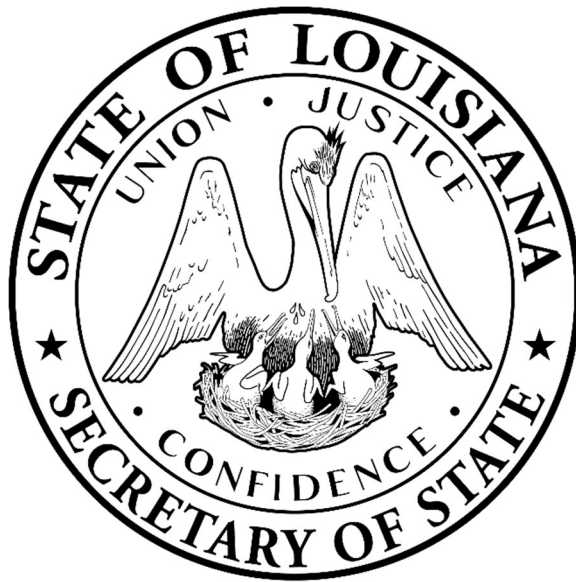
A. Each political committee, including a subsidiary committee, which knows or anticipates that it will receive contributions or loans, make expenditures or loans, or make a transfer of funds to or receive a transfer

Attachment B:

Act 583 of the

2024 Regular Legislative

Session



SENATE BILL NO. 261

BY SENATOR HODGES

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:435(A)(4) and (B)(2) and to enact R.S. 18:435(A)(5) and
3 (B)(1)(c) and 1309(N), relative to elections; to provide for the appointment of poll
4 watchers; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:435(A)(4) and (B)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
7 18:435(A)(5) and (B)(1)(c) and 1309(N) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §435. Watchers; appointment and commission

9 A.(1) * * *

10 **(4)(a) The parish executive committee of a recognized political party**
11 **having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered**
12 **as being affiliated with the political party is entitled to have political party super**
13 **watchers in the parish if a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the**
14 **ballot. The designation of political party super watchers shall be made in**
15 **accordance with this Section and as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this**
16 **Paragraph.**

17 **(b)(i) In a parish with fewer than fifty thousand registered voters, the**
18 **parish executive committee of the recognized political party may designate one**
19 **political party super watcher.**

20 **(ii) In a parish with fifty thousand or more but fewer than one hundred**
21 **thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the recognized**
22 **political party may designate two political party super watchers.**

23 **(iii) In a parish with one hundred thousand or more but fewer than one**
24 **hundred-fifty thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the**
25 **recognized political party may designate three political party super watchers.**

26 **(iv) In a parish with one hundred-fifty thousand or more but fewer than**
27 **two hundred thousand registered voters, the parish executive committee of the**
28 **recognized political party may designate four political party super watchers.**

(2) Except for a candidate, parish executive committee or state central committee of a recognized political party filing a list of political party super watchers, or recognized political party filing for a slate of candidates for presidential elector, any person filing a list of watchers ~~must~~ shall attach a certified statement that the report required by R.S. 18:1486 has been filed with the supervisory committee in compliance with the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

* * *

§1309. Early voting; verification

* * *

N.(1) The parish executive committee of a recognized political party having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered as being affiliated with the political party is entitled to have an early voting watcher at each early voting location in the parish, as space permits, at which a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot.

(2) A qualified voter of the state who is not a candidate in the election may serve as an early voting watcher.

(3) A watcher shall be admitted within the designated early voting location during the conduct of early voting where a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot and shall call any infraction of the law to the attention of the registrar of voters or deputy registrar. An early voting watcher may keep notes on the conduct of early voting, but he shall not take part in performing the procedures of Subsections D, E, or F of this Section. An early voting watcher shall not electioneer, engage in political discussions, or unnecessarily delay a voter at the polling place. An early voting watcher is subject to the authority of the registrar of voters or deputy registrar and shall not interfere with the registrar or deputy registrar in the performance of their duties. The parish executive committee of a political party shall be entitled to have both a watcher and alternate watcher serve at the same early voting location, except that the early voting watcher and alternate watcher may not serve at a single voting location at the same time.

(4) The registrar of voters or deputy registrar shall regulate the number of watchers inside the early voting location as provided in R.S. 18:427.

(5) A list of early voting watchers shall be filed with the registrar of voters by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the fourteenth business day before the first day of early voting for the primary or general election; however, if the fourteenth business day before the

1 first day of early voting for the primary or general election falls on a Saturday,
2 Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day which is not
3 a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday. For purposes of this Paragraph,
4 "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S.
5 13:3204(D).

6 (6) The chairman of the parish executive committee of the political party
7 shall sign and be responsible for filing the list of early voting watchers.

8 (7) A list of early voting watchers submitted for the primary election may
9 be used for the general election only if the chairman of the parish executive
10 committee of the political party notifies the registrar of voters in writing by 4:30
11 p.m. on the tenth business day before the start of early voting for the general
12 election that he wants to use the same list of early voting watchers.

13 (8) A list of early voting watchers shall contain only one early voting
14 watcher and one alternate watcher for each early voting location where the state
15 central committee of the political party is entitled to have an early voting
16 watcher. The list shall be typed or legibly written, and it shall contain the name
17 and mailing address of each early voting watcher and alternate watcher and a
18 designation of the early voting location where each is to serve.

19 (9) The chairman of the state central committee of a recognized political
20 party may designate early voting watchers for the parish in accordance with
21 this Subsection in any parish without a parish executive committee of the
22 recognized political party.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

Attachment C: Certificate of Registration



***State of Louisiana
Louisiana Board of Ethics
acting as the
Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance***

Certificate of Registration

This certifies that

Democrat, Republican, Independent Voter Education PAC

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001

James P. Hoffa, Chairman

Affiliated Organization: International Brotherhood of Teamsters

*has filed the required statement of organization with the
Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure
and is in compliance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:1491.1.*

*This further certifies that contributions made by this committee are subject to the
following limits:*

**\$5,000 to major office candidates
\$2,500 to district office candidates
\$1,000 to any other office candidates**

Expiration Date

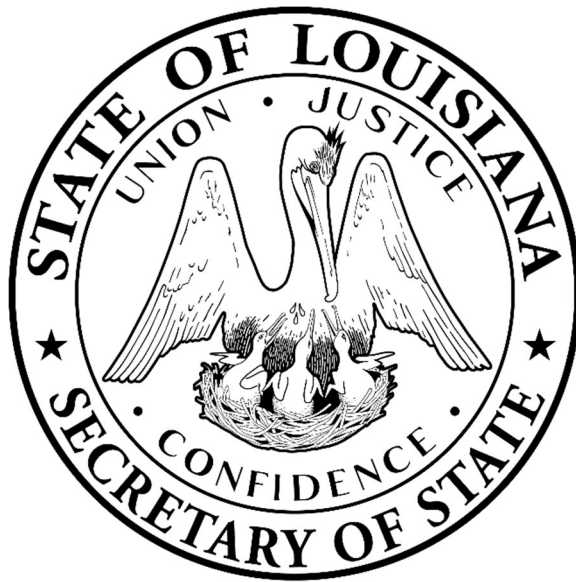
Deborah Grier

Executive Secretary

A \$5.00 fee will be imposed for the issuance of each duplicate certificate of registration.

Attachment D:

List of Early Voting Political Party Watchers



LIST OF EARLY VOTING POLITICAL PARTY WATCHERS

The parish executive committee of a recognized political party having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered as being affiliated with the political party is entitled to have one early voting watcher at each early voting location in the parish, as space permits, at which a candidate affiliated with the political party is on the ballot (La. R.S. 18:1309(N)(1)). A list of early voting watchers shall be filed with the registrar of voters by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial courier before 4:30 p.m. on the fourteenth business day before the first day of early voting for the primary or general election (La. R.S. 18:1309(N)(5)). A list of early voting watchers submitted for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the chairman of the parish executive committee of the political party notifies the registrar of voters in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the start of early voting for the general election that he wants to use the same list of early voting watchers (La. R.S. 18:1309(N)(7)).

Check appropriate box:

☐ PRIMARY ELECTION

☐ GENERAL ELECTION

PARISH:			ELECTION DATE:		CHOOSE ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOCRATIC PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> REPUBLICAN PARTY	
CHOOSE ONE:						
	Watcher	Alternate Watcher	NAME OF WATCHER	ADDRESS OF WATCHER	EARLY VOTING SITE	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						

LIST OF EARLY VOTING POLITICAL PARTY WATCHERS

CERTIFICATION PAGE

The chairman of the parish executive committee of the political party shall sign and be responsible for filing the list of early voting watchers. In a parish without a parish executive committee, the chairman of the state central committee may designate early voting watchers for the parish.

Dear Registrar of Voters, attached is our certified list of qualified* watchers and alternate watchers.

Chairman: _____
(printed name) _____
(signature)

(date) _____
(telephone number)

☐ No parish executive committee; filed by the chairman of the state central committee in accordance with La R.S. 18:1309(N)(9).

*Watcher Qualifications

Pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1309(N)(1), a qualified voter of the state of Louisiana who is not a candidate in the election may serve as an early voting watcher.

For Official Use:	Date and Time Received:	_____
	Signature of ROV staff member that took receipt of list	_____
	Printed name of ROV staff member that took receipt of list	_____
	_____	_____

Attachment E:

List of Election Day Political Party Super Watchers



ELECTION DAY POLITICAL PARTY SUPER WATCHERS

The parish executive committees of the Democratic and Republican parties* are entitled to have political party super watchers in a parish if a candidate affiliated with the party is on the ballot. (La. R.S. 18:435(A))

The parish executive committee may designate the following number of political party super watchers:

Less than 50,000 registered voters: one super watcher;
 50,000-99,999 registered voters: two super watchers;
 100,000-149,999 registered voters: three super watchers;
 150,000 -199,999 registered voters: four super watchers;
 200,000 or more registered voters: five super watchers.

The chairman of the parish executive committee shall sign and be responsible for filing the list of political party super watchers. In any parish without a parish executive committee, the chairman of the state central committee may designate super watchers for the parish. A list of political party super watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial carrier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the primary or general election. (La. R.S. 18:435(B)) A list submitted for the primary election may be used for the general election if the candidate notifies the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the general election that they want to use the same list of watchers.

Check appropriate box:

☐ PRIMARY ELECTION

☐ GENERAL ELECTION

PARISH:			ELECTION DATE:	CHOOSE ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOCRATIC PARTY <input type="checkbox"/> REPUBLICAN PARTY
CHOOSE ONE:				
	Super Watcher	Alternate Super Watcher	NAME OF SUPER WATCHER	ADDRESS OF SUPER WATCHER
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

ELECTION DAY POLITICAL PARTY SUPER WATCHERS

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*The parish executive committee of a recognized political party having at least twenty-five percent of the registered voters in the state registered as being affiliated with the political party is entitled to have political party super watchers in the parish if a candidate is on the ballot. (R.S. 18:435(A)(4)(a)). Political party super watchers shall be admitted as watchers in every precinct in the parish where an affiliated candidate is on the ballot, except that not more than one political party super watcher may serve as a single precinct at the same time. (La. R.S. 18:435(A)(4)(c))

ELECTION DAY POLITICAL PARTY SUPER WATCHERS

CERTIFICATION PAGE

The chairman of the parish executive committee of the political party shall sign and be responsible for the list of political party super watchers. In a parish without a parish executive committee, the chairman of the state central committee may designate super watchers for the parish.

Dear Clerk of Court, attached is our certified list of qualified* political party super watchers and alternates.

Chairman: _____
(printed name) _____
(signature)

(date) _____
(telephone number)

☐ No parish executive committee; filed by the chairman of the state central committee in accordance with La R.S. 18:435(A)(4)(e)

*Watcher Qualifications

Pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1309(N)(1), a qualified voter of the state of Louisiana who is not a candidate in the election may serve as an early voting watcher.

For Official Use:

Date and Time Received: _____

Signature of COC staff member that took receipt of list _____

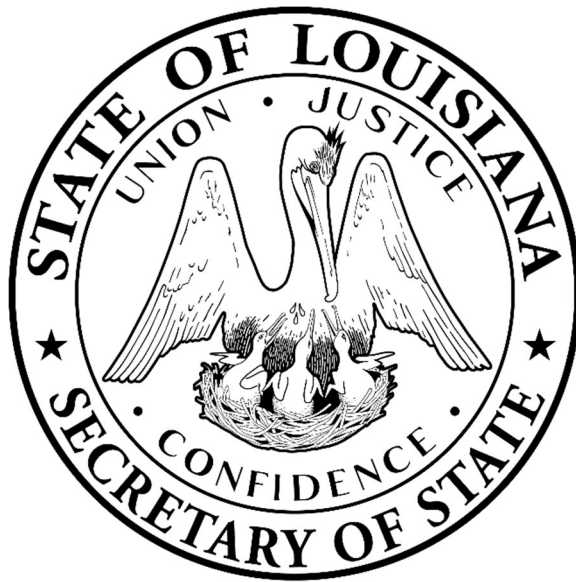
Printed name of COC staff member that took receipt of list _____

Attachment F:

List of Election Day

Watchers (for Candidates or

Propositions)



LIST OF ELECTION DAY WATCHERS – CANDIDATES OR PROPOSITIONS

If a candidate's list of watchers is filed by the candidate's authorized representative, a letter of authorization from the candidate shall accompany the list of watchers. The list of watchers shall be signed by the candidate. A list of watchers for a slate of candidates for presidential elector shall be signed by the chairman of the state central committee (La. R.S. 18:435(A)(1)(a)(b)). A list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court by hand delivery, facsimile, mail, or commercial carrier before 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the primary or general election; however, if the tenth business day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the list shall be filed on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or other legal holiday (La. R.S. 18:435(B)(1)(a)). A list of watchers submitted by a candidate for the primary election may be used for the general election only if the candidate notifies the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth business day before the general election that they want to use the same list of watchers (La. R.S. 18:435(B)(1)(b)). A list of watchers shall be filed with the clerk of court in each parish where the candidate will have watchers for a multi-parish office.

Check appropriate box:

☐ PRIMARY ELECTION

☐ GENERAL ELECTION

PARISH:				ELECTION DATE:	CANDIDATE NAME AND OFFICE -OR- PROPOSITION TITLE:
Choose only one (1) Super Watcher				NAME OF SUPER WATCHER	ADDRESS OF SUPER WATCHER
		(choose one)			
	Precinct	Watcher	Alternate Watcher	NAME OF WATCHER	ADDRESS OF WATCHER
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					

LIST OF ELECTION DAY WATCHERS – CANDIDATES OR PROPOSITIONS

Make copies and use this page to complete the list for the parish

[illegible]

LIST OF ELECTION DAY WATCHERS – CANDIDATES OR PROPOSITIONS

CERTIFICATION PAGE

Dear clerk of court, attached is our certified list of qualified* watchers, alternate watchers, and super watcher.

FOR STATE/LOCAL ELECTION

(candidate's signature)

(printed name)

(date signed)

SLATE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

(chairman's signature)

(printed name)

(date signed)

***Watcher Qualifications (effective June 8, 2023)**

Pursuant to La. R.S. 18:427(A), a qualified voter of the state of Louisiana who is not a candidate in the election may serve as a watcher; however, a watcher who is not a resident of the parish where he serves may not serve as a commissioner. No person who is required to register as a sex offender or child predator pursuant to R.S. 15:542 may serve as a watcher.

For Official Use:

Date Received: _____

Signature of clerk staff member that took receipt of list _____

Printed name of clerk staff member that took receipt of list _____

Nancy Landry

S E C R E T A R Y O F S T A T E

P.O. Box 94125 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125
8585 Archives Ave. • Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225.922.2880 • 800.883.2805
www.sos.la.gov

