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# NEWS RELEASE

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**Louisiana  
Department of State**



**Tom Schedler  
Secretary of State**

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## **EARLY VOTING TO CONTINUE AS NATE APPROACHES LOUISIANA**

Secretary of State Tom Schedler says early voting across the state will continue through Saturday at 6 p.m. as Louisiana prepares for Nate. Schedler told registrars of voters this morning that he expects all offices to be able to complete early voting at 6 p.m. on Saturday with minimal impact due to the storm. La. R.S. 18:401.1 requires any suspension of early voting to be approved by both the secretary of state and the governor. Currently, only one early voting site, Pointe a la Hache in Plaquemines Parish, has closed due to evacuations. The other two early voting sites in Plaquemines Parish remain OPEN.

“While many parish governments are closing so that non-essential employees can prepare for the storm, early voting is considered an essential function and should continue as scheduled,” said Secretary of State Tom Schedler. “Our guidance at this time is, unless there is an imminent risk of an early voting site flooding or a mandatory evacuation called for an entire parish, early voting will be completed so that all voters can exercise their right to cast a ballot.”

Preparations continue to be made by elections officials across the state to protect their early voting/Election Day voting equipment and supplies from any potential storm impact or damage. Since Nate is expected to move through the state quickly, all election activities are anticipated to resume on Monday as the state prepares for the Saturday, Oct. 14 election.

“This storm certainly puts another wrinkle in our ability to predict overall turnout for the 14<sup>th</sup>,” said Schedler. “Overall, using historical and early voting data, I’m reducing my initial 20 percent turnout prediction because I believe we may struggle to get to 15-20 percent participation statewide. It will take all of the candidates and others encouraging voters to get out and cast a ballot to improve turnout on Election Day for sure.”

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