

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD
OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS**

**SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND
THE SENATE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 31, 2021

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTION
SUPERVISORS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The State Board of Election Supervisors (Board) held its annual meeting on January 28, 2021 to review the election laws and procedures used in the conduct of elections. The Board considered recommendations for amendments to Title 18 and the Board approved the following recommendations:

OMNIBUS RECOMMENDATIONS (TITLE 18)

NUMBER 1:

EXPLANATION: Provides that the registrar's office shall remain open on election day until 9:00 p.m. or until the precinct and absentee by mail and early voting results have been submitted to the clerk of court and the registrar of voters to allow the registrar to close his or her office before 9:00 p.m.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:134. Office hours

A. A registrar shall keep his principal office open for business on those days that state departments are open. A registrar shall observe the holidays that are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments. On days that a registrar's office is open, his office hours shall be from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Notwithstanding any provision of this Subsection, any registrar may keep his principal office open during additional hours and on additional days.

B. Each registrar shall keep each permanent branch office open for business during the hours and on the days he deems the activity justifies it.

C. Each registrar shall keep each temporary branch office and each mobile registration unit open for business during the hours and on the days that he deems that activity justifies it.

D. Additional hours and days during which a principal office is to be kept open, as authorized by Subsection A of this Section, and the hours and days during which each office or mobile unit is to be kept open, under the provisions of Subsections B and C of this Section, and the hours and days of early voting, shall be specified and advertised in advance by the registrar by means of the news media.

E.(1) On election days the principal office of the registrar shall remain open from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., or until all precinct results have been submitted to the clerk of court and the absentee by mail and early voting results have been submitted to the registrar of voters, whichever is earlier. The registrar or a deputy registrar designated by him shall remain in the office during that time.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, on days when a regularly scheduled congressional primary election is held, the principal office of the registrar shall remain open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., or until all precinct results have been submitted to the clerk of court and the absentee by mail and early voting results have been submitted to the registrar of voters, whichever is earlier. The registrar or a deputy registrar designated by him shall remain in the office during that time.

F. It shall be lawful to register persons on Sundays and holidays.

NUMBER 2:

EXPLANATION: Provides a deadline of twenty-one days for the registrar to challenge a voter who has failed to return an address confirmation card.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:198. Change of residence or change in address; inquiry by registrar; change of records

A. Whenever a registrar has reason to believe that a registrant has changed his residence within the parish or that a change has occurred in the registrant's mailing address within the parish, the registrar shall mail the address confirmation card as provided in R.S. 18:193(B) to the registrant, but shall not place the voter on the inactive list of voters.

B. The card shall inform the voter that he must notify the registrar of his current address.

C. The registrar shall send such card to the registrant's address shown on the registration records and to the address the registrar believes to be the registrant's new address. Upon return of the card, signed by the registrant, the registrar shall enter any change in the registrant's information on the state voter registration computer system and, if the original application is available in hard copy in the registrar's office, on the original application for registration.

D. If the registrant fails to return the card within twenty-one days after the date on which the card was mailed, the registrar then shall follow the procedures set forth in R.S. 18:193 with respect to challenge.

NUMBER 3:

EXPLANATION: Provides that the parish board shall be compensated for not more than eight days for a regularly scheduled congressional primary election to allow for the payment of an additional meeting for a regularly scheduled congressional primary election that is held in the years when there is no presidential election and the ballots are tabulated and counted in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.1.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:423. Parish boards of election supervisors

A. Creation. There is created a board of election supervisors for each parish.

B. Powers and duties. The parish board of election supervisors shall supervise the preparation for and the conduct of all elections held in the parish. All papers filed with the parish board of election supervisors shall be filed with the president or the secretary of the board. The list of watchers shall be filed as provided in R.S. 18:435(B). The parish board of election supervisors shall maintain a permanent street address, which shall be filed with the secretary of state and the clerk of court.

C. Composition. (1) In each parish, the board of election supervisors shall be composed of the registrar of voters, the clerk of court, the chairman of the parish executive committee of each recognized political party or his designee who shall be a member of the parish executive committee of the same recognized political party, and one member appointed by the governor.

(2) In a parish where a parish executive committee of a recognized political party has not been formed or where there is a vacancy in the office of chairman, the chairman of the state central committee of that political party may appoint a voter who is registered in the parish as being affiliated with the political party to serve on the parish board of election supervisors.

(3) None of the following members of the parish board of election supervisors shall be an employee of the clerk of court or the registrar of voters in the parish or an

immediate family member of the clerk of court or his designee or the registrar of voters or his designee:

(a) The designee of the chairman of a parish executive committee.

(b) The appointee of the chairman of a state central committee.

(c) The appointee of the governor.

D. (1) Officers. At least every four years, each parish board of election supervisors shall elect one of its members as president of the board and may elect a secretary and any other officers it deems necessary. The parish board of election supervisors shall file a list of its officers with the secretary of state whenever one or more of its officers change.

(2) Employees. In a parish containing a municipality with a population of three hundred thousand or more, the parish board of election supervisors may employ an executive administrator who shall be the principal assistant to the parish board of election supervisors.

E. Compensation. Each member of the parish board of election supervisors shall receive fifty dollars for each day, not to exceed six days, actually spent in the performance of his duties in preparing for and supervising each election held in the parish, except that each member of the board may be compensated for not more than seven days for a presidential or regularly scheduled congressional general election. In addition, each member of the board who is not a public official shall receive fifty dollars for each day spent in court as a subpoenaed witness in litigation concerning the performance of his duties as a member of the parish board of election supervisors in connection with an election.

F. Materials and expenses. The secretary of state shall furnish each parish board of election supervisors with the numbered balls and other materials used to select commissioners-in-charge, commissioners and alternate commissioners.

G. Legal representation. The attorney general shall be the attorney and legal advisor to each parish board of election supervisors. The attorney general may designate the appropriate district attorney to represent a board or, with respect to a particular matter, he may authorize a board to employ special counsel. Any compensation for special counsel shall be fixed by the board, subject to approval by the attorney general, and shall be paid by the parish governing authority.

H. Designees. The clerk of court and the registrar of voters may each appoint a designee to serve in his place on the parish board of election supervisors when he is absent from any meetings of the board. Any designee of the registrar of voters shall be a sworn deputy registrar. For each day of such service the designee of the clerk of court or the registrar of voters shall be paid the same compensation as a member, and the designating member shall not be compensated for that day. Any compensation paid to the designee shall be counted against the designating member's compensation, which shall not exceed six days as provided in Subsection E of this Section.

I. Meetings. Each parish board of election supervisors shall conduct its business in the presence of a quorum.

J. (1) Notwithstanding Subsection E of this Section, in a parish where the parish board of election supervisors tabulates and counts absentee by mail and early voting ballots in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.1, a member of the board may be compensated not more than eight days for a presidential or regularly scheduled congressional primary or general election or seven days for any other primary or general election.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, in a parish where the parish board of election supervisors tabulates and counts absentee by mail and early voting ballots in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, a member of the board may be compensated not more than eleven days for a presidential or regularly scheduled congressional general election or ten days for any other primary or general election if any such election is impaired as the result of a declared emergency or disaster.

NUMBER 4:

EXPLANATION: Changes the deadline for candidates to file a list of watchers with the clerk of court to the seventh business day before the primary election to give the parish board more time to provide notification to the watchers and issue the commissions to the watchers.

Suggested Effective Date: February 1, 2022.

R.S. 18:435. 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~~ seventh business day before the primary election or on the tenth day before the general election; however, if the ~~tenth~~ seventh business day before the primary election or the tenth day before the 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 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.

NUMBER 5:

EXPLANATION: Provides that the notice of candidacy shall provide that copies of the forms and pamphlets of explanation and instruction which are distributed by the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure are available via a link on the Secretary of State's website which makes it easier for the candidates to obtain the forms and pamphlets.

Suggested Effective Date: February 1, 2022.

R.S. 18:463. Notice of candidacy; campaign finance disclosure; political advertising; penalties

<Text of subpar. (A)(1)(a) effective until February 1, 2021.>

A.(1)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the parish, ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote. The candidate shall list on the notice of candidacy the name of the political party if he is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party, "other" if he is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party, or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation. No candidate shall change or add his political party designation, for purposes of printing on the election ballot as required by R.S. 18:551(D), after he has qualified for the election.

<Text of subpar. (A)(1)(a) effective February 1, 2021.>

A. (1)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, his telephone number, his electronic mail address if available, and the parish, ward, and precinct where he is registered to vote. The candidate shall list on the notice of candidacy the name of the political party if he is registered as being affiliated with a recognized political party, "other" if he is registered as being affiliated with a political party that is not a recognized political party, or "no party" or an abbreviation thereof if he is registered with no political party affiliation. No candidate shall change or add his political party designation, for purposes of printing on the election ballot as required by R.S. 18:551(D), after he has qualified for the election.

(b) The candidate shall designate in the notice the form in which his name shall be

printed on the ballot. The candidate may designate his given, first, and middle name, the initials of his given, first, and middle name, a nickname, or any combination thereof as the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot, but he shall not designate a title, designation, or deceptive name, nor shall he designate an occupational or professional description or abbreviation. If the candidate designates a nickname in place of or in combination with his given name or the initials thereof, the nickname shall be set off with quotation marks and shall be placed immediately preceding his surname. A candidate shall include his surname in his designation of the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot.

(c) When an agent files a notice of candidacy on behalf of a candidate, the agent shall file with the qualifying official an affidavit with the signature of the candidate attesting that the agent has the authorization and consent of the candidate to file the notice.

(d) When a candidate serving in the armed forces of the United States who is stationed or deployed outside of the United States files his notice of candidacy and does not pay any qualifying fees or any additional fee, he shall file with the qualifying official a certification prepared by the secretary of state certifying that at the time of qualifying he is serving in the armed forces of the United States and he is stationed or deployed outside of the United States and that he is eligible to become a candidate pursuant to United States Department of Defense Directive 1344.10.

(2)(a) The notice of candidacy also shall include a certificate, signed by the candidate, certifying all of the following:

(i) That he has read the notice of his candidacy.

(ii) That he meets the qualifications of the office for which he is qualifying.

(iii) Except for a candidate for United States senator or representative in congress, that he is not currently under an order of imprisonment for conviction

of a felony and that he is not prohibited from qualifying as a candidate for conviction of a felony pursuant to Article I, Section 10.1 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

(iv) Except for a candidate for United States senator or representative in congress, that for each of the previous five tax years, he has filed his federal and state income tax returns, has filed for an extension of time for filing either his federal or state income tax return or both, or was not required to file either a federal or state income tax return or both.

(v) That he acknowledges that he is subject to the provisions of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act if he is a candidate for any office other than United States senator, representative in congress, or member of a committee of a political party and that he does not owe any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

(vi) That, if he is a major or district office candidate as defined in R.S. 18:1483, he has filed each report he has been required to file by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, if any were previously due.

(vii) That he does not owe any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics.

(viii) Except for a candidate for United States senator or representative in congress or a candidate who resides in a nursing home as defined in R.S. 40:2009.2 or in a veterans' home operated by the state or federal government, that if he claims a homestead exemption on a residence pursuant to Article VII, Section 20 of the Constitution of Louisiana, he is registered and votes in the precinct in which that residence is located.

(ix) That all of the statements contained in it are true and correct.

(b) The certificate shall be executed before a notary public or shall be witnessed by two persons. If the candidate is serving outside the state with the armed

forces of the United States, his notice of candidacy shall be witnessed by a commissioned officer in the armed forces of the United States.

(c) For the purposes of this Paragraph:

(i) "Outstanding fine, fee, or penalty pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act" shall mean a fine, fee, or penalty equal to an amount of two hundred fifty dollars or more assessed by order of the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure or its staff or by final decision of an adjudicatory panel of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act for which all requests for waiver or appeals have been exhausted or a judgment of a district court assessing civil penalties pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act for which all appeals have been exhausted.

(ii) "Outstanding fines, fees, or penalties pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics" shall mean a fine, fee, or penalty equal to an amount of two hundred fifty dollars or more imposed by the Board of Ethics or by final decision of an adjudicatory panel of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics for which all appeals have been exhausted.

(iii) "Outstanding fine, fee, or penalty" shall not mean any fine, fee, or penalty that has been paid in full as of the time of the filing of the notice of candidacy.

(3) The notice of candidacy also shall include a certificate, signed by the candidate, certifying that he is knowledgeable of the laws governing election offenses as provided in Chapter 10 of this Title and that he is knowledgeable of the prohibitions relative to erecting, displaying, or posting political campaign signs on any highway right-of-way, publicly owned property or right-of way, or to or on any public utility pole or stanchion, as provided in R.S. 48:347(D), R.S. 30:2544, and R.S. 18:1470. Except as provided in R.S. 30:2544, whoever so erects, displays, or posts political campaign signs on any publicly owned property or right-of-way, or to or on any public utility pole or stanchion shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not in excess of one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

(4) An agent who files a notice of candidacy without the authorization or consent of the candidate to file such notice of candidacy shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not in excess of five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

B. Repealed by Acts 2008, 1st Ex.Sess., No. 1, § 3, eff. Jan. 1, 2009.

C. On the forms for notice of candidacy which are prepared, printed, and distributed by the secretary of state, a notice shall be printed below the signature line which shall inform the candidate that copies of the forms and pamphlets of explanation and instruction which are distributed by the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure are available ~~from the clerk of court or the committee~~ via a link on the website of the secretary of state, and that information contained in the notice of candidacy may be posted on the website of the secretary of state as determined by the secretary of state.

D. Not later than the Friday before the opening of the qualifying period for any primary election, the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure shall deliver a sufficient number of informational packets containing reporting forms and instructions to all officials with whom candidates will qualify for such primary election. The informational packet shall include a notice to the candidate that questions concerning the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act should be addressed to the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, not the official with whom the candidate qualifies. If a candidate qualifies in person, such informational packets shall be distributed to each candidate upon receipt of the candidate's notice of candidacy by the official with whom the candidate qualifies for office. If a candidate qualifies by submitting his notice of candidacy by certified mail, commercial carrier, or agent, such informational packets shall be mailed to the candidate at his mailing address, if no mailing address is provided, the address of his domicile as set forth in the notice of candidacy within two business days after receipt of the notice of candidacy.

E. (1) A candidate who has filed a notice of candidacy may change the information

contained therein by filing a new notice of candidacy and paying the qualifying fee required by R.S. 18:464 during the qualifying period; however, a candidate who is serving in the armed forces of the United States who is stationed or deployed outside of the United States shall not be required to pay the qualifying fee.

(2) No changes to the information contained in a notice of candidacy shall be made after the close of qualifying, except to correct an error made by the qualifying official who entered the information contained in the notice of candidacy into the database of the Department of State.

F. The Board of Ethics shall work in conjunction with the attorney general to create informational packets summarizing provisions of the laws relative to dual officeholding and laws under the jurisdiction of the board applicable to public officials relative to conflicts of interest and prohibited transactions, payments, contracts, and employment. The Board of Ethics shall provide such an informational packet in the same manner as provided in Subsection D of this Section to any candidate who qualifies for office.

NUMBER 6:

EXPLANATION: Provides that if qualifying reopens and the ballots have been printed, the election shall be rescheduled unless no additional candidates qualified. The proposed amendment addresses the issue that the Secretary of State cannot reprint ballots to add any additional candidates and meet the statutorily mandated ballot transit times for the reprinted ballots.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:469. Reopening of qualifying period; effect

A. When a person who qualified as a candidate and has opposition in a primary election for a public office dies after the close of the qualifying period and before the time for closing the polls on the day of the primary election, the qualifying period for candidates in the primary election for that office shall reopen for candidates on the day after the death and shall close at 4:30 p.m. on the third day after the death or, if that day is a legal holiday, at 4:30 p.m. on the next day which is not a legal holiday. The name of the deceased candidate shall not be printed on the primary election ballot. If the primary election ballot was printed with the deceased candidate's name on it, any votes received by the deceased candidate shall be void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever.

B. Repealed by Acts 2014, No. 42, § 2, eff. May 16, 2014.

C. Whenever the qualifying period is reopened as required by Subsection A of this Section, the clerk of court shall cause notice of the reopening, listing the dates and times the period shall run, to be posted in a prominent place at or near the courthouse door and also in a prominent place in the office of the clerk of court. If the qualifying period is reopened solely for the qualification of one or more municipal candidates, or if the municipal offices to be filled by election are in a building other than the courthouse, the clerk of court shall cause the notice provided for herein to be posted in a prominent place at or near the door of the municipal building for the city for which the candidates are seeking an elective office, as well as in the courthouse and the clerk's office as required by this Subsection.

D. (1) If the qualifying period for candidates reopens ~~within thirty days~~ before a primary election and the ballots have been printed, all the votes cast in the primary election for that public office are void, unless the qualifying period for the office reopened and closed without additional candidates qualifying for the office. If additional candidates qualify for the office and the votes for the primary will be void for that reason, the clerk of court with whom any of the additional candidates qualified shall immediately publish in the official journal of the parish a notice to the electorate that the election for that office has been voided because new candidates qualified. Such notice shall include the dates for the rescheduled primary and general elections. If the election district includes all or part of more than one parish, the clerk of court shall notify the secretary of state, who shall notify the clerk of court of each of the parishes, and the clerk of court shall publish such notice. If the additional candidates have qualified with the secretary of state, he shall publish such notice in the official state journal.

(2) If all the votes cast in a primary election for a public office are void because of the death of a candidate, the primary election for the office shall be held on the date of the general election, and the general election for the office shall be held on the fifth Saturday after the primary election.

NUMBER 7:

EXPLANATION: Provides for a voter who is challenged on election day and completes an address confirmation card that the registrar shall change the voter's address for an in-parish change of address, transfer the voter to another parish for an out-of-parish change of address, or cancel the voter's registration for an out-of-state change of address. Currently, the statute only addresses a change or cancellation of a voter's address.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:573. Evidence of election results

A. Opening the voting machines. (1) The voting machines used in a primary or general election shall remain locked or otherwise secured and, if applicable, sealed until the third day after the election unless the election is in judicial controversy and a court of competent jurisdiction has ordered the machines opened at an earlier time. However, if the third day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, the machines shall be opened and, if applicable, the seals broken on the second day following the election.

(2) On the day immediately preceding the election, the clerk of court shall prominently post in his office a notice of the time and place where the election day voting machines will be opened after the election. If no order requiring an earlier opening has been issued, then at the time and place designated in the notice, the clerk of court, assisted by at least one member of the parish board of election supervisors, in the presence of the candidates or their representatives who desire to be present, shall open the voting machines and, if applicable, break the seals. Public and protective counter numbers shall be recorded. Verification of the election results on each machine, as provided for in Subsection B and subject to Subsection C of this Section, shall be completed before another machine is opened.

(3) Each election day voting machine shall be relocked or otherwise secured and, if applicable, resealed after the candidates or their representatives have had a reasonable opportunity to inspect the machine, which shall not be less than thirty minutes after the time designated for opening the machines by the clerk of court in the notice posted in his office. The clerk of court, in the presence of a majority of the parish board of election supervisors, shall reopen any voting machine for reinspection by a candidate or his representative after receipt of a written request for reinspection by the candidate. All reinspections shall be held at a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerk of court, on the fifth day after the election and at any time ordered by a court of

competent jurisdiction. If the fifth day after the election falls on a holiday or weekend, such reinspection shall be held at a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerk of court, on the next working day. Any written request for reinspection of voting machines shall be filed with the clerk of court. The deadline for filing a request for reinspection shall be 4:30 p.m. on the third calendar day after the election. Immediately upon receiving any request, the clerk of court shall prominently post in his office a notice of the time and place where the voting machines will be reopened and the name of the candidate requesting that the machines be reopened. The candidate requesting the reinspection shall be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with such reinspection, including technical support by the secretary of state's technicians, which shall be payable to the clerk of court. The costs shall be estimated and paid at the time the written request for reinspection of voting machines is filed with the clerk of court and shall be paid in cash or by certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union, United States postal money order, or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union. The parish board of election supervisors shall be entitled to reimbursement for attending the reinspection at the rate established in R.S. 18:423(E); however, such reimbursement shall not be counted toward the six-day limitation provided in R.S. 18:423(E). If it is necessary to reopen a voting machine which has been relocked or otherwise secured and, if applicable, resealed to conduct a reinspection thereof, the clerk of court shall relock or otherwise secure and, if applicable, reseal the machine after the reinspection is completed.

(4) The vote totals shown on the machines shall be retained as provided in R.S. 18:1376.

B. Verification of election results. After the machines are opened, the clerk of court, in the presence of the parish board of election supervisors or the members of the board selected by the board as its representatives and the candidates or their representatives, shall immediately verify the total votes cast for each candidate and the total votes cast for and against each proposition as shown on the election day voting machines or voting machine official election results reports and the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for each candidate and the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for and against each proposition as shown by the final absentee by mail and early voting report filed with the clerk by the parish board of election supervisors. The machine votes cast shall be shown separately by each precinct. The absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for each candidate and the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for and against each proposition as shown by the final absentee by mail and early voting report filed with the clerk of court by the parish board of election supervisors on election night shall be shown separately from the precinct totals as the final absentee vote report with the total number of votes cast for each

candidate and the total number of votes cast for and against each proposition.

C. Use of employees. The clerk of court may utilize deputy clerks and other employees of his office to assist him in opening the voting machines and verifying the election results as required in Subsections A and B of this Section. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the clerk from utilizing more than one team of his deputies or employees to perform the duties required of him. To facilitate the verification of election results, two or more voting machines may be opened simultaneously and the results thereon verified.

D. Repealed by Acts 2019, No. 374, § 3, eff. June 19, 2019.

E. Transmission and disposition of original challenges, duplicate voters' affidavits, and address confirmation cards. (1) At the opening of the voting machines, the sealed precinct registers shall be immediately returned to the registrar of voters. Upon receipt of the sealed precinct registers, the registrar shall remove any attached original record of challenges of voters made during the election, any precinct register correction affidavits, any voter identification affidavits made pursuant to R.S. 18:562, any address confirmation cards, any physical disability affidavits, any certificates, any copies of disability documentation, and any completed voter registration applications.

(2) The registrar shall utilize the procedures set forth in Part V of Chapter 4 of this Code to determine the validity of the registration of each challenged voter who did not submit an address confirmation card. In any instance where an address confirmation card was received that stated an address different from the address on file in the registrar's office for a registrant, the registrar shall ~~change or cancel the registration~~ change the registrant's address to the address on the address confirmation card, if the change of address is in the parish; transfer the registrant's registration to another parish, if the address on the address confirmation card is in another parish; or cancel the registration, if the address on the address confirmation card is in another state. If an address confirmation card was received that affirmed the address on file in the registrar's office, the registrar shall reinstate the registrant to the official list of voters if he appears on the inactive list of voters. If the address confirmation card was a result of a valid challenge, the registrar shall so inform the district attorney and shall transmit to him the address confirmation card of that person.

(3) The registrar also shall proceed to determine if each voter submitting a voter identification affidavit made pursuant to R.S. 18:562 attesting that he is a qualified registered voter is in fact a registered voter qualified to vote in the election by comparing the information provided by the voter with the information on file in the registrar's office and by reasonably comparing signature on the affidavit with any

signature on file for the voter in the registrar's office. If the registrar determines that any person who has voted in the election by virtue of his submission of such an affidavit was not a registered voter qualified to vote in the election, the registrar shall so inform the elections compliance unit and shall transmit to it the affidavit of that person.

(4) The registrar shall scan the address confirmation card, voter identification affidavit, disability documentation, or voter registration application and add it to the voter's record in the state voter registration computer system after processing.

NUMBER 8:

EXPLANATION: Moves the presidential preference primary election to the last Saturday in March and the opening of the qualifying period to the third Wednesday in December to address the conflict with early voting being held during the week of Easter in 2024.

Suggested effective date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1280.21. Presidential preference primary election

A. A statewide presidential preference primary election shall be held on the ~~first~~ last Saturday in March in ~~2016~~ 2024 and every fourth year thereafter for the purpose of allowing the electors of each political party in the state which has forty thousand or more registered members to express their preference for a person to be the nominee of the party for president of the United States.

B. Each elector voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the elector, except that the state central committee of a recognized political party may allow in its bylaws, electors who are not affiliated with any political party to cast a vote on the ballot of such recognized political party.

C. The state central committee shall notify the Department of State that its bylaws allow for such voting by non-affiliated electors no later than seven days prior to the opening of qualifying for the presidential preference primary. Such notification shall be considered valid and effective for subsequent presidential preference primaries unless the state central committee notifies the Department of State that its bylaws no longer allow for such voting by non-affiliated electors no later than seven days prior to the opening of qualifying for a presidential preference primary.

D. Any elector who is not affiliated with any political party and who is allowed to cast his vote on the ballot of a recognized political party in the presidential preference primary pursuant to this Section shall cast his vote on the ballot of only one recognized political party.

E. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Code to the contrary, in any statewide presidential preference primary election, at any precinct where the presidential preference issue or election of political party officials or both are the only matters on the ballot, the number of election commissioners required in such precinct shall be one commissioner-in-charge and two commissioners.

R.S. 18:1280.22. Candidates; procedure for qualifying

A. Candidates for presidential nominee shall qualify in accordance with procedures established by the party. Prior to qualification as a candidate of a political party for presidential nominee, a person shall pay a qualifying fee of seven hundred fifty dollars and any additional fee as authorized by R.S. 18:464(C) or shall have obtained a nominating petition, bearing the handwritten signatures of no less than one thousand registered voters affiliated with the party from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided. If the candidate is qualifying by paying a fee, the fee shall be paid in cash, by certified or cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank or credit union, by United States postal money order, or by a money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

B. (1) The qualifying period for presidential candidates shall open on the ~~first~~ third Wednesday in December and shall close at 4:30 p.m. on the following Friday. During the qualifying period, presidential candidates shall file notices of candidacy with the secretary of state.

(2)(a) A notice of candidacy shall be in writing and shall state the candidate's name, the office he seeks, the address of his domicile, and the political party with which he is registered as being affiliated. The political party with which the candidate was affiliated at the time of qualifying is the one which shall appear on the ballot, even if the candidate changes his political party designation after he qualified for the election.

(b) The candidate shall designate in the notice the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot. The candidate may designate his given, first, and middle name, the initials of his given, first, and middle name, a nickname, or any combination thereof as the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot. However, he shall not designate a title, designation, or deceptive name, nor shall he designate an occupational or professional description or abbreviation. If the candidate designates a nickname in the place of or in combination with his given name or the initials thereof, the nickname shall be set off with quotation marks and shall be placed immediately preceding his surname. A candidate shall include his surname in his designation of the form in which his name shall be printed on the ballot.

(c) The notice of candidacy also shall include a certificate signed by the candidate, certifying that he has read the notice of his candidacy and that all of the statements contained therein are true and correct. The certificate shall be executed before a notary public. If the candidate is serving outside the state with the armed forces of the United States, his notice of candidacy shall be witnessed by a commissioned officer in the armed forces of the United States.

NUMBER 9:

EXPLANATION: Authorizes the Secretary of State to correct typographical errors in the proposition ballot language, if the ballots have not been printed, after the deadline for receipt of the notice from the State Bond Commission with the approval of the governing authority that called the proposition election. The proposed amendment would prevent the ballots from having typographical errors on the ballots.

Suggested effective date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1285. Notice of election

A. (1)(a)(i) Notice of the election shall be given and shall embrace substantially all matters required to be set forth in the resolution ordering the election, including a list of precincts where the proposition will be voted on and an indication for each precinct as to whether or not all registered voters in the precinct will be eligible to vote on the proposition, unless the proposition is to be voted on parishwide.

(ii) If the notice is relative to the increase of a special tax, the notice shall also state the proposed increase in the millage rate of a property tax or percentage rate of sales tax.

(iii) If the notice is relative to an election which affects ad valorem taxation, the notice shall also state that a portion of the monies collected shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

(iv) The notice shall also state that the governing authority of the political subdivision ordering the election will, in open session, at the hour and place named, proceed to canvass the returns and declare the result of the election.

(v) The notice shall also state the estimated cost of the election as determined by the secretary of state based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of this Title and actual costs of similar elections.

(b) The list of commissioners for an election called in accordance with R.S. 18:1286(A) is not required to be set forth in the notice of election.

(2) The notice shall be published once a week for four consecutive weeks in the official journal of the political subdivision, or, if there is none, then in a newspaper of general circulation in the parish or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the parish, then in a newspaper of general circulation in an adjoining parish. Not less than forty-five days nor more than ninety days shall intervene between the date of the first publication and the date of the election.

B. (1)(a) Written notice of the election and the certificate required by Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph shall be transmitted to the secretary of state and each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the election. If the election is to be held on a primary election date, then such notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the primary election. If the election is not to be held on a primary election date, then the notice and certificate shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the fifty-fourth day prior to the election. The secretary of state shall not accept any revisions to propositions, including but not limited to changes in title, text, or numerical designations, after the last day for submission of the notice and certificate to the secretary of state, unless prior to the printing of the ballots the revision will correct a typographical error and the revision has been approved by the governing authority that called the proposition election.

(b) The secretary of state shall not prepare or certify the ballot with respect to any election for bond, debt, or tax propositions, conducted pursuant to this Chapter, or in respect to any other election where the proposition is subject to approval by the Louisiana State Bond Commission, including but not limited to any proposition to adopt, amend, or repeal a home rule charter which is subject to such approval, until he receives certification in writing from the chairman of that commission that the commission has considered and approved the proposition.

(2) The secretary of state shall not include any proposition on any ballot of any election if such notice and certificate required by Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection are not timely received by the secretary of state. The failure of the clerk of court or registrar of voters to timely receive notice and the certificate, as provided

for herein, shall not prevent the secretary of state from including the proposition on the ballot. Any elector who is eligible to vote in the election may apply for injunctive relief to prohibit the placing of a proposition on the ballot if notice and the certificate are not timely received by the secretary of state. Venue for such application shall be in any parish in which the election is called, and the secretary of state shall be a proper party defendant.

R.S. 18:1300. Procedures; notice of election; expenses

A.(1) When an election at which a proposition or question is to be submitted to the voters is held at the same time as an election for any public official, the election shall be held in compliance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of this Title.

(2) The commissioners selected to serve at the election for the public officials also shall serve as the commissioners for the election at which a proposition or question is to be submitted to the voters, and the compensation for each shall be only that amount provided for in R.S. 18:424 and R.S. 18:425 for the day of service as a commissioner or commissioner-in-charge.

B. When an election at which a proposition or question is to be submitted to the voters is not held at the same time as the election of any public official, the election shall be held solely in compliance with and shall be subject to the applicable provisions of Chapter 6-A of this Title.

C. (1) When an election is called under the provisions of this Chapter, written notice of the election shall be transmitted to the secretary of state, the commissioner of elections, and each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the election. If the election is to be held on a primary election date, then such notice shall be received by the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the primary election. If the election is not to be held on a primary election date, then such notice shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the fifty-fourth day prior to the election.

(2) The secretary of state shall not accept any revisions to propositions or

questions, including but not limited to changes in title, text, or numerical designations, after the last day for submission of the notice to the secretary of state, unless prior to the printing of the ballots the revision will correct a typographical error and the revision has been approved by the governing authority that called the proposition election. The secretary of state shall not include any proposition or question on any ballot of any election if such notice is not timely received by the secretary of state.

(3) Any elector who is eligible to vote in the election may apply for injunctive relief to prohibit the placing of a proposition on the ballot if notice is not timely received by the secretary of state. Venue for such application shall be in any parish in which the election is called, and the secretary of state shall be a proper party defendant.

D. Repealed by Acts 1983, No. 681, § 2, eff. July 21, 1983.

NUMBER 10:

EXPLANATION: Clarifies that for each election a person may deliver more than one marked ballot to the registrar, if the person delivering the ballot is an immediate family member of the voter.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1308. Absentee voting by mail

A.(1)(a) Beginning with the date on which the registrar receives the absentee by mail ballots and other necessary paraphernalia from the secretary of state, and thereafter, immediately upon receipt of an application by mail, the registrar shall mail the necessary instructions, certificates, ballots, and envelopes to the applicant at the address furnished by the applicant.

(b) If the voter feels he will not have time to vote timely by mail, the voter may request that the registrar transmit to him by facsimile a ballot, or a second ballot, as the case may be, along with a certificate and waiver of the right to a secret ballot, and the registrar shall do so if he has a facsimile machine in his office. However, the registrar shall not be required to send a second ballot by facsimile if the voter received a ballot by mail. The waiver of the right to a secret ballot shall contain the following statement: "My ballot was transmitted by facsimile to me, and I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." The waiver shall also contain spaces for the voter's handwritten signature, the date, and the last four digits of the voter's social security number. The voter may then mail his voted ballot and completed certificate and waiver back to the registrar or transmit the documents by facsimile at the facsimile machine number designated by the registrar. Upon receipt, the registrar shall place the voted ballot along with the completed certificate and waiver in an appropriately marked envelope and seal it. The registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to keep the voted ballots as confidential as practicable.

(c)(i) A voter who is eligible to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S. 18:1303(D)(1) and who feels he will not have time to vote timely by mail may request that the registrar transmit electronically to him a ballot along with a

certificate and waiver of the right to a secret ballot, and the registrar shall do so. Alternatively, an immediate family member of the voter may pick up the necessary instructions, certificate, ballot, and envelope at the registrar's office.

(ii) The waiver of the right to a secret ballot shall contain the following statement: "My ballot was transmitted electronically to me, and I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." The waiver shall also contain spaces for the voter's handwritten signature, the date, and the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

(iii) If the materials are transmitted electronically to the voter, the voter shall mark the ballot as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and complete the certificate and waiver and return his voted ballot and completed certificate and waiver to the registrar by facsimile or any means authorized by Subsection B of this Section. The registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to keep the voted ballot as confidential as practicable.

(iv) If an immediate family member of the voter picks up the voter's materials, the voter shall mark the ballot as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and return his voted ballot and completed certificate to the registrar by facsimile or any means authorized by Subsection B of this Section. If the voter returns the voted ballot and completed certificate by facsimile, he shall also include his completed waiver, and the registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to keep the voted ballot as confidential as practicable.

(d)(i) Upon request, the registrar shall transmit electronically a ballot, certificate, and waiver of the right to a secret ballot to a voter who is eligible to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S. 18:1303(F) or (I) and who is unable to vote an absentee by mail ballot without assistance because of a disability.

(ii) The waiver of the right to a secret ballot shall contain the following statement: "My ballot was transmitted electronically to me, and I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." The waiver shall also contain spaces for the voter's

handwritten signature or mark, the date, and the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

(iii) The voter shall mark the ballot and complete the certificate and waiver as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and return his voted ballot and completed certificate and waiver to the registrar by facsimile or any means authorized by Subsection B of this Section. The registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to keep the voted ballot as confidential as practicable.

(2)(a) With respect to members of the United States Service and persons residing outside the United States who are registered to vote, these materials shall be mailed as provided by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (39 U.S.C. 3406 and 42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.) and shall include both the primary election ballot and the special ballot for the general election. The registrar shall mail the materials for candidates for United States senator or United States representative in congressional primary and general elections, candidates for presidential nominee in presidential preference primary elections, and candidates in presidential elections at least forty-five days prior to the election to those voters who have made application to vote absentee by mail by such time.

(b) Notwithstanding the provision of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, with respect to members of the United States Service and persons residing outside the United States who are registered to vote, these materials may be electronically transmitted for candidates for United States senator or United States representative in congressional primary and general elections and must include the special ballot or ballots as provided in R.S. 18:1306(A)(4) for the congressional general election. The registrar shall transmit the materials at least forty-five days prior to the election to those voters who have requested electronic transmission by such time.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, with respect to members of the United States Service and persons residing outside the United States who are registered to vote, these materials may be electronically transmitted for candidates for presidential nominee in presidential preference primary elections and candidates in presidential elections. The registrar shall transmit the materials at least forty-five days prior to the election to those voters

who have requested electronic transmission by such time.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, with respect to members of the United States Service and persons residing outside the United States who are registered to vote, these materials may be electronically transmitted for candidates for state, local, and municipal offices and shall include the special ballot or ballots as provided in R.S. 18:1306(A) (4) for the general election.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, with respect to members of the United States Service and persons residing outside the United States who are registered to vote, these materials may be electronically transmitted for candidates for political party offices.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of the Paragraph, with respect to members of the United States Service and persons residing outside the United States who are registered to vote, these materials may be electronically transmitted for recall, proposed constitutional amendments, proposition, and question elections.

(g) For mailed ballots, the envelope mailed to the voter shall contain ballot envelopes and a return envelope. The return envelope shall bear the official title and mailing address of the registrar and the name, return address, and precinct or district number of the voter. The voter shall return his voted primary election ballot and special ballot for the general election to the registrar in the appropriate envelope. The registrar of voters shall mail a regular general election absentee ballot to a member of the United States Service or to persons residing overseas only if the regular general election absentee ballot includes one or more elections that were not included on the special ballot sent, as provided herein, to such voter. The envelope for the special ballot shall contain language on the outside of the envelope that clearly designates which envelope is to be used for return of the general election ballot.

(h)(i) For electronically transmitted ballots, the registrar shall transmit the ballot or ballots, certificate, and waiver of the right to a secret ballot to the voter for each ballot mailing. The waiver of the right to a secret ballot shall contain the following statement: "My ballot was transmitted electronically to me, and I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." The waiver shall also contain spaces for the voter's handwritten signature, the date, and the last four digits of the voter's social security number. The voter shall return by facsimile or any means authorized by Subsection B of this Section his voted ballot or ballots and completed certificate and waiver for each ballot mailing. The registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to keep each voted ballot as confidential as practicable.

(ii) The voter may use a separate "Security Envelope" and ballot transmittal envelope from the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to mail the electronically transmitted presidential preference primary, presidential, congressional primary, or congressional general election ballot or ballots, certificate, and waiver of the right to a secret ballot to the parish registrar of voters for each ballot mailing.

(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraphs (a) through (f) of this Paragraph, a voter who is a member of the United States Service or who resides outside the United States and who feels he will not have time to vote timely by mail, may request that the registrar transmit to him by facsimile a ballot, or a second ballot, as the case may be, along with a certificate and waiver of the right to a secret ballot, and the registrar shall do so. The waiver of the right to a secret ballot shall contain the following statement: "My ballot was transmitted by facsimile to me, and I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." The waiver shall also contain spaces for the voter's handwritten signature, the date, and the last four digits of the voter's social security number. The voter may then mail his voted ballot and completed certificate and waiver back to the registrar or transmit the documents by facsimile at the facsimile machine number designated by the registrar. Upon receipt, the registrar shall place the voted ballot along with the completed certificate and waiver in an appropriately marked envelope and seal it. The registrar and his staff shall take the steps necessary to keep the voted ballots as confidential as practicable.

(j)(i) The secretary of state as the chief election officer of the state shall take all actions reasonably necessary to allow members of the United States Service and

persons residing outside the United States to vote according to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act or otherwise, whether by mail, facsimile, or other means of transmission of the ballot, notwithstanding any provision of this Code to the contrary.

(ii) The secretary of state as the chief election officer of the state shall take all actions reasonably necessary to allow registered voters who are unable to vote during early voting or at the polling place on election day due to out-of-state work responsibilities relating to a declared emergency to vote, whether by mail, facsimile, or other means of transmission of the ballot.

B. The ballot shall be marked as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and returned to the registrar by the United States Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand delivery. If delivered by other than the voter, a commercial courier, or the United States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such delivery sign a statement, prepared by the secretary of state, certifying that he has the authorization and consent of the voter to hand deliver the marked ballot. For purposes of this Subsection, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). No person except the immediate family of the voter, as defined in this Code, shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot to the registrar per election. Upon its receipt, the registrar shall post the name and precinct of the voter as required by R.S. 18:1311.

C. Except as provided in R.S. 18:1308.1(C) and 1311(D)(1) and (5), all ballots received by the registrar by 4:30 p.m. on the day before election day shall be counted.

NUMBER 11:

EXPLANATION: Clarifies that registrars who have more than one branch office may designate multiple offices for early voting, as the statute only addresses one branch office per registrar.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1309. Early voting; verification

A.(1)(a)(i) The period for conducting early voting shall be from fourteen days to seven days prior to any scheduled election.

(ii) The period for conducting early voting shall also include the day added pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, if applicable.

(b)(i) One day of early voting shall be added to the period specified in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph if one or more holidays is required to be observed on a weekday during that period pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

(ii) The additional day shall be the first day preceding the period described in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph that is not a Sunday or a holiday required to be observed pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

(2) During the early voting period, the registrar shall maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Early voting on each day of the early voting period shall terminate when all persons who were in line to vote at the close of the regular office hours of the registrar's office, as provided in this Paragraph, have been allowed to vote. If the office space of the registrar is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate early voting, the registrar may provide for an alternate location to conduct early voting, which location shall be in the courthouse or in a public building in the immediate vicinity thereof, and in such case, adequate notice shall be posted at the registrar's office informing the public of the location where early voting is being conducted.

(3) A law enforcement officer shall not interfere with the conduct of the election, the voters, or the election officials. However, a registrar may use law enforcement officers to maintain order at any location where early voting is conducted.

(4) A registrar shall observe the holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during any period for conducting early voting.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, law enforcement officers may enter the early voting location when there is a reasonable belief there is an emergency and the registrar is unable to summon the law enforcement officers.

B. (1) For the purpose of facilitating early voting, the registrar may designate, in addition to the location for early voting provided in Subsection A of this Section, one or more branch ~~office~~ offices wherein early voting may be conducted. Any such branch office or offices shall be located in a public building, and the days during which early voting may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar, with the approval of the secretary of state, at least thirty days prior to a primary election and twenty-one days prior to a general election, as provided in Subsection A of this Section, and the registrar shall post at his office adequate notice of the days on which early voting will be held at a branch office or offices. However, if a branch office of a registrar is destroyed, inaccessible, or unsafe during or following a gubernatorially declared state of emergency, the registrar may utilize a temporary building as a branch office to discharge his duties until an office that meets the requirements of this Section becomes available. Such temporary office shall be located within the parish, or if there is no appropriate location within the parish due to the emergency, then in an immediately adjacent parish, or if there is no appropriate location in any immediately adjacent parish due to the emergency, then in the nearest parish in which there is an appropriate location.

(2) The registrar shall provide or post the voters' bill of rights and informational posters, if required, the statement of proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, and a certified screenshot as a sample ballot in a conspicuous place at the principal entrance to the early voting polling place, where they shall remain posted throughout early voting.

C. In parishes which extend in one direction more than fifty miles and which are interspersed with navigable waters, the registrar may designate, in addition to the locations for early voting provided for in Subsections A and B of this Section, one additional branch office wherein early voting may be conducted. Any such branch office shall be located in a public building and the hours during which early voting may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar.

D. (1)(a) Before any voter is allowed to vote during early voting, the registrar or his deputy shall establish the voter's identity by requiring him to submit one of the following:

(i) A Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1321, or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter.

(ii) A United States military identification card that contains the voter's name and picture.

(b) If the voter does not have one of the forms of identification provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the voter shall complete and sign, in the presence of the registrar or his deputy, a voter identification affidavit to that effect provided by the secretary of state, which affidavit shall include the voter's date of birth and mother's maiden name. If the voter is unable to read or write or is otherwise unable to complete the affidavit due to disability, the voter may receive assistance in completing the affidavit, and the registrar or his deputy shall make a notation on the affidavit. The voter may receive the assistance of any person of his choice, including the registrar or his deputy, except a candidate, the voter's employer or employer's agent, or the voter's union agent. The registrar or his deputy shall retain the affidavit in the office of the registrar of voters.

(c) If satisfied that the voter has identified himself as the voter registered in the state voter registration computer system or named on the precinct register and that he is qualified to vote, the registrar or his deputy shall initial the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar opposite the voter's signature or mark. The voter then shall be allowed to vote.

(d) A voter who votes without the picture identification required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph is subject to challenge as provided in R.S. 18:1315.

(2) If the voter's name is found in the state voter registration computer system or precinct register on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall be required to complete an address confirmation card to determine his eligibility to vote.

E. (1) The voter's identity having been established as provided in Subsection D of this Section, the voter shall sign or make his mark prior to voting in the precinct register or early voting register.

(2) The registrar or deputy registrar shall electronically generate an early voting confirmation sheet for each voter using the state voter registration computer system or a form prepared by the secretary of state and retain the confirmation sheet in the office of the registrar to be used by the registrar to verify each early voter at the end of the early voting period. If a paper ballot is used for early voting in lieu of a voting machine, the registrar or deputy registrar shall write "early voting paper ballot voter" across the early voting confirmation sheet for the voter and attach it to the paper ballot envelope.

(3) The voter then shall be allowed to cast his vote in an area and in a manner that protects the secrecy of his vote.

(4)(a) A voter shall not remain in a voting machine longer than three minutes. If a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after the registrar or deputy registrar has notified him that three minutes have elapsed, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine.

(b) Notwithstanding Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, a voter receiving assistance in voting pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.3 or a voter using the audio ballot shall be allowed to remain in a voting machine for up to twenty minutes. If such a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after the registrar or deputy registrar has notified him that twenty minutes have elapsed, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine.

(5)(a) In order to cast a vote on a voting machine, a voter shall make a selection in a candidate or proposition election. Voting is completed by activating the cast vote mechanism. If the voter has made any selection in a candidate or proposition election but has failed to activate the cast vote mechanism, the registrar or his deputy, observed by a deputy registrar or, in the absence of a deputy registrar, a witness, shall activate the cast vote mechanism for the fled voter without altering any selections made by the voter. In the case of vote activation in the presence of a witness, the registrar or deputy registrar shall record the name and address of the witness.

(b)(i) In order to cast a vote on a paper ballot, a voter must make a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by completely filling in the oval to the right of a selection and returning the ballot to the appropriate election official within the applicable deadline set forth by law. If a voter makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that office or proposition will be void.

(ii) If the paper ballot envelope contains a certificate on the envelope flap, the voter shall not be required to sign the certificate. The registrar of voters or deputy registrar shall write "early voting ballot" across the envelope flap and include the voter's name, ward, precinct, and registration number and attach it to the early voting confirmation sheet so that the ballot may be identified for purposes of a challenge filed pursuant to R.S. 18:1315.

(iii) If a voter determines that his ballot is spoiled because he wants to change or correct his vote on the ballot before it is cast and counted but is unable to do so, he may obtain a replacement ballot upon returning the spoiled ballot to the registrar or deputy registrar. The voter shall cast his vote as provided in Item (i) of this Subparagraph using the replacement ballot. The registrar or deputy registrar shall write the words "spoiled and replaced" on the ballot and attach it to the early voting confirmation sheet.

(6) If a person who votes during early voting at the registrar's office casts his vote on an incorrect ballot as provided to him by the registrar or his deputy and the time for early voting has not expired, the registrar or his deputy shall write "void,

challenge removal” and the reason for the challenge on the confirmation sheet, retain the confirmation sheet, and permit the voter to vote the correct ballot using a paper ballot. The confirmation sheet shall be attached to the paper ballot envelope for review by the parish board of election supervisors on election day and for use by the secretary of state's office in removing the voided ballot from the voting machine as a challenged ballot on election day.

F.(1) At the end of each day during early voting, the registrar shall document on the early voting verification form provided by the secretary of state for each early voting location each of the following:

(a) The total number for the public counters of all early voting machines for the day.

(b) The total number of early voting confirmation sheets for the day.

(c) The total number of early voters from the state voter registration computer system for the day.

(d) Any discrepancies or irregularities observed that prevent the total public counter number from matching the total early voting confirmation sheet number for the day and the total number of early voters from the state voter registration computer system for the day.

(2) Each day, the registrar shall compare the information in the early voting confirmation sheets to the information contained in the state voter registration computer system. If the registrar finds any discrepancies, he shall make a note thereof on the early voting verification form or on a notice of irregularity form provided by the secretary of state that he shall attach to the early voting verification form.

(3) At the end of the early voting period, the registrar shall complete the early voting verification form for each location and sign and certify to its correctness and print an early voter report from the state voter registration computer system listing all early voters from the parish. All early voting verification forms, early voting machine

public counter logs, early voting confirmation sheets, early voter reports, and paper ballots voted during early voting shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container for delivery to the parish board of election supervisors on election day for the tabulation and counting of early voting ballots.

G. By no later than the day before an election, the registrar shall have received from the branch office and all early voting locations all early voting machine results cartridges, early voting confirmation sheets, early voting verification forms, early voting machine public counter logs, paper ballot envelopes, certificates, early voting lists or duplicate precinct registers, and other election paraphernalia.

H. Prior to delivery of the precinct register to the parish custodian, the registrar shall ensure that the precinct register reflects for each voter whether the voter voted during early voting or voted timely absentee by mail using the words “voted by mail” and, if the register was not used during early voting, “voted early” in the signature line for the voter in the precinct register.

I. In the event of the inability to utilize voting machines for early voting within a parish, the registrar may utilize paper ballots for early voting.

J. Upon approval of the secretary of state, a registrar of voters may utilize commissioners selected and trained by the registrar of voters to assist the registrar during the early voting period in the conduct of early voting by his office. A registrar of voters shall, in seeking the approval of the secretary of state, indicate to the secretary the number of commissioners that is required for such assistance. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall take an oath of office as a deputy registrar for the early voting period and shall complete an affidavit prepared by the secretary of state that contains the name, address, and last four digits of the social security number of the early voting commissioner and an acknowledgment that the law prohibits the disclosure of confidential voter information listed in the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar. The affidavit shall be retained in the office of the registrar of voters. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall be paid in accordance with R.S. 18:426.1(A)(3) and B, if applicable, for each day of such assistance.

<Text of par. (K)(1) effective until January 1, 2022.>

K.(1) Only a certified commissioner may be selected to serve as an early voting commissioner.

<Text of par. (K)(1) effective January 1, 2022.>

K.(1) A person may serve as an early voting commissioner only if he has received a certificate of instruction as provided in R.S. 18:431(A) and has attended a course of instruction for early voting commissioners and received a certificate of instruction from the registrar of voters.

(2) A person to whom one or more of the following applies shall not serve as an early voting commissioner:

(a) The person is a candidate in the election.

(b) An immediate family member of the person is a candidate for election to public office in the election.

(c) The person is marked for assistance in voting in the precinct register or requires the use of the audio ballot in voting.

(d) The person has been convicted of an election offense enumerated in Chapter 10 of this Title.

L. During early voting the registrar of voters shall make available to the public at each location where early voting is conducted copies of the state mail voter registration application forms.

M.(1)(a) In a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.2, the registrar may fix the hours and days during which early voting shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting period if such hours and days of voting are approved by the secretary of state no later than twenty-five days prior to the election.

(b) The registrar shall ensure that adequate notice is posted at the office of the registrar informing the public of the hours and days during which early voting will be conducted at the additional location, and the secretary of state shall post such notice on the secretary of state's website.

(2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to early voting for gubernatorial or congressional elections.

NUMBER 12:

EXPLANATION: Provides that the registrar shall post a sample ballot prepared by the Secretary of State instead of a certified screenshot of the sample ballot to reduce the size of the document that is required to be posted at the early voting location.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1309. Early voting; verification

A.(1)(a)(i) The period for conducting early voting shall be from fourteen days to seven days prior to any scheduled election.

(ii) The period for conducting early voting shall also include the day added pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, if applicable.

(b)(i) One day of early voting shall be added to the period specified in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph if one or more holidays is required to be observed on a weekday during that period pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

(ii) The additional day shall be the first day preceding the period described in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph that is not a Sunday or a holiday required to be observed pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

(2) During the early voting period, the registrar shall maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Early voting on each day of the early voting period shall terminate when all persons who were in line to vote at the close of the regular office hours of the registrar's office, as provided in this Paragraph, have been allowed to vote. If the office space of the registrar is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate early voting, the registrar may provide for an alternate location to conduct early voting, which location shall be in the courthouse or in a public building in the immediate vicinity thereof, and in such case, adequate notice shall be posted at the registrar's office informing the public of the location where early voting is being conducted.

(3) A law enforcement officer shall not interfere with the conduct of the election, the voters, or the election officials. However, a registrar may use law enforcement officers to maintain order at any location where early voting is conducted.

(4) A registrar shall observe the holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during any period for conducting early voting.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, law enforcement officers may enter the early voting location when there is a reasonable belief there is an emergency and the registrar is unable to summon the law enforcement officers.

B.(1) For the purpose of facilitating early voting, the registrar may designate, in addition to the location for early voting provided in Subsection A of this Section, one branch office wherein early voting may be conducted. Any such branch office shall be located in a public building, and the days during which early voting may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar, with the approval of the secretary of state, at least thirty days prior to a primary election and twenty-one days prior to a general election, as provided in Subsection A of this Section, and the registrar shall post at his office adequate notice of the days on which early voting will be held at a branch office. However, if a branch office of a registrar is destroyed, inaccessible, or unsafe during or following a gubernatorially declared state of emergency, the registrar may utilize a temporary building as a branch office to discharge his duties until an office that meets the requirements of this Section becomes available. Such temporary office shall be located within the parish, or if there is no appropriate location within the parish due to the emergency, then in an immediately adjacent parish, or if there is no appropriate location in any immediately adjacent parish due to the emergency, then in the nearest parish in which there is an appropriate location.

(2) The registrar shall provide or post the voters' bill of rights and informational posters, if required, the statement of proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, and a ~~certified screenshot as a sample ballot~~ prepared by the secretary of

state in a conspicuous place at the principal entrance to the early voting polling place, where they shall remain posted throughout early voting.

C. In parishes which extend in one direction more than fifty miles and which are interspersed with navigable waters, the registrar may designate, in addition to the locations for early voting provided for in Subsections A and B of this Section, one additional branch office wherein early voting may be conducted. Any such branch office shall be located in a public building and the hours during which early voting may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar.

D.(1)(a) Before any voter is allowed to vote during early voting, the registrar or his deputy shall establish the voter's identity by requiring him to submit one of the following:

(i) A Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1321, or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter.

(ii) A United States military identification card that contains the voter's name and picture.

(b) If the voter does not have one of the forms of identification provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the voter shall complete and sign, in the presence of the registrar or his deputy, a voter identification affidavit to that effect provided by the secretary of state, which affidavit shall include the voter's date of birth and mother's maiden name. If the voter is unable to read or write or is otherwise unable to complete the affidavit due to disability, the voter may receive assistance in completing the affidavit, and the registrar or his deputy shall make a notation on the affidavit. The voter may receive the assistance of any person of his choice, including the registrar or his deputy, except a candidate, the voter's employer or employer's agent, or the voter's union agent. The registrar or his deputy shall retain the affidavit in the office of the registrar of voters.

(c) If satisfied that the voter has identified himself as the voter registered in the state voter registration computer system or named on the precinct register and

that he is qualified to vote, the registrar or his deputy shall initial the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar opposite the voter's signature or mark. The voter then shall be allowed to vote.

(d) A voter who votes without the picture identification required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph is subject to challenge as provided in R.S. 18:1315.

(2) If the voter's name is found in the state voter registration computer system or precinct register on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall be required to complete an address confirmation card to determine his eligibility to vote.

E.(1) The voter's identity having been established as provided in Subsection D of this Section, the voter shall sign or make his mark prior to voting in the precinct register or early voting register.

(2) The registrar or deputy registrar shall electronically generate an early voting confirmation sheet for each voter using the state voter registration computer system or a form prepared by the secretary of state and retain the confirmation sheet in the office of the registrar to be used by the registrar to verify each early voter at the end of the early voting period. If a paper ballot is used for early voting in lieu of a voting machine, the registrar or deputy registrar shall write "early voting paper ballot voter" across the early voting confirmation sheet for the voter and attach it to the paper ballot envelope.

(3) The voter then shall be allowed to cast his vote in an area and in a manner that protects the secrecy of his vote.

(4)(a) A voter shall not remain in a voting machine longer than three minutes. If a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after the registrar or deputy registrar has notified him that three minutes have elapsed, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine.

(b) Notwithstanding Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, a voter receiving assistance in voting pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.3 or a voter using the audio ballot shall be allowed to remain in a voting machine for up to twenty minutes. If such a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after the registrar or deputy registrar has notified him that twenty minutes have elapsed, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine.

(5)(a) In order to cast a vote on a voting machine, a voter shall make a selection in a candidate or proposition election. Voting is completed by activating the cast vote mechanism. If the voter has made any selection in a candidate or proposition election but has failed to activate the cast vote mechanism, the registrar or his deputy, observed by a deputy registrar or, in the absence of a deputy registrar, a witness, shall activate the cast vote mechanism for the fled voter without altering any selections made by the voter. In the case of vote activation in the presence of a witness, the registrar or deputy registrar shall record the name and address of the witness.

(b)(i) In order to cast a vote on a paper ballot, a voter must make a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by completely filling in the oval to the right of a selection and returning the ballot to the appropriate election official within the applicable deadline set forth by law. If a voter makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that office or proposition will be void.

(ii) If the paper ballot envelope contains a certificate on the envelope flap, the voter shall not be required to sign the certificate. The registrar of voters or deputy registrar shall write "early voting ballot" across the envelope flap and include the voter's name, ward, precinct, and registration number and attach it to the early voting confirmation sheet so that the ballot may be identified for purposes of a challenge filed pursuant to R.S. 18:1315.

(iii) If a voter determines that his ballot is spoiled because he wants to change or correct his vote on the ballot before it is cast and counted but is unable to do so, he may obtain a replacement ballot upon returning the spoiled ballot to the registrar or deputy registrar. The voter shall cast his vote as provided in Item (i) of

this Subparagraph using the replacement ballot. The registrar or deputy registrar shall write the words "spoiled and replaced" on the ballot and attach it to the early voting confirmation sheet.

(6) If a person who votes during early voting at the registrar's office casts his vote on an incorrect ballot as provided to him by the registrar or his deputy and the time for early voting has not expired, the registrar or his deputy shall write "void, challenge removal" and the reason for the challenge on the confirmation sheet, retain the confirmation sheet, and permit the voter to vote the correct ballot using a paper ballot. The confirmation sheet shall be attached to the paper ballot envelope for review by the parish board of election supervisors on election day and for use by the secretary of state's office in removing the voided ballot from the voting machine as a challenged ballot on election day.

F.(1) At the end of each day during early voting, the registrar shall document on the early voting verification form provided by the secretary of state for each early voting location each of the following:

(a) The total number for the public counters of all early voting machines for the day.

(b) The total number of early voting confirmation sheets for the day.

(c) The total number of early voters from the state voter registration computer system for the day.

(d) Any discrepancies or irregularities observed that prevent the total public counter number from matching the total early voting confirmation sheet number for the day and the total number of early voters from the state voter registration computer system for the day.

(2) Each day, the registrar shall compare the information in the early voting confirmation sheets to the information contained in the state voter registration computer system. If the registrar finds any discrepancies, he shall make a note thereof on the early voting verification form or on a notice of irregularity form

provided by the secretary of state that he shall attach to the early voting verification form.

(3) At the end of the early voting period, the registrar shall complete the early voting verification form for each location and sign and certify to its correctness and print an early voter report from the state voter registration computer system listing all early voters from the parish. All early voting verification forms, early voting machine public counter logs, early voting confirmation sheets, early voter reports, and paper ballots voted during early voting shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container for delivery to the parish board of election supervisors on election day for the tabulation and counting of early voting ballots.

G. By no later than the day before an election, the registrar shall have received from the branch office and all early voting locations all early voting machine results cartridges, early voting confirmation sheets, early voting verification forms, early voting machine public counter logs, paper ballot envelopes, certificates, early voting lists or duplicate precinct registers, and other election paraphernalia.

H. Prior to delivery of the precinct register to the parish custodian, the registrar shall ensure that the precinct register reflects for each voter whether the voter voted during early voting or voted timely absentee by mail using the words "voted by mail" and, if the register was not used during early voting, "voted early" in the signature line for the voter in the precinct register.

I. In the event of the inability to utilize voting machines for early voting within a parish, the registrar may utilize paper ballots for early voting.

J. Upon approval of the secretary of state, a registrar of voters may utilize commissioners selected and trained by the registrar of voters to assist the registrar during the early voting period in the conduct of early voting by his office. A registrar of voters shall, in seeking the approval of the secretary of state, indicate to the secretary the number of commissioners that is required for such assistance. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall take an oath of office as a deputy registrar for the early voting period and shall complete

an affidavit prepared by the secretary of state that contains the name, address, and last four digits of the social security number of the early voting commissioner and an acknowledgment that the law prohibits the disclosure of confidential voter information listed in the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar. The affidavit shall be retained in the office of the registrar of voters. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall be paid in accordance with R.S. 18:426.1(A)(3) and B, if applicable, for each day of such assistance.

<Text of par. (K)(1) effective until January 1, 2022.>

K.(1) Only a certified commissioner may be selected to serve as an early voting commissioner.

<Text of par. (K)(1) effective January 1, 2022.>

K.(1) A person may serve as an early voting commissioner only if he has received a certificate of instruction as provided in R.S. 18:431(A) and has attended a course of instruction for early voting commissioners and received a certificate of instruction from the registrar of voters.

(2) A person to whom one or more of the following applies shall not serve as an early voting commissioner:

(a) The person is a candidate in the election.

(b) An immediate family member of the person is a candidate for election to public office in the election.

(c) The person is marked for assistance in voting in the precinct register or requires the use of the audio ballot in voting.

(d) The person has been convicted of an election offense enumerated in Chapter 10 of this Title.

L. During early voting the registrar of voters shall make available to the public at

each location where early voting is conducted copies of the state mail voter registration application forms.

M.(1)(a) In a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.2, the registrar may fix the hours and days during which early voting shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting period if such hours and days of voting are approved by the secretary of state no later than twenty-five days prior to the election.

(b) The registrar shall ensure that adequate notice is posted at the office of the registrar informing the public of the hours and days during which early voting will be conducted at the additional location, and the secretary of state shall post such notice on the secretary of state's website.

(2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to early voting for gubernatorial or congressional elections.

NUMBER 13:

EXPLANATION: Provides that the registrar may fix the days of early voting at additional locations provided by R.S. 18:1309.2, with the approval of the Secretary of State, at least thirty days prior to a primary election and twenty-one days prior to a general election to make the provision consistent with the designation of the days of early voting at branch offices of the registrars.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1309. Early voting; verification

A.(1)(a)(i) The period for conducting early voting shall be from fourteen days to seven days prior to any scheduled election.

(ii) The period for conducting early voting shall also include the day added pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, if applicable.

(b)(i) One day of early voting shall be added to the period specified in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph if one or more holidays is required to be observed on a weekday during that period pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

(ii) The additional day shall be the first day preceding the period described in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph that is not a Sunday or a holiday required to be observed pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

(2) During the early voting period, the registrar shall maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Early voting on each day of the early voting period shall terminate when all persons who were in line to vote at the close of the regular office hours of the registrar's office, as provided in this Paragraph, have been allowed to vote. If the office space of the registrar is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate early voting, the registrar may provide for an alternate location to conduct early voting, which location shall be in the courthouse or in a public building in the immediate vicinity thereof, and in such case, adequate notice shall be posted at the registrar's office informing the

public of the location where early voting is being conducted.

(3) A law enforcement officer shall not interfere with the conduct of the election, the voters, or the election officials. However, a registrar may use law enforcement officers to maintain order at any location where early voting is conducted.

(4) A registrar shall observe the holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during any period for conducting early voting.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, law enforcement officers may enter the early voting location when there is a reasonable belief there is an emergency and the registrar is unable to summon the law enforcement officers.

B.(1) For the purpose of facilitating early voting, the registrar may designate, in addition to the location for early voting provided in Subsection A of this Section, one branch office wherein early voting may be conducted. Any such branch office shall be located in a public building, and the days during which early voting may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar, with the approval of the secretary of state, at least thirty days prior to a primary election and twenty-one days prior to a general election, as provided in Subsection A of this Section, and the registrar shall post at his office adequate notice of the days on which early voting will be held at a branch office. However, if a branch office of a registrar is destroyed, inaccessible, or unsafe during or following a gubernatorially declared state of emergency, the registrar may utilize a temporary building as a branch office to discharge his duties until an office that meets the requirements of this Section becomes available. Such temporary office shall be located within the parish, or if there is no appropriate location within the parish due to the emergency, then in an immediately adjacent parish, or if there is no appropriate location in any immediately adjacent parish due to the emergency, then in the nearest parish in which there is an appropriate location.

(2) The registrar shall provide or post the voters' bill of rights and informational posters, if required, the statement of proposed constitutional amendments on the

ballot, and a certified screenshot as a sample ballot in a conspicuous place at the principal entrance to the early voting polling place, where they shall remain posted throughout early voting.

C. In parishes which extend in one direction more than fifty miles and which are interspersed with navigable waters, the registrar may designate, in addition to the locations for early voting provided for in Subsections A and B of this Section, one additional branch office wherein early voting may be conducted. Any such branch office shall be located in a public building and the hours during which early voting may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar.

D.(1)(a) Before any voter is allowed to vote during early voting, the registrar or his deputy shall establish the voter's identity by requiring him to submit one of the following:

(i) A Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1321, or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter.

(ii) A United States military identification card that contains the voter's name and picture.

(b) If the voter does not have one of the forms of identification provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the voter shall complete and sign, in the presence of the registrar or his deputy, a voter identification affidavit to that effect provided by the secretary of state, which affidavit shall include the voter's date of birth and mother's maiden name. If the voter is unable to read or write or is otherwise unable to complete the affidavit due to disability, the voter may receive assistance in completing the affidavit, and the registrar or his deputy shall make a notation on the affidavit. The voter may receive the assistance of any person of his choice, including the registrar or his deputy, except a candidate, the voter's employer or employer's agent, or the voter's union agent. The registrar or his deputy shall retain the affidavit in the office of the registrar of voters.

(c) If satisfied that the voter has identified himself as the voter registered in the

state voter registration computer system or named on the precinct register and that he is qualified to vote, the registrar or his deputy shall initial the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar opposite the voter's signature or mark. The voter then shall be allowed to vote.

(d) A voter who votes without the picture identification required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph is subject to challenge as provided in R.S. 18:1315.

(2) If the voter's name is found in the state voter registration computer system or precinct register on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall be required to complete an address confirmation card to determine his eligibility to vote.

E.(1) The voter's identity having been established as provided in Subsection D of this Section, the voter shall sign or make his mark prior to voting in the precinct register or early voting register.

(2) The registrar or deputy registrar shall electronically generate an early voting confirmation sheet for each voter using the state voter registration computer system or a form prepared by the secretary of state and retain the confirmation sheet in the office of the registrar to be used by the registrar to verify each early voter at the end of the early voting period. If a paper ballot is used for early voting in lieu of a voting machine, the registrar or deputy registrar shall write "early voting paper ballot voter" across the early voting confirmation sheet for the voter and attach it to the paper ballot envelope.

(3) The voter then shall be allowed to cast his vote in an area and in a manner that protects the secrecy of his vote.

(4)(a) A voter shall not remain in a voting machine longer than three minutes. If a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after the registrar or deputy registrar has notified him that three minutes have elapsed, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine.

(b) Notwithstanding Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, a voter receiving assistance in voting pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.3 or a voter using the audio ballot shall be allowed to remain in a voting machine for up to twenty minutes. If such a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after the registrar or deputy registrar has notified him that twenty minutes have elapsed, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine.

(5)(a) In order to cast a vote on a voting machine, a voter shall make a selection in a candidate or proposition election. Voting is completed by activating the cast vote mechanism. If the voter has made any selection in a candidate or proposition election but has failed to activate the cast vote mechanism, the registrar or his deputy, observed by a deputy registrar or, in the absence of a deputy registrar, a witness, shall activate the cast vote mechanism for the fled voter without altering any selections made by the voter. In the case of vote activation in the presence of a witness, the registrar or deputy registrar shall record the name and address of the witness.

(b)(i) In order to cast a vote on a paper ballot, a voter must make a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by completely filling in the oval to the right of a selection and returning the ballot to the appropriate election official within the applicable deadline set forth by law. If a voter makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that office or proposition will be void.

(ii) If the paper ballot envelope contains a certificate on the envelope flap, the voter shall not be required to sign the certificate. The registrar of voters or deputy registrar shall write "early voting ballot" across the envelope flap and include the voter's name, ward, precinct, and registration number and attach it to the early voting confirmation sheet so that the ballot may be identified for purposes of a challenge filed pursuant to R.S. 18:1315.

(iii) If a voter determines that his ballot is spoiled because he wants to change or correct his vote on the ballot before it is cast and counted but is unable to do so, he may obtain a replacement ballot upon returning the spoiled ballot to the registrar or deputy registrar. The voter shall cast his vote as provided in Item (i) of

this Subparagraph using the replacement ballot. The registrar or deputy registrar shall write the words "spoiled and replaced" on the ballot and attach it to the early voting confirmation sheet.

(6) If a person who votes during early voting at the registrar's office casts his vote on an incorrect ballot as provided to him by the registrar or his deputy and the time for early voting has not expired, the registrar or his deputy shall write "void, challenge removal" and the reason for the challenge on the confirmation sheet, retain the confirmation sheet, and permit the voter to vote the correct ballot using a paper ballot. The confirmation sheet shall be attached to the paper ballot envelope for review by the parish board of election supervisors on election day and for use by the secretary of state's office in removing the voided ballot from the voting machine as a challenged ballot on election day.

F.(1) At the end of each day during early voting, the registrar shall document on the early voting verification form provided by the secretary of state for each early voting location each of the following:

(a) The total number for the public counters of all early voting machines for the day.

(b) The total number of early voting confirmation sheets for the day.

(c) The total number of early voters from the state voter registration computer system for the day.

(d) Any discrepancies or irregularities observed that prevent the total public counter number from matching the total early voting confirmation sheet number for the day and the total number of early voters from the state voter registration computer system for the day.

(2) Each day, the registrar shall compare the information in the early voting confirmation sheets to the information contained in the state voter registration computer system. If the registrar finds any discrepancies, he shall make a note thereof on the early voting verification form or on a notice of irregularity form

provided by the secretary of state that he shall attach to the early voting verification form.

(3) At the end of the early voting period, the registrar shall complete the early voting verification form for each location and sign and certify to its correctness and print an early voter report from the state voter registration computer system listing all early voters from the parish. All early voting verification forms, early voting machine public counter logs, early voting confirmation sheets, early voter reports, and paper ballots voted during early voting shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container for delivery to the parish board of election supervisors on election day for the tabulation and counting of early voting ballots.

G. By no later than the day before an election, the registrar shall have received from the branch office and all early voting locations all early voting machine results cartridges, early voting confirmation sheets, early voting verification forms, early voting machine public counter logs, paper ballot envelopes, certificates, early voting lists or duplicate precinct registers, and other election paraphernalia.

H. Prior to delivery of the precinct register to the parish custodian, the registrar shall ensure that the precinct register reflects for each voter whether the voter voted during early voting or voted timely absentee by mail using the words “voted by mail” and, if the register was not used during early voting, “voted early” in the signature line for the voter in the precinct register.

I. In the event of the inability to utilize voting machines for early voting within a parish, the registrar may utilize paper ballots for early voting.

J. Upon approval of the secretary of state, a registrar of voters may utilize commissioners selected and trained by the registrar of voters to assist the registrar during the early voting period in the conduct of early voting by his office. A registrar of voters shall, in seeking the approval of the secretary of state, indicate to the secretary the number of commissioners that is required for such assistance. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall take an oath of office as a deputy registrar for the early voting period and shall complete an affidavit prepared by the secretary of state that contains the name, address,

and last four digits of the social security number of the early voting commissioner and an acknowledgment that the law prohibits the disclosure of confidential voter information listed in the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar. The affidavit shall be retained in the office of the registrar of voters. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall be paid in accordance with R.S. 18:426.1(A)(3) and B, if applicable, for each day of such assistance.

<Text of par. (K)(1) effective until January 1, 2022.>

K.(1) Only a certified commissioner may be selected to serve as an early voting commissioner.

<Text of par. (K)(1) effective January 1, 2022.>

K.(1) A person may serve as an early voting commissioner only if he has received a certificate of instruction as provided in R.S. 18:431(A) and has attended a course of instruction for early voting commissioners and received a certificate of instruction from the registrar of voters.

(2) A person to whom one or more of the following applies shall not serve as an early voting commissioner:

(a) The person is a candidate in the election.

(b) An immediate family member of the person is a candidate for election to public office in the election.

(c) The person is marked for assistance in voting in the precinct register or requires the use of the audio ballot in voting.

(d) The person has been convicted of an election offense enumerated in Chapter 10 of this Title.

L. During early voting the registrar of voters shall make available to the public at each location where early voting is conducted copies of the state mail voter registration application forms.

M.(1)(a) In a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.2, the registrar may fix the ~~hours and the days~~ during which early voting shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting period, with the approval of the secretary of state, at least thirty days prior to a primary election and twenty-one days prior to a general election. ~~if such hours and days of voting are approved by the secretary of state no later than twenty-five days prior to the election.~~

(b) The registrar shall ensure that adequate notice is posted at the office of the registrar informing the public of the hours and days during which early voting will be conducted at the additional location, and the secretary of state shall post such notice on the secretary of state's website.

(2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to early voting for gubernatorial or congressional elections.

NUMBER 14:

EXPLANATION: Requires the registrar of voters to post adequate notice of the date, time and place for the preparation of the early voting machines to give the candidates additional notification of the preparation of the voting machines for early voting.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1309.1. Preparation of machines for early voting; examination by candidate or is representative; sealing machines

A. At the time of qualifying, the parish custodian shall notify each candidate to contact the registrar of voters for the time and place at which the voting machines will be prepared for early voting. The registrar of voters shall post at his office adequate notice of the date, time and place at which the voting machines will be prepared for early voting. The candidate or his representative may be present to observe the preparation of the machines by the registrar of voters with the assistance of the secretary of state's technicians and to observe the testing and sealing of the machines by the registrar of voters in the presence of the parish board of election supervisors. Each candidate or his representative shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to view the test vote tape for each machine to see that they are in the proper condition for use in the election, which opportunity shall not be less than thirty minutes beginning at the time designated by the registrar of voters to begin preparation of the machines for sealing. However, no candidate, representative, or citizen shall interfere with the registrar of voters, secretary of state's technicians, parish board of election supervisors, or any employee or technician or assume any of their duties.

B. Each candidate or representative shall identify to the registrar of voters the candidate whom he is representing. In addition, any citizen of this state may be present to observe the preparation, testing, and sealing of the machines by the registrar of voters and the secretary of state's technicians and shall be afforded an opportunity to inspect the test vote tape for each machine to see that they are in proper condition for use for early voting.

C. After the machines have been examined by each candidate, representative, or citizen who is present, the registrar of voters and secretary of state's technicians

shall generate a zero tally to ensure that the voting machine's public counter is set at zero and that no votes have been cast for any candidate or for or against any proposition. The registrar of voters and the parish board of election supervisors shall then seal the voting machine.

D. The registrar of voters and the secretary of state's technicians shall record the public and protective counter numbers for each early voting machine on a form prepared by the secretary of state for use in verifying the early voting results on election day.

NUMBER 15:

EXPLANATION: Makes the deadlines for requesting a recount of the ballots and the inspection of ballot envelope flaps the same as the deadlines provided in R.S. 18:1313.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1313.1. Preparation, verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots; parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail ballots

A. Parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail ballots returned to the registrar of voters for a primary or general election may conduct the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots the day before the election and conduct the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day.

B. The parish board of election supervisors shall be responsible for the preparation, verification, counting, and tabulation of all absentee by mail and early voting ballots in the parish. The board may utilize parish board commissioners to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots in the parish. If the board determines that parish board commissioners are necessary for the preparation and verification process to count and tabulate the absentee by mail and early voting ballots the day before the election and to count and tabulate the absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, it shall select parish board commissioners in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:1314. If a majority of the members of the board are not present for the preparation and verification process to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots or to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and no parish board commissioners were previously selected, the members present may select a sufficient number of parish board commissioners on the day before the election or on election day, as applicable, to assist in the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots and the tabulation and counting of the ballots.

C. (1) The preparation and verification process for the counting of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots may be conducted the day before the election at

a public facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors.

(2) Absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a public facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors, which time shall be on election day no later than 8:00 p.m.

(3) Prior to the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any person authorized by the secretary of state may assist the registrar of voters in the challenge removal process on the early voting machines, in the reading of the early voting machine results cartridges on the secretary of state's equipment, and in producing the early voting machine results report. All early voting machine results reports shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container.

D.(1) If the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots begins on election day prior to the closing of the polls, such counting and tabulation shall be conducted in a location and manner to prevent disclosure of the results prior to the closing of the polls. Each person except a person providing security to the parish board of election supervisors; a representative of the attorney general, with written approval of the secretary of state; the clerk of court; the registrar of voters; or a person providing technical assistance pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection who enters the location in which the absentee by mail and early voting ballots are being counted and tabulated on election day shall remain in that location and shall not be allowed to leave except temporarily, and then only when accompanied by a law enforcement officer, and shall not communicate with any person outside until the polls are closed. The parish board of election supervisors may take any action necessary to ensure that no information with respect to the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots is transmitted from the location where the absentee by mail and early voting ballots are being counted and tabulated on election day prior to the close of the polls on election day.

(2) Any person authorized by the secretary of state may provide security or technical assistance including advice, analysis, diagnosis, or repair for voting machines at the location where absentee by mail and early voting votes are being counted and tabulated. Such security or technical assistance shall be provided only upon the request of the parish board of election supervisors or a team of parish board commissioners, and may be made in person at the location where absentee by mail and early voting votes are being counted and tabulated, or by telephone, or both. Any authorized person providing such security or technical assistance may enter and leave the location where absentee by mail and early voting votes are being counted and tabulated on election day before the closing of the polls and during the process of counting and tabulation. No such person shall disclose any information with respect to the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots prior to the close of the polls on election day.

E. Candidates, their representatives, and qualified electors may be present during the preparation and verification process for the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on the day before the election and the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day. If the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots begins prior to the closing of the polls on election day, the board shall give notice reasonably calculated to inform any person who wants to be present during the counting and tabulation that no person will be allowed to leave or to communicate with any other person outside, until such time as the polls are closed, nor shall any person who is present during the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day possess a cellular telephone or electronic communication device.

F. The board shall count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and announce the results after the closing of the polls on election day as the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast in the election for each candidate and the total number cast for and against each proposition.

G. The procedure for the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots on the day before the election shall be as follows:

(1)(a) A member of the board shall remove the certificates, early voting verification forms, early voting machine public counter logs, early voting confirmation sheets, absentee by mail ballots, early voting paper ballots, and envelopes containing the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots from the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container.

(b) The board shall review the early voting verification forms and early voting machine public counter logs and, if found to be acceptable to the board, sign each early voting verification form. If the board does not find an early voting verification form to be acceptable, it may review any early voting confirmation sheet and shall document its correction to the early voting verification form and then sign it.

(2) The board shall announce the name of each absentee by mail voter, each voter who voted a paper ballot during early voting and the ward and precinct where he is registered to vote, and shall compare the name on the certificate or on the flap of the envelope containing the absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot with the names on the absentee by mail voter report or early voter report, as applicable.

(3) The board shall separate any ballots that are challenged in accordance with R.S. 18:1315(A) or (B) from the ballots that are not challenged.

(4)(a) If an absentee by mail ballot has not been challenged and is determined by the board to be valid, a member of the board shall make a check mark on the absentee by mail voter report beside the name of the voter as it appears on the report and write his initials on each page of the report. If applicable, a member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the absentee by mail ballot and leave the envelope sealed.

(b) If an early voting paper ballot has not been challenged and is determined by the board to be valid, a member of the board shall write the words "voted early" and his initials on the early voter report beside the name of the voter as it

appears on the report. A member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the paper ballot voted during early voting and leave the envelope sealed.

(5) If an absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot has been challenged, the members shall leave the flap on the envelope, if applicable, containing the absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot and leave the envelope sealed.

(6) A member of the board shall place the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have been challenged and the ballots that have not been challenged in the special absentee by mail envelope or container provided for that purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two members of the board shall execute the first certificate on the envelope or container and date the certificate the day before the election.

(7) The members of the board shall place the certificates of the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have not been challenged and the flaps removed from those ballots in the envelope or container provided for that purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two of the members shall execute the first certificate on the envelope and date the certificate the day before the election.

(8) Absentee by mail ballots that are received by the registrar of voters after the preparation and verification process is completed but before the deadline to return absentee by mail ballots shall be prepared, verified, counted, and tabulated on election day.

H. The procedure for counting absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots on election day shall be as follows:

(1) A member of the board shall break the seal on the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, remove the certificates, absentee

by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have been challenged, and the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have not been challenged from the envelope or container.

(2) The board shall determine the validity of challenges filed in accordance with R.S. 18:1315(A) and (B).

(3)(a) If the board determines that an absentee by mail ballot is valid, a member of the board shall make a check mark on the absentee by mail voter report beside the name of the voter as it appears on the report and write his initials on each page of the report. If applicable, a member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the absentee by mail ballot and leave the envelope sealed.

(b) If the board determines that a paper ballot voted during early voting is valid, a member of the board shall write the words "voted early" and his initials on the early voter report beside the name of the voter as it appears on the report. A member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the paper ballot voted during early voting and leave the envelope sealed.

(4) If a majority of the members of the board determine that an absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot is invalid, the members shall leave the flap on the envelope containing the ballot, leave the envelope sealed, and a member of the board shall write the word "rejected", together with the reasons for rejecting the ballot, across the envelope containing the ballot or across the certificate attached to the special absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot. He shall also write the word "rejected" and his initials on the absentee by mail voter report or early voter report, as applicable, beside the name of the voter as it appears in the report. The rejected absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots and certificates shall be replaced in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container. No rejected absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot shall be counted.

(5) After the validity of all absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots have been determined, the members of the board shall break the seal on the envelope or container and place the valid certificates and the flaps removed from

the valid absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots in the envelope or container provided for that purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two of the members shall execute the second certificate on the envelope and date the certificate the day of the election.

(6) The members shall open the envelopes containing the valid absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots and remove the ballots.

(7) The board shall, in accordance with the requirements of R.S. 18:1316, reject any ballot which contains a distinguishing mark or feature making the ballot susceptible of identification. However, a ballot shall not be rejected as containing a distinguishing mark if the ballot was transmitted electronically to a member of the United States Service, as defined in R.S. 18:1302, or a person residing outside the United States.

(8) If a ballot is physically damaged or cannot properly be counted by the counting equipment and the vote cast by the voter is clearly discernible from a physical inspection of the defective ballot, the ballot may be counted by hand or a true duplicate may be made of the defective ballot in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the ballot. Any duplicate ballot shall be clearly labeled "duplicate", bear a ballot number which shall be recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the defective ballot. After a ballot has been duplicated, the defective ballot shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, and the duplicate ballot shall be counted with the other valid ballots.

(9) The special absentee ballots cast by members of the United States Service or persons who reside outside of the United States may be counted by hand or counted as a true duplicate.

I. The procedure for counting early voting machine ballots on election day shall be as follows:

(1) A member of the board shall remove the early voting machine results reports from the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container.

(2) The board shall announce the results from each early voting machines results report for the early voting ballots.

(3) The board shall determine the validity of challenges made in accordance with R.S. 18:1315(A) and (B).

(4)(a) Prior to utilizing any absentee by mail and early voting counting equipment, the parish board of election supervisors shall generate a zero tally to ensure that the equipment's candidate and question counters are set at zero and that no votes have been cast for any candidate or for or against any proposition.

(b) The board shall sign and certify to the correctness of each zero proof sheet and place all zero proof sheets in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container.

(5) The absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for a candidate and those cast for and against a proposition shall be counted and the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for a candidate and those cast for and against a proposition shall be announced in the order the offices and candidates and propositions are listed on the ballot. The members of the board shall enter the total number of votes on the final absentee by mail and early voting vote report and shall certify the results.

J. The final absentee by mail and early voting vote report prepared by the parish board of election supervisors shall be transmitted to the clerk of court immediately upon completion of the tabulation of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election night. A copy of the record shall be transmitted immediately to the secretary of state, and a copy of the record shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container.

K. When the absentee by mail and early voter reports have been returned to the registrar of voters, the registrar, based on the information contained in the reports, shall confirm that the words “voted by mail” or “voted early” are written in the proper space on the precinct register for each voter who voted early or absentee by mail.

L.(1) Upon completion of the tabulation and counting of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, the parish board of election supervisors shall return the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and electronic results report to the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, shall seal the envelope or container, and shall deliver the envelope or container to the registrar of voters. The registrar shall preserve the envelope or container and its contents inviolate and, except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction, shall not allow the absentee by mail and early voting documents to be inspected by anyone until the delay for filing an action contesting the election has lapsed. If an action contesting the election is commenced timely, the registrar shall continue to preserve the envelope or container and its contents inviolate, subject to the orders of the court, until the final judgment in the action has become definitive.

(2)(a)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, if the number of absentee by mail and early voting ballots cast for all candidates for an office could make a difference in the outcome of the election for such office, upon the written request of a candidate for such office, the board shall recount the absentee by mail ballots by hand or scanning equipment and early voting ballots electronically, unless paper ballots were used for early voting and in such case, the ballots shall be recounted by hand for such office.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, if the number of absentee by mail and early voting ballots cast for and against a proposition could make a difference in the outcome of the election, upon the written request of a person who voted in the proposition election, the board shall recount the absentee by mail ballots by hand or scanning equipment and early voting ballots electronically, unless paper ballots were used for early voting and in such case, the ballots shall be recounted by hand for such election.

(b) All recounts of absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be held at ~~10:00 a.m.~~ on the fifth day after the election at a time set by the secretary of state, in

conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerk of court, or following the reinspection of voting machines on the fifth day after the election and at any time ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the fifth day after the election falls on a holiday or weekend, such recount shall be held on the next working day at ~~10:00 a.m.~~ a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerk of court, or following the reinspection of voting machines. Any written request for recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be filed with the clerk of court. The deadline for filing a request for recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be 4:30 p.m. on the ~~last working day prior to the date of the recount~~ third calendar day after the election. Immediately upon receiving any request, the clerk of court shall prominently post in his office a notice of the time and place where the absentee by mail and early voting ballots will be recounted and the name of the candidate or the voter in the proposition election requesting the recount.

(c) Upon completion of the recount of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots, the board shall return the absentee by mail and early voting documents to the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, shall reseal the envelope or container, and shall deliver the envelope or container and its contents to the registrar of voters who shall preserve the envelope or container and its contents in the manner provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

(d)(i) The candidate or the voter in the proposition election requesting the recount shall be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with such recount, which shall be payable to the clerk of court. The costs shall be paid at the time the written request for the recount is filed with the clerk of court and shall be paid in cash or by certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union, United States postal money order, or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

(ii) If the recount changes the outcome of the election, the costs paid by the candidate or voter in the proposition election shall be refunded by the clerk of court, and the costs of the recount shall be a reimbursable election expense as provided in Chapter 8-A of this Title.

(3) A candidate or his representative, in the presence of a majority of the parish

board of election supervisors, shall be allowed to inspect the flaps removed from the valid absentee by mail ballots and the flaps removed from the valid early voting ballots when paper ballots are used for early voting. All such inspections shall be held at ~~10:00 a.m.~~ a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerk of court, or following the recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on the fifth day after the election and at any time ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the fifth day after the election falls on a holiday or weekend, such inspection shall be held on the next working day at ~~10:00 a.m.~~ a time set by the secretary of state, in conjunction with the registrar of voters and the clerk of court, or following the recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots. Any written request for inspection shall be filed with the clerk of court. The deadline for filing a request for inspection shall be ~~the last working day prior to the date of the inspection~~ 4:30 p.m. on the third calendar day after the election. Immediately upon receiving any request, the clerk of court shall prominently post in his office a notice of the time and place where the inspection will occur and the name of the candidate requesting the inspection. The candidate requesting the inspection shall be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with such inspection, which shall be payable to the clerk of court. The costs shall be paid at the time the written request for the inspection is filed with the clerk of court and shall be paid in cash or by certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union, United States postal money order, or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

(4) The parish board of election supervisors shall be entitled to reimbursement at the rate established in R.S. 18:423(E) for attending the recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots and inspection, but not both if they are conducted on the same day. However, such reimbursement shall not be counted toward the limitation provided in R.S. 18:423(J). No member of the parish board of election supervisors shall be reimbursed for attending a recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots or inspection if such member received reimbursement for attending the reinspection of voting machines which was conducted on the same day as the recount of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots or inspection.

NUMBER 16:

EXPLANATION: Changes the deadline to four business days after the election for the parish board to notify the voters that their ballots have been rejected due to a challenge which gives the registrars more time to process the notifications of the rejections.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

A.(1) A candidate or his representative, a member of the board, or a qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for the grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A), by personally filing his written challenge with the registrar no later than the fourth day before the election for which the ballot is challenged. Such challenge shall be on a form provided by the secretary of state.

(2) The form shall include:

(a) The ground, specified in R.S. 18:565(A), on which the challenge is made.

(b) The election involved.

(c) The specific reason for which the challenge is made.

(d) The name, address, and telephone number, if any, of the person challenging the ballot, all of which shall be written by the person challenging the vote.

(3) The form shall also include information about the date and place where the board will determine the validity of the challenge, which information shall be included by the registrar. Within twenty-four hours after the challenge has been filed, the registrar shall mail a copy of the challenge to the voter whose absentee by mail or early voting ballot is being challenged at the address shown on the registrar's roll of electors. The registrar shall retain the original challenge form and shall transmit it to the place where the absentee by mail or early voting ballot will be counted and tabulated for the use of the board on election day.

B.(1) During the preparation and verification process for the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on the day before the election, as applicable, or the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any candidate or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A).

(2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, for elections impaired as a result of a declared disaster or emergency, during the preparation and verification process for the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots before an election in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, or the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, any candidate or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A).

C.(1) During the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots, at least a majority of the members of the board shall hear and determine the validity of any ballot challenged in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A or B of this Section.

(2) If a challenge in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this Section is sustained, the vote shall not be counted, the ballot or early voting confirmation sheet shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, and the board shall notify the voter in writing of the challenge and the cause therefor. This notification shall be on a form provided by the secretary of state and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the board. The notice of the challenge and the cause therefor shall be given within ~~three~~ four business days by mail, addressed to the voter at his place of residence. The board shall retain a copy of the notification. However, if the challenge is based upon a change of residence within the parish or is based upon a change of residence outside the parish that has occurred within the last three months, the ballot shall be counted provided that the voter confirmed his current address as shown by the affidavit of the absentee by mail

ballot envelope flap or early voting confirmation sheet or, if the voter is on the inactive list of voters, as shown by the information provided on an address confirmation card.

(3)(a) If a challenge in accordance with the provisions of Subsection B of this Section is sustained, the vote shall not be counted, the board shall write "rejected" and the cause therefor across the ballot envelope or early voting confirmation sheet, and shall place the ballots and early voting confirmation sheets so rejected in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container. The board shall notify the voter in writing of the challenge and the cause therefor. The notification shall be on a form provided by the secretary of state and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the board. The notice of the challenge and the cause therefor shall be given within ~~three~~ four business days by mail addressed to the voter at his place of residence. The board shall retain a copy of the notification.

(b) If a ballot is rejected pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:1316, the vote shall not be counted, the board shall write "rejected" and the cause therefor on a separate slip of paper and attach it to the ballot, and shall place the ballots so rejected in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container.

NUMBER 17:

EXPLANATION: Provides that the parish custodian of voting machines shall make the request to the Secretary of State or notify the Secretary of State relating to the reduction or increase in the number of voting machines rather than the parish board since the parish custodian of voting machines is the appropriate election official to know the voting machine allocation that is necessary for the election.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1363. Number of machines; allocation to precincts; exception; reserve machines

A. In determining the number of voting machines to be purchased and allocated for each voting precinct in each parish or municipality, the minimum number to be allocated shall be as follows:

(1) One machine for each precinct where three hundred or less voters were registered to vote thirty days prior to the election.

(2) Two machines for each precinct where more than three hundred but not more than one thousand voters were registered to vote thirty days prior to the election.

(3) Three machines for each precinct where more than one thousand voters but not more than fourteen hundred voters were registered to vote thirty days prior to the election.

(4) Four machines for each precinct where more than fourteen hundred voters were registered to vote thirty days prior to the election.

B. The parish ~~board of election supervisors~~ custodian of voting machines may reduce the number of voting machines to be allocated and used in elections called under the provisions of Chapter 6-A or 6-B of this Code when the election is not held at the same time as the election of any public official. In such case, the parish ~~board of election supervisors shall notify the parish custodian of voting machines~~ and custodian of voting machines shall notify the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to such election of the number of machines to be prepared and

delivered for the polling places.

C. The number of voting machines to be allocated and used in an election, including the election of any public official, where more than one polling place is within the same location and the parish board of election supervisors has consolidated polling places in that location may be reduced for that election in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:425.1.

D. The parish ~~board of election supervisors~~ custodian of voting machines may reduce the number of voting machines to be allocated and used in an election called under the provisions of Part III of Chapter 6 of this Title where the only other election on the ballot is for the election of political party committee members. Not less than twenty-nine days prior to such an election, the parish ~~board of election supervisors shall notify the parish custodian of voting machines and~~ custodian of voting machines shall notify the secretary of state of the number of voting machines to be prepared and delivered to each polling place.

E. If any voting machines remain unallocated for an election, the secretary of state first shall reserve a sufficient number, not to exceed five percent of the total available, for use at precincts where a machine is disabled, damaged, or unavailable during election day. The remaining machines shall be allocated by the parish custodian, after consultation with the secretary of state, to the various precincts. As far as practicable the machines shall be distributed so that the precincts having equal or nearly equal numbers of registered voters shall have the same number of machines. If the secretary of state and a parish custodian agree that the use of the remaining machines is unnecessary for the proper and orderly conduct of the election, it shall not be necessary to allocate and use such machines.

F. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, if the secretary of state determines that a voting machine shortage exists in a parish, the secretary of state shall first reallocate and move any available voting machines of like type in excess of the requirements of Subsection A of this Section to the parish where the shortage exists. However, if a shortage continues to exist after relocation, the secretary of state may reduce the allocation of voting machines for each precinct and polling place in order to ensure that each polling place is allocated at least one

voting machine. Prior to any reduction in allocation of voting machines the secretary of state shall immediately notify the parish ~~board of election supervisors~~ custodian of voting machines in each affected parish of the reduction of the allocation of voting machines and the parish ~~board of election supervisors~~ custodian of voting machines shall take whatever action is necessary consistent with the Louisiana Election Code to accommodate the reduced allocation. In addition, the secretary of state shall notify in writing the standing committees of each house of the legislature which have oversight over elections of the shortage and the reasons therefor.

G. The parish ~~board of election supervisors~~ custodian of voting machines may submit a written request to the secretary of state for additional voting machines for overcrowded precincts. The written request shall be submitted on or before the twenty-ninth day prior to the election and shall include the number of additional voting machines requested and an explanation of the need for additional voting machines. If the secretary of state determines that there is a need for additional voting machines and that the provision of additional voting machines is feasible, he may allocate additional voting machines.

H. The parish ~~board of election supervisors~~ custodian of voting machines may submit a written request to the secretary of state to reduce the number of voting machines to be allocated and used in an election other than an election provided for in Subsection B or D of this Section. The written request shall be submitted on or before the twenty-ninth day prior to a primary election and at least four weeks prior to a general election and shall include the proposed reduced number of voting machines and an explanation of the need for the reduction in the number of voting machines. If the secretary of state determines that the reduction in the number of voting machines is feasible, he may reduce the number of voting machines.

NUMBER 18:

EXPLANATION: Provides that the chronological table of procedures for the election that is given to the candidates by the qualifying official shall instruct the candidates to contact the registrar of voters for the time and place at which the preparation and testing of the early voting machines will be conducted and the appropriate election official for the time and place at which the preparation and testing of the election day machines will be conducted to give the candidates additional information relating to the preparation and testing of the voting machines.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1373. Notice of preparation of machines for election; preparation of machines for election; testing and adjusting; examination by candidate or his representative; securing and sealing machines

A.(1) The secretary of state shall notify each parish custodian of the time and place at which he will begin preparing and testing the voting machines for an election. The qualifying official shall at the time of qualifying provide each candidate in the election with a chronological table of procedures for the election that instructs the candidate to contact the registrar of voters for the time and place at which the preparation and testing of the early voting machines will be conducted, ~~custodian~~ the appropriate election official for the time and place at which the preparation and testing of the machines will be conducted and when the machines will be sealed and states that the candidate or his representative may be present to observe the preparation and testing of the machines by the secretary of state's technicians.

(2) The secretary of state shall prepare the voting machines for the election by placing them in order, inserting the proper ballots, and testing and adjusting the voting machines for the election. A test vote report shall be produced by each machine. In preparing the machines, the secretary of state shall lock out against use on each machine those vote indicators or devices that are not to be used at the election. In preparing and testing machines, the secretary of state shall use the mechanics and technicians authorized by R.S. 18:1353.

(3) Each candidate or his representative shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to inspect and review the test vote report of the machines to see that they are in the proper condition for use in the election, which shall not be less than thirty minutes beginning at the time designated by the parish custodian, in conjunction with the secretary of state, to seal the machines.

(4) No candidate, representative, or citizen shall interfere with the secretary of state or any employee or technician or assume any of their duties during the preparation and testing of the voting machines. Each candidate or representative shall identify to the secretary of state and parish custodian the candidate whom he is representing. In addition, any citizen of this state may be present to observe the preparation and testing of the machines by the secretary of state's technicians and shall be afforded an opportunity to inspect and review the test vote report of the machines.

(5) After the machines have been prepared and tested by the secretary of state's technicians and examined by each candidate or representative, citizen, or parish board member who is present, the parish board shall confirm the enclosure of the registration books or lists and other paraphernalia and shall forthwith seal each machine with a numbered seal. At that time, the parish custodian, in the presence of the candidates or their representatives, parish board members, and any citizens who are present, shall certify to the numbers of the machines, that all of the public counters are set at zero, and as to the number registered on the protective counter of the machine.

B. After each voting machine has been properly secured, sealed, and locked, the keys, if applicable, shall be placed in the key envelope on which shall be written the precinct number and the assigned precinct location of the voting machine, the number of the seal, and the number registered on the protective counter or device. The envelope shall be sealed in the presence of the candidates or their representatives then present and shall be held by the parish custodian or his representative until turned over for delivery to the election commissioners at the polling place on election day.

C. The preparation, testing, inspection, sealing, and locking of the machines and all duties required pursuant to this Part shall be completed as scheduled by the secretary of state and the parish custodian, but in no case later than thirty-six hours prior to the time fixed by law for the opening of the polls

NUMBER 19:

EXPLANATION: Authorizes the Secretary of State to direct the clearing of the voting machines and any election result cartridges after all data from each voting machine and election result cartridge used in the contested election is copied to removable memory devices so the voting machines can be released to allow the Secretary of State to prepare the voting machines for the next election.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1376. Release of voting machines; return to warehouse; retention of totals; clearing machines and election result cartridges

A. Immediately upon completion of the tabulation of the returns and the securing and, if applicable, sealing of the machines at the polling place, the machines shall be released to the parish custodian or his deputy. The parish custodian shall ensure that all voting machines used at the polls within the parish are returned to the appropriate warehouse no later than forty-eight hours after the polls close on election day. Proper provisions shall be made for safeguarding machines after the polls close.

B.(1) For all elections subject to the provisions of this Title, the parish custodian shall ensure that the vote totals on any election result cartridges and the voting machines are retained and that the voting machines are secured and, if applicable, sealed until the secretary of state directs that the voting machines and any election result cartridges be cleared in accordance with Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

(2) If an action contesting an election is not instituted within the period of time prescribed in R.S. 18:1405(B), then on the day after the lapse of the time for filing such an action the secretary of state shall direct that the voting machines and any election result cartridges be cleared. If an action contesting such an election is timely filed, the secretary of state shall direct that the voting machines and any election result cartridges be cleared after all data from each voting machine and election result cartridge used in the contested election is copied to removable memory devices. ~~when the trial judge certifies to him that the court has obtained all the information from the machines or cartridges necessary for the trial of the action. The trial judge shall so certify no later than the end of the sixth day after the~~

~~day on which the suit was filed.~~

NUMBER 20:

EXPLANATION: Makes it an election offense to spoof the secretary of state's, clerk of court's or registrar of voters' telephone numbers or impersonate the secretary of state, clerk of court or registrar of voters in connection with their election duties.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

(1) Fail to submit to the parish registrar of voters a completed registration application collected through a registration drive within thirty days of receipt of the completed application from the applicant.

(2) As a voter, election official, watcher, or person assisting a voter, allow a ballot to be seen, except as provided by law; announce the manner in which a person has cast his ballot; place a distinguishing mark on a ballot with intent to make the ballot identifiable, or make a false statement concerning ability to mark a ballot without assistance.

(3) When assisting a voter in voting, fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter.

(4) Being a physician, optometrist, physician assistant as defined in R.S. 37:1360.22, or nurse practitioner as defined in R.S. 37:913 certify to the disability of a voter under this Title or certify that a person will be hospitalized on election day, knowing such information to be false.

(5) Falsify the election information obtained from contacting a telephone number of the office of the secretary of state, clerk of court or registrar of voters, or impersonating the secretary of state, clerk of court or registrar of voters in connection with any statutorily mandated election duty of the secretary of state, clerk of court or registrar of voters.

(6) Breach any mandatory provision of this Title.

B. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection A of this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

C. No person shall:

(1) Possess any beverage of alcoholic content in a polling place after having been directed by a registrar or deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge, commissioner or law enforcement officer providing assistance to maintain order at the polling place to remove or dispose of the beverage.

(2) Appear at a polling place in an intoxicated condition.

(3) Carry or possess a firearm while present in a polling place, except a peace officer as defined by R.S. 40:2402(3)(a), in the performance of his official duties.

D. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection C of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. On a second offense or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS (TITLE 18)

NUMBER 21:

EXPLANATION: Increases the number of commissioners for the presidential preference primary election from two to three or four, as additional commissioners are needed for the election due to the increased voter turnout and the additional work that is required for the commissioners to verify the voters' eligibility to vote in the closed primary election. The proposed amendment provides that the number of commissioners for the presidential preference election is provided in R.S. 18:425(A)(1)(a).

Suggested Effective Date: February 1, 2022.

R.S. 18:425. Commissioners

A. Number. (1) In addition to the commissioner-in-charge, at the following elections there shall be the following number of additional commissioners at each precinct:

(a) For the gubernatorial primary and general elections, the congressional primary and general elections, the presidential preference primary election, and the primary and general elections for municipal officers in a parish containing a municipality with a population of four hundred seventy-five thousand or more held every four years beginning in 1994:

(i) Four commissioners for precincts with more than three hundred active registered voters.

(ii) Three commissioners for precincts with three hundred active registered voters or less.

(b) For all elections not specifically provided for in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or in Part III of Chapter 6 of this Code:

(i) Three commissioners for precincts with more than three hundred active registered voters eligible to vote in the election.

(ii) Two commissioners for precincts with three hundred or fewer active registered voters eligible to vote in the election.

(2) The governing authority of a municipality, the governing authority of a parish, or the governing authority of a district having a governing authority, with the approval of the parish board of election supervisors, may adopt a resolution to reduce the number of such additional commissioners to not less than two for each precinct in the municipality, in the parish outside of a municipality, or in the district outside of a municipality in a district election, respectively, whenever in the opinion of the governing authority such reduction is not detrimental to the conduct of an election. In no event shall there be less than one commissioner-in-charge and two additional commissioners per precinct.

(3) The parish board of election supervisors may submit a written request to the secretary of state, on or before the twenty-third day prior to an election, for additional commissioners for overcrowded precincts. The written request shall include the number of additional commissioners requested and an explanation of the need for additional commissioners. If the secretary of state determines that there is a need for additional commissioners and that the allocation of additional commissioners is feasible, he may approve the allocation of additional commissioners.

(4) For an election held within one year following the date of the issuance of any gubernatorial proclamation declaring a state of emergency, if a parish board of election supervisors determines that there is a parishwide shortage of commissioners because a significant number of commissioners have been temporarily displaced due to such emergency, the board may submit a written request to the secretary of state, on or before the twenty-third day prior to an election, for additional commissioners from other parishes. The written request shall include the number of additional commissioners requested and an explanation of the need for additional commissioners. If the secretary of state determines that there is a need for additional commissioners and that the allocation of additional commissioners is feasible, the secretary of state shall approve the request and notify the parish board of election supervisors of the parish affected by the emergency. The board of such affected parish shall request the parish boards of election supervisors to submit lists of available commissioners by the

fifteenth day prior to the election. The board of the affected parish shall select commissioners to serve in the affected parish from such lists based on availability, proximity and, to the extent possible, the requirements for representation based on recognized political party affiliation as provided for in R.S. 18:434(B)(7). The clerk of court of the affected parish shall ensure that the selected commissioners have received adequate training on the voting machines that are used in the affected parish and on any procedures necessary for the conduct of the election. The selected commissioners, upon approval by the secretary of state, shall be entitled to appropriate reimbursement for travel expenses.

B. Qualifications and classifications. (1) The legislature finds that the state has a compelling interest in providing an efficient and effective electoral process on election day and ensuring that commissioners who serve at polling places can perform all required duties.

(2) A qualified voter who is able to perform the essential duties of a commissioner as described in the informational pamphlet developed by the secretary of state pursuant to R.S. 18:421(C) and who is not a candidate in the election may be selected as a commissioner in any precinct of the ward where he is registered to vote, except pursuant to R.S. 18:434(B) and (D) in which case he may be selected as a commissioner in any precinct of the parish where he is registered to vote or as otherwise provided in Paragraph (A)(4) of this Section.

(3)(a) No person shall be selected as a commissioner in a precinct in which a member of his immediate family is a candidate for election to public office.

(b) No person who has been convicted of an election offense enumerated in Chapter 10 of this Title shall serve as a commissioner.

(c) If a proposition or question is on the ballot in a precinct, no member of the governing authority that called the election on the proposition or question and no member of the governing authority of a political subdivision that will receive revenue from a tax or fee that is the subject of the proposition or question shall be selected as a commissioner in that precinct.

(4) A person shall not serve as a commissioner, except pursuant to R.S. 18:434(D), unless he has attended a course of instruction for commissioners, has received a certificate of instruction during the term of office of the clerk who conducted the school, and has provided his correct party affiliation to the clerk. A commissioner who has received this certificate shall be classified as a certified commissioner. A commissioner selected pursuant to R.S. 18:434(D), who has not been issued such a certificate, shall be classified as an uncertified commissioner.

(5) A person who is at least seventeen years of age, under the age of eighteen, and is not a qualified voter but is otherwise qualified to serve as a commissioner pursuant to this Subsection may be selected to serve as a commissioner in any precinct of the ward where he may register to vote pursuant to R.S. 18:101(A), provided that the person is enrolled in the twelfth grade of any Louisiana public high school or state-approved nonpublic high school, is participating at the twelfth grade level in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, has received a diploma from any Louisiana public high school or state-approved nonpublic high school, has received a diploma for completion of a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or has been issued a high school equivalency diploma after successfully completing the test of General Educational Development.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, a qualified voter of this state or a person who is registered to vote in another state who is able to perform the essential duties of a commissioner as described in the informational pamphlet developed by the secretary of state pursuant to R.S. 18:421(C), who is not a candidate in the election, and who is a student at an institution of higher learning located in this state may be selected as a commissioner in any precinct in the parish where the institution of higher learning is located if the student submits to the clerk a copy of his student identification or fee bill showing current enrollment and a copy of his proof of voter registration.

C. Powers and duties. (1) The commissioners shall conduct primary and general elections at each polling place, shall enforce the election laws, and shall maintain

order at the polling place during the election and the printing of results from the voting machines.

(2) A commissioner shall not electioneer, engage in political discussions, unnecessarily delay a voter at the polling place, or prepare a list of persons voting at the polling place other than the official poll lists.

D. Oath. On election day, before a commissioner enters upon the performance of his duties, he shall take the constitutional oath or affirmation. The commissioner-in-charge shall administer the oath.

E. Notice of service. Commissioners who serve at the polling place on election day shall receive the compensation provided in R.S. 18:426.1. The clerk of court of each parish shall transmit to the Department of State the names, addresses, and social security numbers of all persons who served as commissioners on election day in that parish no later than seven days after the election. Upon receipt of such information from the parish clerks of court, the Department of State shall compensate any commissioner who has served at a polling place on an election day within thirty days.

R.S. 18:1280.21. Presidential preference primary election

A. A statewide presidential preference primary election shall be held on the first Saturday in March in 2016 and every fourth year thereafter for the purpose of allowing the electors of each political party in the state which has forty thousand or more registered members to express their preference for a person to be the nominee of the party for president of the United States.

B. Each elector voting in such election may vote only for a candidate who is affiliated with the same party as the elector, except that the state central committee of a recognized political party may allow in its bylaws, electors who are not affiliated with any political party to cast a vote on the ballot of such recognized political party.

C. The state central committee shall notify the Department of State that its bylaws allow for such voting by non-affiliated electors no later than seven days prior to the opening of qualifying for the presidential preference primary. Such notification shall be considered valid and effective for subsequent presidential preference primaries unless the state central committee notifies the Department of State that its bylaws no longer allow for such voting by non-affiliated electors no later than seven days

prior to the opening of qualifying for a presidential preference primary.

D. Any elector who is not affiliated with any political party and who is allowed to cast his vote on the ballot of a recognized political party in the presidential preference primary pursuant to this Section shall cast his vote on the ballot of only one recognized political party.

~~E. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Code to the contrary, in any statewide presidential preference primary election, at any precinct where the presidential preference issue or election of political party officials or both are the only matters on the ballot, the number of election commissioners required in such precinct shall be one commissioner in charge and two commissioners.~~

NUMBER 22:

EXPLANATION: Changes the age of a child who may accompany his or her parent or legal guardian into the voting machine to fifteen years of age or younger to allow older children to learn about elections and observe the process of voting.

SUGGESTED EFFECTIVE DATE: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:563. Procedure for voting

A. The commissioners shall not allow more voters to approach the voting machines than there are vacant machines available for voting. Except as otherwise provided by law, the commissioners shall not allow more than one person to enter a voting machine at a time.

B. A ~~pre-teen~~ child who is fifteen years of age or younger may accompany his parent or legal guardian into the voting machine.

C. (1) A voter shall not remain in a voting machine longer than three minutes. If a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after a commissioner has notified him that three minutes have elapsed, the commissioners shall order the voter to complete voting and leave the voting machine.

(2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, a voter receiving assistance in voting pursuant to R.S. 18:564 or a voter using the audio ballot shall be allowed to remain in a voting machine for up to twenty minutes. If such a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after a commissioner has notified him that twenty minutes have elapsed, the commissioners shall order the voter to complete voting and leave the voting machine.

D. (1)(a) In order to cast a vote on a voting machine, a voter shall make at least one selection in a candidate or proposition election. Voting is completed by activating the cast vote mechanism.

(b) If a voter has made any selection in a candidate or proposition election but has failed to activate the cast vote mechanism, a commissioner observed by at least one other commissioner shall activate the cast vote mechanism for the fled voter without altering any selections made by the voter.

(c) If a voter has failed to make any selection before leaving the voting machine and, therefore, a commissioner cannot activate the cast vote mechanism for the fled voter, a commissioner shall complete in triplicate the notation of irregularities form provided by the secretary of state and reset the voting machine.

(2)(a) In order to cast a vote on a paper ballot, a voter must make a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by completely filling in the oval to the right of a selection and returning the ballot to the appropriate election official within the applicable deadline set forth by law. If a voter makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that office or proposition will be void.

(b) If a voter determines that his ballot is spoiled because he wants to change or correct his vote on the ballot before it is cast and counted but is unable to do so, he may obtain a replacement ballot upon returning the spoiled ballot to a commissioner. The voter shall cast his vote as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph using the replacement ballot. The commissioner shall write the words "spoiled and replaced" on the ballot and shall place it in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters".

E. A voter shall promptly leave the polling place after voting and shall not reenter a voting machine.

NUMBER 23:

EXPLANATION: Changes the deadline for a voter to submit an application to vote absentee by mail from the fourth day prior to the election to the fifteenth day prior to the election to allow for more transit time for the application to be received by the registrar and to follow the recommendation of the United States Postal Service. The change in the deadline does not apply to voters who are military, overseas, sequestered jurors or hospitalized.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1307. Application by mail

A. A person qualified to vote absentee by mail under this Chapter may make application therefor to the registrar by letter; over his signature or mark if the voter is unable to sign his name, signed by two witnesses who witnessed the applicant's mark; setting forth:

(1) The election or elections for which he requests an absentee ballot.

(2) The reason for his request to vote absentee by mail and attaching any documents in support thereof that are required by law. Any person who is or expects to be temporarily outside the territorial limits of the state or absent from the parish in which he is qualified to vote during the early voting period and on election day and who requests an absentee ballot be mailed to an address within the parish shall indicate in his application the dates he will be outside the territorial limits of the state or absent from the parish.

(3) The address to which the absentee ballot or ballots shall be sent. If the address is within the parish or an adjacent parish, such address shall only be the address at which the applicant is registered to vote, his mailing address on file with the registrar of voters, or an address at which he regularly receives mail.

(4) Notwithstanding Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, the absentee by mail ballots shall not be sent to the following addresses: (a) The address of a political party.

(b) The residential, business, or campaign address of a candidate, unless the

address is for the candidate's ballot or a ballot of an immediate family member of the candidate.

(c) A business address, unless the business address is the mailing address on file with the registrar of voters or an address at which the person regularly receives mail.

(d) The address of a political organization as defined in 26 U.S.C. 527.

(e) The address of an organization which has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code, unless the organization address is the mailing address on file with the registrar of voters or an address at which the person regularly receives mail.

(5) The ward and precinct in which the person is qualified to vote, if known.

(6) The date of birth of the voter.

(7) The maiden name of the voter's mother or other identifying information provided in the voter's application for registration pursuant to R.S. 18:104.

(8) The street address in the parish where the voter resides. A post office box is insufficient.

(9) If the person requests that a ballot for a general election be sent in addition to a ballot for the primary, he shall declare in writing to the registrar that he will be eligible to vote absentee by mail in the general election.

B.(1)(a)(i) An application to vote by mail may be delivered to the registrar by any means, including the United States Postal Service, commercial delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile.

(ii) If hand delivered by other than a commercial delivery service or the United States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such

delivery sign the application. No person, except the immediate family of any voter, shall hand deliver more than one voter's application to vote by mail to the registrar of voters.

(iii) If sent by facsimile, the person sending the application by facsimile shall sign the application to indicate that he is the sender and shall include the facsimile number from where the facsimile was sent. No person, except the immediate family of any voter, shall send by facsimile more than one voter's application to vote by mail to the registrar of voters. However, the provisions of this Item shall not apply to an application by a person who is entitled to vote pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

(b) An application to vote by mail transmitted by facsimile to the registrar of voters shall not be sent on a facsimile machine that is owned, operated, or under the control of a candidate or agent of a party or campaign in the election, unless the application is for the candidate.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, with respect to members of the United States Service and persons residing outside the United States who are registered to vote, an application to vote by mail may be delivered to the registrar by electronic transmission.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, with respect to applicants who have a valid Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special identification card issued pursuant to R.S. 40:1321 who are registered to vote, an application to vote by mail may be made by completing and submitting an electronic application to vote by mail on the secretary of state's website.

(2) Except as provided in Subsections C and D of this Section and R.S. 18:1333(D)(1), an application must be received by the registrar not later than 4:30 p.m. on the ~~fourth~~ fifteenth day prior to the election for which it is requested, and the date received shall be noted thereon. However, if the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the final day of the deadline.

C. If the applicant is a member of the United States Service or resides outside the United States, he may use the federal postcard application or an application electronically transmitted by the registrar or secretary of state, and the application shall be received by the registrar no later than 4:30 p.m. on the day before the election. Such application shall be valid for a period extending at least one year from the date the application is received in the office of the registrar of voters; such period shall include at least one regularly scheduled federal general election. If the registrar rejects the application of an applicant who is a member of the United States Service or resides outside the United States, the registrar shall provide the applicant with written reasons for the rejection.

D. If the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S. 18:1303(D)(1) and submits with his application documentation showing his hospitalization from his physician or the hospital, the application shall be received by the registrar of voters no later than 4:30 p.m. on the day before the election.

E. A person entitled to vote absentee by mail may request in his application for an absentee ballot for a primary election that an absentee ballot for the succeeding general election be sent to him when such ballots become available for distribution; however, in such case, the applicant shall declare in writing to the registrar that he will be eligible to vote absentee by mail in the general election.

F. The registrar shall not send an absentee ballot to an applicant whose application for an absentee ballot does not meet the requirements of Subsection A or B of this Section. If the registrar rejects an application for an absentee ballot, the registrar shall provide the applicant with written reasons for the rejection.

G. If the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S. 18:1303(F), (I), or (J), his application, if such application meets the requirements of this Section, may remain valid indefinitely upon request of the applicant, unless an absentee by mail ballot that has been sent to the applicant is returned to the registrar as undeliverable. If the applicant's absentee by mail ballot is returned to the registrar as undeliverable, the registrar shall send notice by forwardable mail to such applicant that his application will no longer be valid, and the applicant shall be required to submit a new application to the registrar that meets the requirements of this Section and provide a current address before the applicant

will be eligible to vote absentee by mail again pursuant to this Section.

H. If the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S. 18:1303(H), his application, if such application meets the requirements of this Section, shall remain valid as long as the applicant is a program participant in the Department of State Address Confidentiality Program pursuant to Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 44 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. When the applicant ceases participation in the program, the Department of State shall notify the registrar of the parish where the applicant is registered to vote that the applicant is no longer a participant in the program. Upon receipt of the notification from the Department of State, the registrar shall send notice by forwardable mail to the applicant that his application will no longer be valid, and the applicant shall be required to submit a new application to the registrar that meets the requirements of this Section and provide a current address before the applicant will be eligible to vote absentee by mail again pursuant to this Section.

I. If the registrar of voters has reason to believe that the eligibility of a voter to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S. 18:1303(I) is based upon false or fraudulent information, he shall immediately notify the parish board of election supervisors. If, after appropriate hearing and opportunity for the voter to be heard, the parish board of election supervisors finds that the voter's eligibility to vote absentee by mail was based upon false or fraudulent information, the board shall inform the appropriate district attorney and the registrar of voters who shall not allow the voter to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S. 18:1303(I).

NUMBER 24:

EXPLANATION: Allows any parish, upon written approval of the secretary of state, to conduct the preparation and verification of absentee by mail ballots beginning four days before the election day to allow parishes that may have a large number of absentee by mail ballots to have additional time to process ballots and ensure that the ballots are counted on time. Also addresses the preparation and verification of challenged ballots four days before the election.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1313.1. Preparation, verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots; ~~parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail ballots~~

A. ~~Parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail ballots returned to the registrar of voters for a primary or general election~~ , upon written approval of the secretary of state, for a primary or general election may conduct the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots ~~the day~~ beginning four days before the election and conduct the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day in the manner provided by this Section.

B. The parish board of election supervisors shall be responsible for the preparation, verification, counting, and tabulation of all absentee by mail and early voting ballots in the parish. The board may utilize parish board commissioners to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots in the parish. If the board determines that parish board commissioners are necessary for the preparation and verification process to count and tabulate the absentee by mail and early voting ballots ~~the day~~ beginning four days before the election and to count and tabulate the absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, it shall select parish board commissioners in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:1314. If a majority of the members of the board are not present for the preparation and verification process to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots or to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and no parish board commissioners were previously selected, the members present may select a sufficient number of parish board commissioners ~~on the day~~ four days before the election or on election day, as applicable, to assist in the preparation and

verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots and the tabulation and counting of the ballots.

C.(1) The preparation and verification process for the counting of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots may be conducted ~~the day~~ beginning four days before the election at a public facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors.

(2) Absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a public facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors, which time shall be on election day no later than 8:00 p.m.

(3) Prior to the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any person authorized by the secretary of state may assist the registrar of voters in the challenge removal process on the early voting machines, in the reading of the early voting machine results cartridges on the secretary of state's equipment, and in producing the early voting machine results report. All early voting machine results reports shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container.

D.(1) If the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots begins on election day prior to the closing of the polls, such counting and tabulation shall be conducted in a location and manner to prevent disclosure of the results prior to the closing of the polls. Each person except a person providing security to the parish board of election supervisors; a representative of the attorney general, with written approval of the secretary of state; the clerk of court; the registrar of voters; or a person providing technical assistance pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection who enters the location in which the absentee by mail and early voting ballots are being counted and tabulated on election day shall remain in that location and shall not be allowed to leave except temporarily, and then only when accompanied by a law enforcement officer, and shall not communicate with any person outside until the polls are closed. The parish board of election supervisors may take any action necessary to ensure that no information with respect to the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots is transmitted from the location where the absentee by mail and early voting ballots are being

counted and tabulated on election day prior to the close of the polls on election day.

(2) Any person authorized by the secretary of state may provide security or technical assistance including advice, analysis, diagnosis, or repair for voting machines at the location where absentee by mail and early voting votes are being counted and tabulated. Such security or technical assistance shall be provided only upon the request of the parish board of election supervisors or a team of parish board commissioners, and may be made in person at the location where absentee by mail and early voting votes are being counted and tabulated, or by telephone, or both. Any authorized person providing such security or technical assistance may enter and leave the location where absentee by mail and early voting votes are being counted and tabulated on election day before the closing of the polls and during the process of counting and tabulation. No such person shall disclose any information with respect to the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots prior to the close of the polls on election day.

E. Candidates, their representatives, and qualified electors may be present during the preparation and verification process for the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots ~~on the day~~ beginning four days before the election and the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day. If the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots begins prior to the closing of the polls on election day, the board shall give notice reasonably calculated to inform any person who wants to be present during the counting and tabulation that no person will be allowed to leave or to communicate with any other person outside, until such time as the polls are closed, nor shall any person who is present during the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day possess a cellular telephone or electronic communication device.

F. The board shall count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and announce the results after the closing of the polls on election day as the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast in the election for each candidate and the total number cast for and against each proposition.

G. The procedure for the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots ~~on the day~~ beginning four days before the election shall be as follows:

(1)(a) A member of the board shall remove the certificates, early voting verification forms, early voting machine public counter logs, early voting confirmation sheets, absentee by mail ballots, early voting paper ballots, and envelopes containing the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots from the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container.

(b) The board shall review the early voting verification forms and early voting machine public counter logs and, if found to be acceptable to the board, sign each early voting verification form. If the board does not find an early voting verification form to be acceptable, it may review any early voting confirmation sheet and shall document its correction to the early voting verification form and then sign it.

(2) The board shall announce the name of each absentee by mail voter, each voter who voted a paper ballot during early voting and the ward and precinct where he is registered to vote, and shall compare the name on the certificate or on the flap of the envelope containing the absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot with the names on the absentee by mail voter report or early voter report, as applicable.

(3) The board shall separate any ballots that are challenged in accordance with R.S. 18:1315(A) or (B) from the ballots that are not challenged.

(4)(a) If an absentee by mail ballot has not been challenged and is determined by the board to be valid, a member of the board shall make a check mark on the absentee by mail voter report beside the name of the voter as it appears on the report and write his initials on each page of the report. If applicable, a member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the absentee by mail ballot and leave the envelope sealed.

(b) If an early voting paper ballot has not been challenged and is determined by the board to be valid, a member of the board shall write the words "voted early"

and his initials on the early voter report beside the name of the voter as it appears on the report. A member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the paper ballot voted during early voting and leave the envelope sealed.

(5) If an absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot has been challenged, the members shall leave the flap on the envelope, if applicable, containing the absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot and leave the envelope sealed.

(6) A member of the board shall place the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have been challenged and the ballots that have not been challenged in the special absentee by mail envelope or container provided for that purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two members of the board shall execute the first certificate on the envelope or container and date the certificate ~~the day~~ with the date on which it was executed before the election.

(7) The members of the board shall place the certificates of the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have not been challenged and the flaps removed from those ballots in the envelope or container provided for that purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two of the members shall execute the first certificate on the envelope and date the certificate ~~the day~~ with the date on which it was executed before the election.

(8) Absentee by mail ballots that are received by the registrar of voters after the preparation and verification process is completed but before the deadline to return absentee by mail ballots shall be prepared, verified, counted, and tabulated on election day.

H. The procedure for counting absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots on election day shall be as follows:

(1) A member of the board shall break the seal on the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, remove the certificates, absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have been challenged, and the absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have not been

challenged from the envelope or container.

(2) The board shall determine the validity of challenges filed in accordance with R.S. 18:1315(A) and (B).

(3)(a) If the board determines that an absentee by mail ballot is valid, a member of the board shall make a check mark on the absentee by mail voter report beside the name of the voter as it appears on the report and write his initials on each page of the report. If applicable, a member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the absentee by mail ballot and leave the envelope sealed.

(b) If the board determines that a paper ballot voted during early voting is valid, a member of the board shall write the words "voted early" and his initials on the early voter report beside the name of the voter as it appears on the report. A member of the board shall tear the flap from the envelope containing the paper ballot voted during early voting and leave the envelope sealed.

(4) If a majority of the members of the board determine that an absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot is invalid, the members shall leave the flap on the envelope containing the ballot, leave the envelope sealed, and a member of the board shall write the word "rejected", together with the reasons for rejecting the ballot, across the envelope containing the ballot or across the certificate attached to the special absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot. He shall also write the word "rejected" and his initials on the absentee by mail voter report or early voter report, as applicable, beside the name of the voter as it appears in the report. The rejected absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots and certificates shall be replaced in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container. No rejected absentee by mail ballot or early voting paper ballot shall be counted.

(5) After the validity of all absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots have been determined, the members of the board shall break the seal on the envelope or container and place the valid certificates and the flaps removed from the valid absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots in the envelope or container provided for that purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two of the

members shall execute the second certificate on the envelope and date the certificate the day of the election.

(6) The members shall open the envelopes containing the valid absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots and remove the ballots.

(7) The board shall, in accordance with the requirements of R.S. 18:1316, reject any ballot which contains a distinguishing mark or feature making the ballot susceptible of identification. However, a ballot shall not be rejected as containing a distinguishing mark if the ballot was transmitted electronically to a member of the United States Service, as defined in R.S. 18:1302, or a person residing outside the United States.

(8) If a ballot is physically damaged or cannot properly be counted by the counting equipment and the vote cast by the voter is clearly discernible from a physical inspection of the defective ballot, the ballot may be counted by hand or a true duplicate may be made of the defective ballot in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the ballot. Any duplicate ballot shall be clearly labeled "duplicate", bear a ballot number which shall be recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the defective ballot. After a ballot has been duplicated, the defective ballot shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, and the duplicate ballot shall be counted with the other valid ballots.

(9) The special absentee ballots cast by members of the United States Service or persons who reside outside of the United States may be counted by hand or counted as a true duplicate.

I. The procedure for counting early voting machine ballots on election day shall be as follows:

(1) A member of the board shall remove the early voting machine results reports from the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container.

(2) The board shall announce the results from each early voting machine results

report for the early voting ballots.

(3) The board shall determine the validity of challenges made in accordance with R.S. 18:1315(A) and (B).

(4)(a) Prior to utilizing any absentee by mail and early voting counting equipment, the parish board of election supervisors shall generate a zero tally to ensure that the equipment's candidate and question counters are set at zero and that no votes have been cast for any candidate or for or against any proposition.

(b) The board shall sign and certify to the correctness of each zero proof sheet and place all zero proof sheets in the special absentee by mail early voting envelope or container.

(5) The absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for a candidate and those cast for and against a proposition shall be counted and the total number of absentee by mail and early voting votes cast for a candidate and those cast for and against a proposition shall be announced in the order the offices and candidates and propositions are listed on the ballot. The members of the board shall enter the total number of votes on the final absentee by mail and early voting vote report and shall certify the results.

J. The final absentee by mail and early voting vote report prepared by the parish board of election supervisors shall be transmitted to the clerk of court immediately upon completion of the tabulation of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election night. A copy of the record shall be transmitted immediately to the secretary of state, and a copy of the record shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container.

K. When the absentee by mail and early voter reports have been returned to the registrar of voters, the registrar, based on the information contained in the reports, shall confirm that the words "voted by mail" or "voted early" are written in the proper space on the precinct register for each voter who voted early or absentee by mail.

L. (1) Upon completion of the tabulation and counting of the absentee by mail and

early voting ballots on election day, the parish board of election supervisors shall return the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and electronic results report to the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, shall seal the envelope or container, and shall deliver the envelope or container to the registrar of voters. The registrar shall preserve the envelope or container and its contents inviolate and, except upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction, shall not allow the absentee by mail and early voting documents to be inspected by anyone until the delay for filing an action contesting the election has lapsed. If an action contesting the election is commenced timely, the registrar shall continue to preserve the envelope or container and its contents inviolate, subject to the orders of the court, until the final judgment in the action has become definitive.

(2)(a)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, if the number of absentee by mail and early voting ballots cast for all candidates for an office could make a difference in the outcome of the election for such office, upon the written request of a candidate for such office, the board shall recount the absentee by mail ballots by hand or scanning equipment and early voting ballots electronically, unless paper ballots were used for early voting and in such case, the ballots shall be recounted by hand for such office.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, if the number of absentee by mail and early voting ballots cast for and against a proposition could make a difference in the outcome of the election, upon the written request of a person who voted in the proposition election, the board shall recount the absentee by mail ballots by hand or scanning equipment and early voting ballots electronically, unless paper ballots were used for early voting and in such case, the ballots shall be recounted by hand for such election.

(b) All recounts of absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be held at 10:00 a.m. or following the reinspection of voting machines on the fifth day after the election and at any time ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the fifth day after the election falls on a holiday or weekend, such recount shall be held on the next working day at 10:00 a.m. or following the reinspection of voting machines. Any written request for recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be filed with the clerk of court. The deadline for filing a request for recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be 4:30 p.m. on the last working

day prior to the date of the recount. Immediately upon receiving any request, the clerk of court shall prominently post in his office a notice of the time and place where the absentee by mail and early voting ballots will be recounted and the name of the candidate or the voter in the proposition election requesting the recount.

(c) Upon completion of the recount of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots, the board shall return the absentee by mail and early voting documents to the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, shall reseal the envelope or container, and shall deliver the envelope or container and its contents to the registrar of voters who shall preserve the envelope or container and its contents in the manner provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

(d)(i) The candidate or the voter in the proposition election requesting the recount shall be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with such recount, which shall be payable to the clerk of court. The costs shall be paid at the time the written request for the recount is filed with the clerk of court and shall be paid in cash or by certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union, United States postal money order, or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

(ii) If the recount changes the outcome of the election, the costs paid by the candidate or voter in the proposition election shall be refunded by the clerk of court, and the costs of the recount shall be a reimbursable election expense as provided in Chapter 8-A of this Title.

(3) A candidate or his representative, in the presence of a majority of the parish board of election supervisors, shall be allowed to inspect the flaps removed from the valid absentee by mail ballots and the flaps removed from the valid early voting ballots when paper ballots are used for early voting. All such inspections shall be held at 10:00 a.m. or following the recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on the fifth day after the election and at any time ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. If the fifth day after the election falls on a holiday or weekend, such inspection shall be held on the next working day at 10:00 a.m. or following the recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots. Any written request for inspection shall be filed with the clerk of court. The deadline for filing a

request for inspection shall be the last working day prior to the date of the inspection. Immediately upon receiving any request, the clerk of court shall prominently post in his office a notice of the time and place where the inspection will occur and the name of the candidate requesting the inspection. The candidate requesting the inspection shall be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with such inspection, which shall be payable to the clerk of court. The costs shall be paid at the time the written request for the inspection is filed with the clerk of court and shall be paid in cash or by certified or cashier's check on a state or national bank or credit union, United States postal money order, or money order issued by a state or national bank or credit union.

(4) The parish board of election supervisors shall be entitled to reimbursement at the rate established in R.S. 18:423(E) for attending the recount of absentee by mail and early voting ballots and inspection, but not both if they are conducted on the same day. However, such reimbursement shall not be counted toward the limitation provided in R.S. 18:423(J). No member of the parish board of election supervisors shall be reimbursed for attending a recount of absentee by mail an early voting ballots or inspection if such member received reimbursement for attending the reinspection of voting machines which was conducted on the same day as the recount of the absentee by mail and early voting ballots or inspection.

R.S. 18:1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

A. (1) A candidate or his representative, a member of the board, or a qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for the grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A), by personally filing his written challenge with the registrar no later than the fourth day before the election for which the ballot is challenged. Such challenge shall be on a form provided by the secretary of state.

(2) The form shall include:

(a) The ground, specified in R.S. 18:565(A), on which the challenge is made.

(b) The election involved.

(c) The specific reason for which the challenge is made.

(d) The name, address, and telephone number, if any, of the person challenging the ballot, all of which shall be written by the person challenging the vote.

(3) The form shall also include information about the date and place where the board will determine the validity of the challenge, which information shall be included by the registrar. Within twenty-four hours after the challenge has been filed, the registrar shall mail a copy of the challenge to the voter whose absentee by mail or early voting ballot is being challenged at the address shown on the registrar's roll of electors. The registrar shall retain the original challenge form and shall transmit it to the place where the absentee by mail or early voting ballot will be counted and tabulated for the use of the board on election day.

B.(1) During the preparation and verification process for the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots ~~on the day~~ beginning four days before the election, as applicable, or the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any candidate or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A).

(2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, for elections impaired as a result of a declared disaster or emergency, during the preparation and verification process for the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots before an election in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, or the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, any candidate or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A).

C. (1) During the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots, at least a majority of the members of the board shall hear and determine the validity of any ballot challenged in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A or B of this Section.

(2) If a challenge in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this Section is sustained, the vote shall not be counted, the ballot or early voting confirmation

sheet shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container, and the board shall notify the voter in writing of the challenge and the cause therefor. This notification shall be on a form provided by the secretary of state and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the board. The notice of the challenge and the cause therefor shall be given within three days by mail, addressed to the voter at his place of residence. The board shall retain a copy of the notification. However, if the challenge is based upon a change of residence within the parish or is based upon a change of residence outside the parish that has occurred within the last three months, the ballot shall be counted provided that the voter confirmed his current address as shown by the affidavit of the absentee by mail ballot envelope flap or early voting confirmation sheet or, if the voter is on the inactive list of voters, as shown by the information provided on an address confirmation card.

(3)(a) If a challenge in accordance with the provisions of Subsection B of this Section is sustained, the vote shall not be counted, the board shall write "rejected" and the cause therefor across the ballot envelope or early voting confirmation sheet, and shall place the ballots and early voting confirmation sheets so rejected in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container. The board shall notify the voter in writing of the challenge and the cause therefor. The notification shall be on a form provided by the secretary of state and shall be signed by at least a majority of the members of the board. The notice of the challenge and the cause therefor shall be given within three days by mail addressed to the voter at his place of residence. The board shall retain a copy of the notification.

(b) If a ballot is rejected pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:1316, the vote shall not be counted, the board shall write "rejected" and the cause therefor on a separate slip of paper and attach it to the ballot, and shall place the ballots so rejected in the special absentee by mail and early voting ballot envelope or container.

NUMBER 25:

EXPLANATION: Clarifies that actions objecting to the calling of a special election, objecting to candidacy, contesting the certification of a recall petition or contesting an election cannot be suspensively appealed to prevent delaying the election officials from performing their statutorily mandated duties relating to elections.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S.18:1409. Trial; decision; appeal

A.(1) Actions objecting to the calling of a special election, objecting to candidacy, contesting the certification of a recall petition, or contesting an election shall be tried summarily, without a jury, and in open court. The trial shall begin no later than 10:00 a.m. on the fourth day after suit was filed.

(2) If the defendant does not appear on the date set for the trial, either in person or through counsel, the court shall appoint an attorney at law to represent him by instanter appointment made prior to the commencement of the trial. In a case where a court appointment of an attorney to represent the defendant is made, the proceedings shall be conducted contradictorily against the court-appointed attorney.

(3)(a) The court shall determine the amount of the fee payable to curators ad hoc in accordance with criteria used by the court in fixing curator fees under Code of Civil Procedure Article 5091 et seq.

(b) The court shall tax the curator's fee as costs, and such fee shall be paid by the plaintiff unless the defendant was served personally at least twenty-four hours prior to the hearing and the appointment of a curator ad hoc was necessitated by his failure to appear at the trial, in which case the court may require the defendant to pay the curator's fee.

B.(1) If the action involves the contest of a primary election for a major office, the trial judge, for good cause shown, may postpone the date of the general election for the office as to which the contest was filed for a period not to exceed five weeks.

(2) Whenever the trial of an action contesting a primary election for a major office, extends past 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth day after the day of the election, the trial judge shall order the general election for the affected office postponed to a Saturday specified by him which is at least thirty days after the date on which the trial court renders judgment.

(3) As used in this Subsection, "major office" means offices voted on throughout the state or a congressional district, the offices of justice of the supreme court or judge of a court of appeal, the offices of members on a state board or commission, or offices which require election from a territorial jurisdiction having a population exceeding two hundred fifty thousand.

C. In all actions, the trial judge shall render judgment within twenty-four hours after the case is submitted to him and shall indicate the date and time rendered on the judgment. The clerk of the trial court shall immediately notify all parties or their counsel of record by telephone and/or facsimile transmission of the judgment.

D. Within twenty-four hours after rendition of judgment, a party aggrieved by the judgment may file a devolutive appeal by obtaining an order of appeal and giving bond for a sum fixed by the court to secure the payment of costs. The clerk of the trial court shall give notice of the order of appeal to the clerk of the court of appeal and to all the parties or their counsel of record. The trial judge shall fix the return day at a time not to exceed three days after rendition of judgment.

E. The clerk of the trial court shall prepare the record on appeal and transmit it to the clerk of the court of appeal on the return day.

F. Immediately upon receipt of the record the clerk of the court of appeal shall notify the parties and the case shall be heard no later than forty-eight hours after the record is lodged with the court of appeal. Judgment shall be rendered within twenty four hours after the case is argued. The court of appeal shall indicate the

date and time rendered on the judgment. The clerk of the court of appeal shall immediately notify all parties or their counsel of record by telephone and/or facsimile transmission of the judgment.

G. An application to the supreme court for a writ of certiorari shall be made within forty-eight hours after judgment is rendered by the court of appeal.

H. The appellate court shall sit en banc in all election contests involving candidates for offices voted on throughout the state or throughout a congressional district, justice of the supreme court, judge of a court of appeal, membership on a state board or commission, district judge, district attorney, or membership in the state legislature. In all other cases arising under this Chapter, the court may sit in panels of three or more as directed by the chief judge.

I. No application for a new trial or for a rehearing shall be entertained by any court, but a court, upon its own motion, may correct manifest error to which its attention is called.

J. As used in this Chapter, judgment shall be deemed to have been rendered when signed by the judge.

NUMBER 26:

EXPLANATION: Clarifies the types of activities that are considered electioneering. Also provides that circulating or seeking handwritten signatures to any petition within 600 feet of the polling place is a violation of the statute to prohibit the interference with the voters who are entering and exiting the polling place.

Suggested Effective Date: Governor's signature.

R.S. 18:1462. Acts prohibited during early voting or on election day; electioneering; intimidation; exceptions; enforcement; penalties

A. The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the right to vote is a right that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government. Due to a past, longstanding history of election problems, such as multiple voting, votes being recorded for persons who did not vote, votes being recorded for deceased persons, voting by non-residents, vote buying, and voter intimidation, the legislature finds that the state has a compelling interest in securing a person's right to vote in an environment which is free from intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction, and undue influence. The legislature, therefore, enacts this Subsection to provide for a six hundred foot campaign-free zone around polling places to provide to each voter such an environment in which to exercise his right to vote. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, it shall be unlawful for any person, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., to perform or cause to be performed any of the following acts within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting:

(1) To solicit in any manner or by any means whatsoever any other person to vote for or against any candidate or proposition being voted on in such election.

(2) To remain within any such polling place or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance of any such polling place, except when exercising the right to vote or exercising any other lawful activity, after having been directed by an election commissioner, law enforcement officer, registrar, or deputy registrar to leave the premises or area of a polling place.

(3) To hand out, place, or display campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature of any kind or description whatsoever which advocates for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.

(4) To place or display political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising which advocates for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.

(5) To circulate a ~~recall~~ petition or seek handwritten signatures to a recall petition.

B. The provisions hereof shall not apply to the placing and displaying, either by the owner, lessee, or lawful occupant thereof, or with the consent of such owner, lessee or occupant, of political signs or pictures on private property which is not being used as a polling place.

C. The provisions of this Section shall not be construed as prohibiting any appointed election commissioner or any official watcher from remaining in and about the polling place in which he was selected to serve.

D. No election official shall wear any badge, button, pin, or other insignia identifying him with any political candidate or faction.

E. No election official shall in any manner attempt to influence any voter to vote for or against any candidate or proposition being voted on in the election being held in that polling place.

F. The duly constituted law enforcement officers of the political subdivision in which any such election is being held shall enforce the provisions of this Section when requested to do so by a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner. The registrar, deputy registrars, commissioners-in-charge and commissioners likewise shall enforce the provisions of this Section at the polling places. The law enforcement officers, commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, deputy registrars and registrar are authorized to seize, remove, and destroy any political cards, signs, pictures, or literature being used or displayed in violation of any of the provisions hereof.

G. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. On a second offense or any succeeding offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

NUMBER 27:

EXPLANATION: Requires persons conducting exit polling within the campaign-free zone to register with the secretary of state to let the registrars and clerks know who has registered and put the Secretary of State on notice of the exit polling and provides penalties for failure to register with the Secretary of State.

Suggested Effective Date: January 1, 2022.

R.S. 18: . Registration of persons conducting exit polling during early voting or on election day; penalties

A. The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the right to vote is a right that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government and that voters should be free from intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction, and undue influence in the campaign-free zone provided in R.S. 18:1462(A) by individuals conducting exit polling who have not registered with the secretary of state.

B. No person shall conduct an exit poll between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, unless a registration statement has been filed with the secretary of state by the person conducting the exit polling prior to the start of early voting or election day, as applicable. The registration statement may be filed in person, by facsimile or electronic mail.

C. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be punishable, for the first offense, by a fine of one hundred dollars or ten days in jail, or both; for the second offense, by a fine of two hundred dollars or ten days in jail, or both; and for the third offense, by a fine of five hundred dollars or ten days in jail, or both.