

## Frequently Asked Questions for an electronic ballot

### **What type of electronic ballot can I expect to receive if I request an Absentee by Mail ballot for a federal election (primary & general) to be sent electronically?**

You will receive a regular ballot for the primary election and a special ballot for the general election called a ranking ballot, which contains every candidate for each office on the ballot. Additionally, you may receive a regular general ballot with all items not on the special general ballot, such as constitutional amendments and propositions.

### **How do I mark or vote this ranking ballot?**

You vote by preference for each candidate. It's a ranking of your choices. You are allowed to rank all of the candidates, if any, in order of your preference. For example, if there are 3 candidates, you would put a number 1 next to your 1<sup>st</sup> choice, a number 2 next to your 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and a number 3 next to your 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.

### **How is ranked-choice votes counted?**

Ballots are counted by hand, counting your 1<sup>st</sup> choice if the candidate qualified for the General Election and so on down the order of your ranking until your next-ranked choice is among the remaining candidates.

### **Must I rank every candidate for each office?**

No. A voter may, but is not required, to rank all choices for each office.

### **Can I give candidates the same ranking?**

No. If a voter gives more than one candidate the same ranking, the vote cannot be counted. Only one candidate can represent the voter's first, second, or third choice and so on.

### **Do I have to fill out every blank on this certificate and have it witnessed?**

Yes. You need to fill out all blanks but you do NOT have to have it witnessed or notarized because you are a military or overseas citizen.

### **Do I have to sign the Certificate and why?**

Yes. The Certificate allows your parish Registrar of Voters to verify your information and signature and determine your eligibility to vote.

### **Do I have to have a notary or witnesses sign the Certificate?**

No. A notary or witness is not required, but your signature is required in order for your ballot to be counted.

### **Do I have to sign the Waiver of Right to Secret Ballot and why?**

Yes. The Waiver of Right to Secret Ballot allows your ballot to be opened by your parish Registrar of Voters to present it to the election officials for counting on Election Day. Your Registrar and staff are required to take the steps necessary to keep your voted ballot as confidential as practicable. HOWEVER, you may use the "Security Envelope" and ballot transmittal envelope from the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to mail your ballot(s) and certificate and in that case you do NOT need to include the waiver. The Waiver does not need to be witnessed or notarized.

**Can I email my ballot back to the Registrar of Voters or State?**

No. You can mail your ballot, along with the certificate and waiver in an envelope to your parish Registrar of Voters, or in a "Security Envelope" from the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot discussed above. If you do not feel like you will have time to return your ballot, certificate and waiver through the mail, you may request a fax ballot and return your ballot & documents by fax to your parish Registrar of Voters. *See below.*

**What if I feel that I will not have time to vote by mail? Can I fax my voted ballot back to the Registrar of Voters or vote by using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot?**

If you received your ballot but feel that you will not have time to vote timely by mail, you may request that the registrar of voters transmit by facsimile the certificate and waiver of right to a secret ballot. You may then complete the certificate and waiver of right to a secret ballot and either transmit by facsimile or by mail your voted ballot and certificate and waiver to your parish registrar of voters;

-or-

A military or overseas citizen who made a timely application to vote absentee by mail in accordance with Louisiana's law and who did not receive absentee by mail ballots may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote in presidential elections and congressional general elections.

Contact your registrar or visit our website for contact information and instructions specific to faxing your ballot. [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com)

**Can I write a candidate's name on my ballot in any column?**

No. Louisiana does not allow Write-In candidates.

**Will there be a subsequent run-off?**

The Federal General Election date for Congress is the primary election in LA and there will be runoff election if no candidate receives a majority of the vote or if there is a tie vote. The Federal General Election date for President is the final election.

**What if I have further questions?**

If you have further questions about voting, please call your parish Registrar of Voters office or visit our website at [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com) for more information and a listing of parish Registrars of Voters and their contact information.

**Will my email address become public information?**

No. Your email address is protected from disclosure along with your social security number, driver's license number, day and month of your date of birth, and mother's maiden name.

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