VOTING in Louisiana

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TOM SCHEDLER

SECRETARY OF STATE

Dear Voters,

As Louisiana's Secretary of State, my most important function is to ensure the integrity of our election system. It is a duty that I cherish and one that I protect vigorously.

I am proud to say that the non-partisan Pew Charitable Trusts recently noted that Louisiana does a better job administering elections than most states across the nation. In fact, Louisiana ranks in the top five states for voter registration with close to 85% of our eligible voters registered. Our state was also recognized by the National Association of Secretaries of State for the first-of-its-kind GeauxVote Mobile app for smartphones. The GeauxVote app puts important election information in the palm of your hand on Election Day.

We take pride in our elections and strive to make voting a quick and easy experience for Louisiana's citizens. This brochure is designed to give you all the information you need about voting in Louisiana—from registering to vote, to voting on Election Day, and even becoming an election commissioner. It includes contact information for our partners—the local parish registrars of voters and clerks of court—so that you can find the answers to all your voting questions.

Knowing your rights, registering to vote, reviewing your ballot, finding your precinct and casting your ballot are personal responsibilities we as citizens must not take lightly. I encourage you to participate in each and every election and to honor the sacrifice of our military service members who fought and died for our right to vote.

Geaux Vote!

Secretary of State Tom Schedler

Introduction

Register to VOTE

You must register to vote at least 30 days prior to an election!

TO REGISTER AND VOTE IN LOUISIANA YOU MUST:

- be a U.S. Citizen;
- be at least 16 years old, but must be 18 years old prior to the next election to be eligible to vote;
- reside in the parish in which you seek to register and vote;
- not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony; and
- not be under a judgment of full interdiction for mental incompetence or partial interdiction with suspension of voting rights.

Online Voter Registration is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.GeauxVote.com and is fast and easy!

You may register in person at your parish Registrar of Voters Office, when you renew your driver's license at any Office of Motor Vehicles or when obtaining services at public assistance agencies and Armed Forces recruitment offices.

Mail-in registration forms can be found online at www.GeauxVote.com, in public libraries or through voter registration drives.

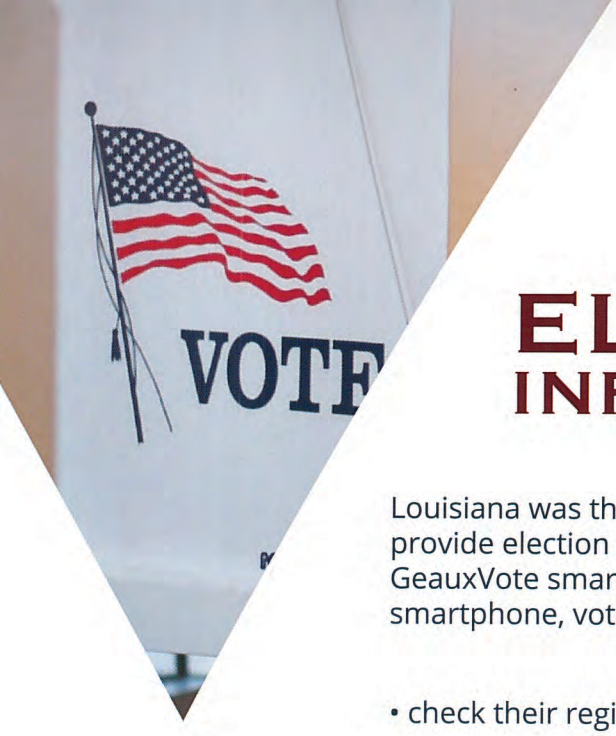
You are required to register where you reside. If you reside in more than one location, you may register at only one residence. If you file a homestead exemption, you shall register and vote where that residence is located.

You must supply a street or rural route address so that you can be placed in the correct precinct. A post office box does not qualify as a residential address.

You may register as being affiliated with one of the state's recognized parties, you may designate "Other" on your registration application and write in the name of an unrecognized political party or you may choose no party.

You will receive a voter information card by mail when your registration is complete. If you do not receive a voter information card within 30 days of registering, contact your local registrar of voters.

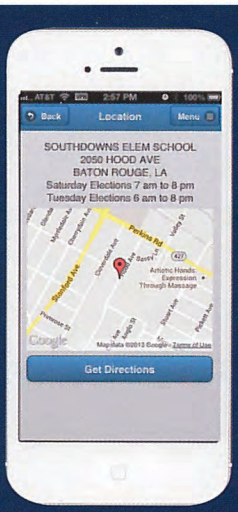
You must notify your parish registrar of voters of any changes to your voter registration (name, address), if you move within/outside the parish or out of state.

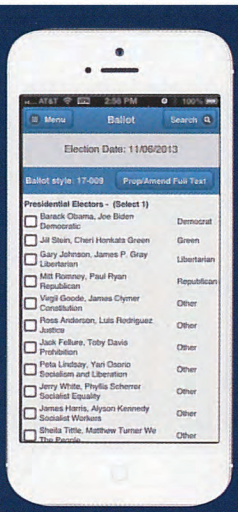


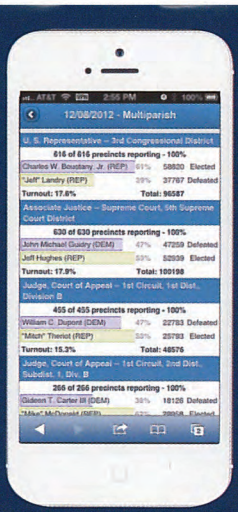
ELECTION INFORMATION

Louisiana was the first state in the country to provide election information through its GeauxVote smartphone app. Using a smartphone, voters can:

- check their registration status;
- identify their voting districts and elected officials;
- find their voting precinct/get directions;
- review a personalized sample ballot; and
- watch election results in real-time.







The GeauxVote app is FREE for Apple and Android phone users and can be found in the App Store or by visiting www.GeauxVote.com.

Additionally, comprehensive election information can also be found on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.la.gov. The website allows voters to check their registration, find sample ballots, locate their precinct and watch real-time election results.

For additional election information, voters should

CALL 1-800-883-2805.

GEAUX VOTE

VOTE BY MAIL

Voting by mail is a convenient option for voters who:

- will be absent on Election Day and during the Early Voting period;
- are in the military;
- are an overseas citizen;
- have a disability;
- are a senior citizen;
- are a student; or
- qualify under one of the specific reasons allowed by law to vote by mail. (list can be found at www.GeauxVote.com)

You can apply to vote by mail in several ways:

1. Apply online at www.GeauxVote.com;

2. Fill out the downloadable application at www.GeauxVote.com and mail it to your local registrar of voters; or

3. Send your registrar of voters a letter requesting to vote by mail including your reason for applying and the election date.

Senior citizens or individuals with disabilities can vote by mail automatically for ALL elections by completing an application and choosing senior citizen or disabled. Proof of disability is required.

Voters remain in the automatic mail ballot program until such time that a ballot is returned to the Registrar of Voters Office as undeliverable, or they request to be removed from the program.

All voted mail ballots must be received by the local Registrar of Voters Office by 4:30 p.m. on the day before an election, except for military and overseas citizens who have until Election Day.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting is a great convenience for voters wishing to avoid long lines on Election Day.

For state and local elections, the early voting period runs Saturday through Saturday (excluding Sunday) starting two weeks before Election Day.

For federal elections, early voting runs Tuesday through Tuesday (excluding Sunday) two weeks before the election.

Early voting hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Voters in line by 6:00 p.m. each day of the early voting period will be allowed to vote.

Early voting is held in each parish Registrar of Voters Office or at other designated early voting sites in your parish. For a complete listing of early voting locations, go to www.GeauxVote.com or use the GeauxVote smartphone app.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Casting your ballot on Election Day is an important duty as a citizen of our state and nation. The following information will make your voting experience quick and easy!

Voting Hours:
Tuesday Elections-6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday Elections-7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Voters in line by 8:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.*

Find your precinct online at www.GeauxVote.com, using the GeauxVote smartphone app, or calling your local Registrar of Voters Office.

Bring a photo I.D. with you to vote. You may use a Louisiana Driver's License, a Louisiana Special I.D. card or other generally recognized picture identification card with your name and signature, such as a passport. You may obtain a FREE photo I.D. card at the Office of Motor Vehicles by presenting your voter information card.

If you do not have a photo I.D. on Election Day, you will be required to sign an affidavit and supply personal identification information.

You are allowed three minutes to cast your vote. If you are entitled to assistance or use the audio voting keypad, you are allowed 20 minutes to cast your vote. Review your ballot ahead of time by going to www.GeauxVote.com or using the GeauxVote smartphone app. Sample ballots are available online at least 20 days before each election and are also printed in local newspapers and posted at your polling location for review.

Remember, you have the right to a campaign-free zone on Election Day. Electioneering within 600 feet of the polling site is not allowed and individuals may not bring or wear any campaign literature to the polls. Private property is exempt.

Report any Election Day concerns to the Secretary of State's Election Division at 1-800-883-2805.

BECOME A COMMISSIONER

Louisiana relies on its dedicated citizens to perform the public service of working the polling places on Election Day. If you are interested in serving as a commissioner, please contact your local clerk of court.

Certified commissioners earn up to $200 per Election Day. Commissioners-in-charge earn up to $300 per Election Day depending on the number of precincts.

Commissioners-in-charge have worked as commissioners in prior elections and are responsible for presiding over their precincts, tabulating votes and delivering the election results to the Clerk of Court's Office on election night.

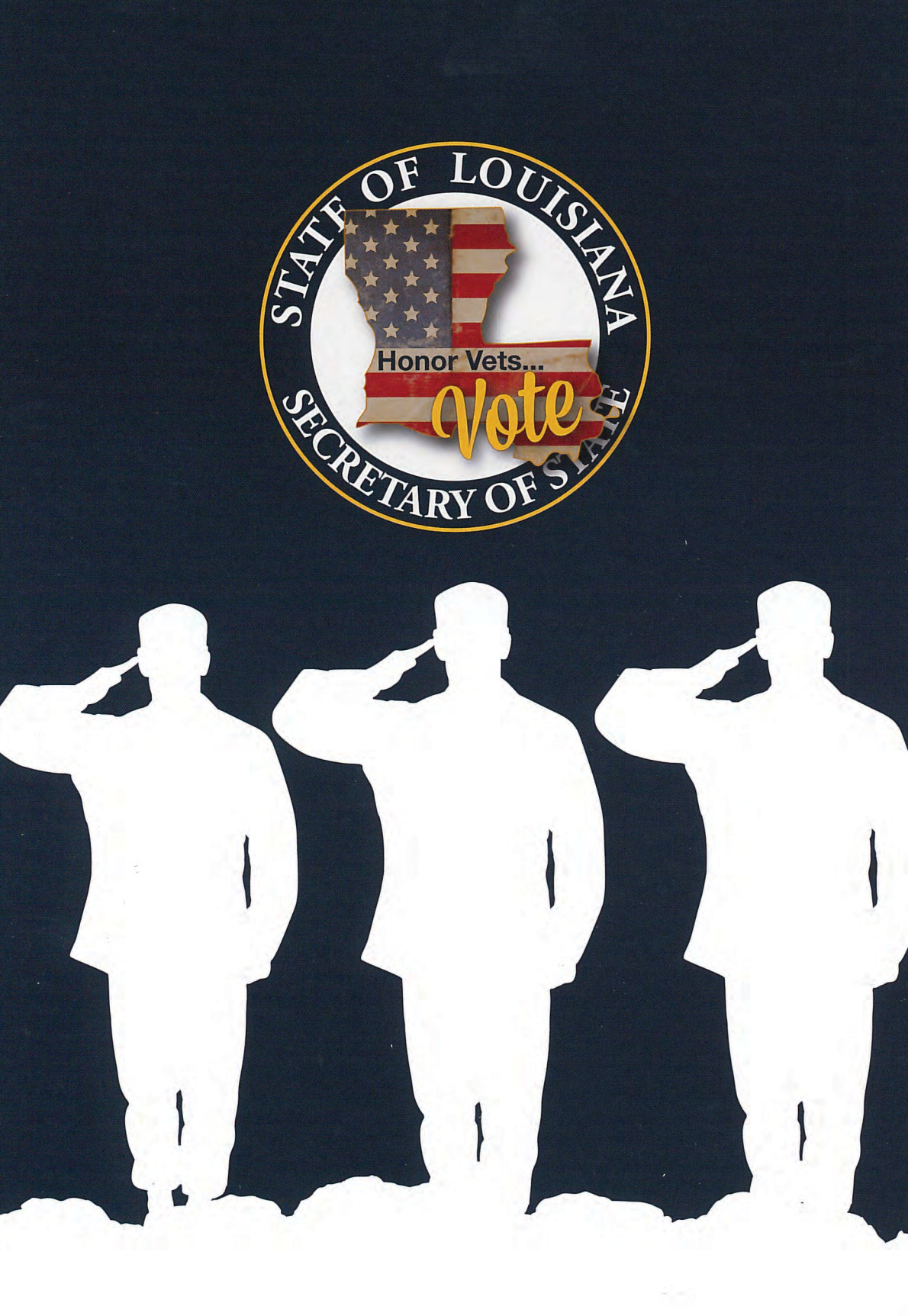
Commissioners are responsible for conducting all Election Day duties at their assigned precinct, enforcing election laws, maintaining order at the polling place during the election and posting results.

To become a commissioner, you must be a registered voter in the parish where you are going to serve. The exemption to this rule is if you are otherwise qualified to serve as a commissioner, are 17 years old, are enrolled in the 12th grade, graduated, received your GED or are a 17-year-old who is participating in a 12th grade level home study program.

Individuals must attend the required course of instruction given by the Clerk of Court's Office and pass a test in order to become a certified commissioner.

Commissioners and commissioners-in-charge are re-certified at the beginning of each new term.

If a commissioner-in-charge or commissioner is running for office, or an immediate family member is running for office for a specific election, he/she may not serve in any precinct where his name or that of his relative is on the ballot.



HONOR VETS VOTE

The Honor Vets...Vote program is designed to increase voter participation and improve turnout on Election Day. The outreach initiative was developed in 2012 leading up to the presidential election season by Secretary of State Tom Schedler after returning from a trip to the Middle East visiting our troops.

Honor Vets...Vote allows individuals to dedicate their vote in an upcoming election to a current or former member of the military, honoring their sacrifice for our sacred right to vote.

Individuals wishing to participate can access the application by visiting www.sos.la.gov/honorvets. After completing the form, each voter can choose to receive a bumper sticker, a lapel pin and/or a printable certificate documenting their vote dedication. Voters can participate in this patriotic program during each and every election to honor the many service members who have heroically protected our rights and freedoms.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know where to register and vote if I am a student living away from home?

You may register and vote in the parish of your home residence or in the parish where you are attending school. An out-of-state resident who is a student in Louisiana may register and vote in this state; however you may not be registered in more than one state at any time.

What does it mean if I am an inactive voter?

An inactive status means that your registration address has not been verified through the annual canvass of the voter rolls, or election mail sent to your registration address has been returned as undeliverable by the postal service to the registrar of voters.

To return to active status, you must verify your residential address prior to voting, which may be done when you vote on Election Day. You may also do this in person at the Registrar's Office, online or by mail through a voter registration application. If you verify your address before Election Day, you must do so at least 30 days before an election for your status to be updated for that election.

Is my right to vote automatically reinstated after completing the sentence of a felony conviction?

No. To restore your voting rights after a felony conviction, you must present proof of completion of sentence to your local registrar of voters in person. If you are disabled and homebound, proof of completion of sentence may be submitted by mail, fax or commercial carrier.

What is prohibited by federal law in voting?

Federal law prohibits:

- knowingly and willfully intimidating, threatening, coercing or attempting to intimidate, threaten or coerce any person for voting or urging or aiding any person to vote or attempting to vote in any election for federal office;

- knowingly and willfully depriving, defrauding or attempting to deprive or defraud the residents of Louisiana of a fair and impartially conducted election process by the procurement, casting or tabulation of ballots that are known by the person to be materially false, fictitious or fraudulent under the laws of the State of Louisiana in any election for federal office; and conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any person in the free exercise or enjoyment of the right to vote or because of his or her having so exercised the right to vote.

What is prohibited by state law in voting?

Louisiana state law prohibits:

- intimidating, deceiving or misinforming, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or non-voting;

- offering money or anything of apparent present or prospective value or use, directly or indirectly, or engage in any form of intimidation to influence the action or encourage inaction of any election official with regard to the duties of his or her office;

- giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, money or anything of present or prospective value to influence a vote;

- voting or attempting to vote more than once at an election;

- disobeying any lawful instruction of the commissioners or a law enforcement officer assisting at the polling place or without lawful authority; obstructing, hindering or delaying any voter on his way to or while returning home from a polling place where an election is held; or impeding a voter from entering or exiting a polling place;

- voting or attempting to vote in the name of another or in an assumed or fictitious name, or in any manner other than as provided by the Louisiana Election Code;

- supplying a false answer or statement to an election official or on any document required by the Louisiana Election Code, or executing an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information;

- unlawfully, directly or indirectly, possessing, tampering with, breaking, impairing, impeding or otherwise interfering with the maintenance, adjustment, delivery, use or operation of any voting machine or with any paraphernalia connected with or appertaining to the machine;

- voters, election officials, watchers (Election Day only) or persons assisting a voter to allow a ballot to be seen (except as provided by law), announce the manner in which a person has cast a ballot, place a distinguishing mark on a ballot with intent to make the ballot identifiable or make a false statement concerning a voter's ability to mark a ballot without assistance;

- coercing, compelling or otherwise influencing an assisted voter to cast a vote in a certain way or fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter by the person providing assistance;

- accepting directly, or indirectly anything of economic value, including reimbursement of costs, for the purpose of transporting a voter to an early voting location or polling place, or for driving or being in charge of any motor vehicle being used for such purpose (bus, taxi or licensed transportation are exempt).

- remaining within any early voting location or polling place or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance of any polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by a commissioner or law enforement officer to leave the premises or area of an early voting location or polling place; placing or displaying political signs, pictures or other forms of political advertising and/or handing out, placing or displaying campaign cards, pictures or other campaign literature of any kind or description whatsoever, unless on private property which is not being used as an early voting location or polling place;

CONTACT INFORMATION

Got Election Questions? Call the Louisiana Secretary of State at 1-800-883-2805 or reach out to your local Registrar of Voters (ROV) or Clerk of Court (COC) Offices in your parish.

ACADIA
COC 337.788.8881
ROV 337.788.8841

ALLEN
COC 337.639.4351
ROV 337.639.4966

ASCENSION
COC 225.473.9866
ROV 225.621.5780

ASSUMPTION
COC 985.369.6653
ROV 985.369.7347

AVOYELLES
COC 318.253.7523
ROV 318.253.7129

BEAUREGARD
COC 337.463.8595
ROV 337.463.7955

BIENVILLE
COC 318.263.2123
ROV 318.263.7407

BOSSIER
COC 318.965.2336
ROV 318.965.2301

CADDO
COC 318.226.6793
ROV 318.226.6891

CALCASIEU
COC 337.437.3550
ROV 337.721.4000

CALDWELL
COC 318.649.2272
ROV 318.649.7364

CAMERON
COC 337.775.5316
ROV 337.775.5493

CATAHOULA
COC 318.744.5497
ROV 318.744.5745

CLAIBORNE
COC 318.927.9601
ROV 318.927.3332

CONCORDIA
COC 318.336.4204
ROV 318.336.7770

DESOTO
COC 318.872.3110
ROV 318.872.1149

E. BATON ROUGE
COC 225.295.4765
ROV 225.389.3940

E. CARROLL
COC 318.559.2399
ROV 318.559.2015

E. FELICIANA
COC 225.683.5145
ROV 225.683.3105

EVANGELINE
COC 337.363.5671
ROV 337.363.5538

FRANKLIN
COC 318.435.5133
ROV 318.435.4489

GRANT
COC 318.627.3246
ROV 318.627.9938

IBERIA
COC 337.365.7282
ROV 337.369.4407

IBERVILLE
COC 225.687.5160
ROV 225.687.5201

JACKSON
COC 318.259.2424
ROV 318.259.2486

JEFFERSON
COC 504.736.6394
ROV 504.736.6191

JEFFERSON DAVIS
COC 337.824.1160
ROV 337.824.0834

LAFAYETTE
COC 337.291.6368
ROV 337.291.7140

LAFOURCHE
COC 985.447.4841
ROV 985.447.3256

LASALLE
COC 318.992.2158
ROV 318.992.2254

LINCOLN
COC 318.251.5130
ROV 318.251.5110

LIVINGSTON
COC 225.686.2216
ROV 225.686.3054

MADISON
COC 318.574.0655
ROV 318.574.2193

MOREHOUSE
COC 318.281.3343
ROV 318.281.1434

NATCHITOCHES
COC 318.352.8152
ROV 318.357.2211

ORLEANS
COC 504.658.9000
ROV 504.658.8300

OUACHITA
COC 318.327.1444
ROV 318.327.1436

PLAQUEMINES
COC 504.297.5180
ROV 504.934.3620

POINTE COUPEE
COC 225.638.9596
ROV 225.638.5537

RAPIDES
COC 318.473.8153
ROV 318.473.6770

RED RIVER
COC 318.932.6741
ROV 318.932.5027

RICHLAND
COC 318.728.4171
ROV 318.728.3582

SABINE
COC 318.256.6223
ROV 318.256.3697

ST. BERNARD
COC 504.271.3434
ROV 504.278.4231

ST. CHARLES
COC 985.783.6632
ROV 985.783.5120

ST. HELENA
COC 225.222.4521
ROV 225.222.4440

ST. JAMES
COC 225.562.2270
ROV 225.562.2330

ST. JOHN
COC 985.497.3331
ROV 985.652.9797

ST. LANDRY
COC 337.942.5606
ROV 337.948.0572

ST. MARTIN
COC 337.394.2210
ROV 337.394.2204

ST. MARY
COC 337.828.4100
ROV 337.828.4100

ST. TAMMANY
COC 985.809.8723
ROV 985.809.5500

TANGIPAHOA
COC 985.748.4146
ROV 985.748.3215

TENSAS
COC 318.766.3921
ROV 318.766.3931

TERREBONNE
COC 985.868.5660
ROV 985.873.6533

UNION
COC 318.368.3055
ROV 318.368-8660

VERMILION
COC 337.898.1992
ROV 337.898.4324

VERNON
COC 337.238.1384
ROV 337.239.3690

WASHINGTON
COC 985.839.4663
ROV 985.839.7850

WEBSTER
COC 318.371.0366
ROV 318.377.9272

W. BATON ROUGE
COC 225.383.0378
ROV 225.336.2421

W. CARROLL
COC 318.428.3281
ROV 318.428.2381

W. FELICIANA
COC 225.635.3794
ROV 225.635.6161

WINN
COC 318.628.3515
ROV 318.628.6133

TOM SCHEDLER

SECRETARY OF STATE

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