

LOUISIANA POLITICAL PARTIES

- A recognized political party is classified as a **major political party** if any one candidate of the political party for presidential elector received at least five percent of the votes cast in this state for presidential electors in the last presidential election, or if any one candidate of the political party for any statewide office received at least five percent of the votes cast for the statewide office in any primary or general election (R.S. 18:441(C)). Only major political parties will hold closed party primary elections.
- If a candidate is a member of a **recognized political party** in Louisiana, then the name of the party appears after the candidate's name on the ballot.
- If the candidate is a **member of a political party** that is **NOT a recognized political party** in Louisiana, then "Other" appears after the candidate's name on the ballot.
- If the candidate is **NOT affiliated with any political party**, then "No Party" appears after the candidate's name on the ballot.
- No political party shall be recognized in this state which declares its name solely to be "Independent" or the "Independent Party."
- A voter who is registered as or declares party affiliation as "Independent" or with the "Independent Party" shall have his party affiliation entered as "No Party" and the registrant shall be notified of the change in registration.

Political Party	Type of Political Party	Appears on the Qualifying Form	Appears on the Ballot
Democratic	recognized/ major	Democrat	Democrat
Republican	recognized/ major	Republican	Republican
Green	recognized	Green	Green
Libertarian	recognized	Libertarian	Libertarian
Other	not recognized	party name that was provided if any	Other
Not affiliated with any party	-	No Party	No Party

R.S. 18:441.B authorizes political parties (other than Democratic and Republican) to become recognized if:

- At least 5,000 registered voters are registered as being affiliated with the party.
- The party files a notarized registration statement with Secretary of State. (form available on website: sos.la.gov)
- The party pays a registration fee of \$5,000 to Secretary of State.

Restrictions on newly-recognized political parties:

- Party is not entitled to representation on Parish Board of Election Supervisors, unless 5% of the registered voters in the state are registered as being affiliated with the party.
- When qualifying for office, candidates pay only the state qualifying fee and the campaign sign recycling fund fee. These candidates do not pay any party fees. R.S. 18:441(D)(1)
- Party cannot have Presidential Preference Primary party candidates for presidential nominee; must have 40,000 registered voters to participate in PPP.
- Party will cease to be recognized if no registered member of the party qualifies as a candidate in a primary election for any period of four consecutive years.