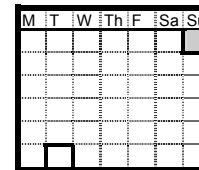


Louisiana

Note: Louisiana interviews were conducted before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Louisiana plans and policy may now be substantially different from the plans and policy represented here.

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 30 days before an election.¹



Database Implementation Status

Since the mid-1980s, Louisiana has used a voter registration database built in-house, and currently known as the Elections and Registration Information Network (ERIN). ERIN is a top-down system: county officials directly access a centralized state database. Louisiana is currently upgrading this database architecture.²

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? Parish officials generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the statewide system.

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by the Secretary of State, Office of Motor Vehicles (“OMV”), or another voter registration agency are sent to the Registrar of Voters in the appropriate parish for review and entry.³

How are most forms submitted? Louisiana reported that in 2004, 30% of forms were submitted by mail, 14% were submitted in person to election officials, 37% were submitted at the DMV, 5% were submitted at another voter registration agency, and 15% were submitted by other means.⁴

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? Louisiana’s form does not clearly state how an applicant should indicate that she has no valid identifying number.

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? If uncorrected (see below), and if otherwise eligible, the applicant will be registered as an “inactive” voter, and must provide identification and affirm her residence at the polls in order to vote a regular ballot.⁵

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? If uncorrected (see below), and if otherwise eligible, the applicant will be registered as an “inactive” voter, and must provide identification and affirm her residence at the polls in order to vote a regular ballot.⁶

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number, first name, last name, maiden name, and address.

How precise is the match standard? Louisiana intends to use an exact match standard (accounting for a maiden name), but has not yet finalized the criteria by which a match will be sought.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? The matching process will be fully automated.

Description of matching process: Louisiana has not finalized the details of its matching process. At present, state officials periodically submit a compact disc containing new applicants’ information to the OMV, which attempts to match records against its own database of driver’s license records. Each applicant’s record is then tagged as verified or unverified, and sent back to the state, which forwards results to the appropriate parish office. Louisiana is currently attempting to upgrade its system to provide for real-time matching.

Note: Louisiana also mails a verification notice to every voter submitting an application; if the notice is returned undeliverable, the application is rejected.⁷

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? If otherwise eligible, the applicant will be registered as an “inactive” voter, and must provide identification and affirm her residence at the polls in order to vote a regular ballot.

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may correct missing or incomplete information within 21 days, and may submit a new form at any point before the close of registration.⁸

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may submit information to resolve a failed match within 21 days, and may submit a new form at any point before the close of registration.

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Louisiana has no stated policy on whether an application may be corrected after the voter registration deadline, if the 21 days has not yet expired.

Description of notice and correction process: The parish registrar will attempt to notify by mail an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified. The applicant may offer corrections or additional information to resolve the failure within 21 days. Thereafter, the applicant will be tagged as “inactive,” and if otherwise eligible, she will be able to vote upon providing identification and affirming her residence.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? Every voter must provide photo identification.⁹ Any applicant tagged as “inactive” may vote upon further affirming that she currently resides within the appropriate parish.¹⁰

Forms of ID:

voter without verified identifying number:	“generally recognized” photo ID affirmation of residence
every voter:	“generally recognized” photo ID

An applicant registering in person must also submit, at registration, either a current Louisiana driver’s license or, if she has none, documentation which establishes her identity, age, and residency. If the registrar has reason to believe that the applicant is not the person she represents himself to be, the applicant must produce two witnesses who live in the precinct.¹¹ Furthermore, a naturalized applicant must submit proof of naturalization; if she is a first-time registrant, such proof must consist of a certified certificate of naturalization or a current passport.¹²

What forms of identification are accepted? Any “generally recognized picture identification card” is accepted as identification at the polls.¹³

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? A voter who has no such card must sign an affirmation stating that she has no such card, and must then provide “other information stated in the precinct register that is requested by the [election] commissioners.”¹⁴ If the voter does not sign the affirmation or cannot provide the additional information, she will be able to cast a provisional ballot in a federal election; in a non-federal election, she will not be able to cast a ballot.¹⁵ The provisional ballot will be counted if the parish board of election supervisors determines that the voter was registered and eligible to vote.¹⁶

Statutes and Regulations

LA. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 18:101 *et seq.* generally concern registration. LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 18:31(A) directs the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration database. There are no applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ LA. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 18:115(E)(1), 18:135(A).

² electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 18; electionline.org, *Statewide Voter Registration Database Status*, at <http://www.electionline.org/Default.aspx?tabid=288>

³ LA. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 18:114(F)(8), 18:116(D).

⁴ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁵ Louisiana officials indicated that such a voter would be placed on the “inactive list,” which is normally used in the case of a suspected change of address. *See* LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 18:196. A different provision of Louisiana law provides that if an applicant “fails to provide all of the required information on the application for voter registration,” the applicant shall be notified with an opportunity to respond, and “[i]n the event that the applicant does not respond to the request for the missing information within ten days, the application shall be rejected and the registrar shall so advise the applicant in writing.” *Id.* § 18:115(B)(1)(b).

⁶ *See supra* note 5.

⁷ *Id.* § 18:115(B)(1)(a).

⁸ Louisiana officials indicated that a voter may correct errors to the identifying number within 21 days, or the voter is placed on the “inactive list.” Different provisions of Louisiana law, concerning the failure to provide “required information” on a registration form, allow for a ten-day correction period before the application is rejected. *Id.* §§ 18:114(F)(8), 18:115(B)(1)(b), 18:116(E)(2).

⁹ *Id.* § 18:562(A)(2). The statute also provides that the voter’s signature will be compared to her signature on the picture identification, if any. *Id.* § 18:562(C).

¹⁰ *Id.* § 18:196(B).

¹¹ *Id.* § 18:105(A).

¹² *Id.* § 18:105(B).

¹³ *Id.* § 18:562(A)(2).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.* § 18:566(A).

¹⁶ *Id.* § 18:566.2(A).

USE THIS FORM TO: 1) register to vote 2) change your address 3) request a name change 4) change party affiliation

TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE YOU MUST: 1) be a United States citizen 2) be at least 17 years old to register but must be 18 years old to vote 3) not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony 4) not be under a judgment of full interdiction or limited interdiction where your right to vote has been suspended 5) reside in the state and parish in which you seek to register and vote.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM: All information except your signature should be printed clearly in ink, preferably black, or typed. Fill in all boxes that apply to you.

Box 1: Indicate whether you are a citizen of the United States of America. Indicate whether you will be 18 years of age on or before election day.

Box 2: Provide full name. Do not use initials for middle or maiden name.

Box 3: 'Residence Address' means the address where you live and are registering to vote. If you claim a homestead exemption, you must list the address of that residence. Do not use a post office box for your 'Residence Address'. If you use a rural route and box number, draw a map in the space labeled 'Give Location.' Write in the names of the crossroads (streets) nearest to where you live. Draw an X to show where you live. Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores or landmarks near where you live and write the name of the landmark. Complete 'Mailing Address' only if it is different from the 'Residence Address'.

Box 4: Provide your age.

Boxes 6 & 16: You must provide your Louisiana driver's license number, if issued. If not issued, you must provide at least the last four digits of your social security number, if issued. The full social security number may be provided on a voluntary basis. If neither a social security number nor a Louisiana driver's license number has been issued, and this form is submitted by mail, and you are registering to vote for the first time, in order to avoid additional identification requirements for first time voters, attach either a) a copy of a current and valid photo identification or b) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.

Boxes 8, 11 & 12: The items 'race/ethnic origin', 'daytime phone' and 'home phone' are not required but are helpful.

Box 9: If you do not complete this item, your party affiliation will be listed as 'none'. If you are not affiliated with a political party, please circle 'none'. The recognized political parties are Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Green and Reform or you may specify any other party affiliation.

Box 17: If you are using this form to request a change of name, you must print the name to be changed here.

Box 19: Date and sign the card with your signature or mark.

If returned by mail, either complete the 'Mail to:' box found on the reverse side or place in an envelope, using the address of the appropriate registrar of voters found on the reverse side. If you have not been issued a social security number or Louisiana driver's license number, you must mail it in an envelope so that you can include the required documentation with your application. Your application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote based on the residence listed on this application.

NOTE: 1. If you decline to register to vote, this fact will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes. If you register to vote, the office where your application was submitted will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes. 2. Your social security number will also remain confidential and is intended to be used for voter registration purposes only.

QUESTIONS? Call your Parish Registrar of Voters OR call the Department of State at 1-800-825-3805 or (225) 922-0900.

COMPLETE AND CHECK ALL APPLICABLE BOXES AND TEAR ALONG PERFORATED LINE BEFORE MAILING.

LOUISIANA MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION		OFFICIAL USE ONLY		FORM # 0110		COMP REG # _____		Reg Type _____		Wd / Dist _____		Pct _____		In _____		Out _____						
1 Are you a citizen of the United States of America? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> If you checked 'no' in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.																						
2 NAME OF APPLICANT (PLEASE PRINT NAME)												GIVE LOCATION										
LAST			FIRST			FULL MIDDLE OR MAIDEN																
3 RESIDENCE ADDRESS (MUST BE ADDRESS WHERE YOU CLAIM HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, IF ANY)																						
HOUSE OR APT. NO. & STREET (IF RURAL, ROUTE & BOX NO.)						CITY OR TOWN						STATE		ZIP								
MAILING ADDRESS, IF DIFFERENT																						
4 AGE		5 DATE OF BIRTH			6 LA DRIVER'S LICENSE / I.D. # (CIRCLE ONE)				7 SEX (CIRCLE ONE)		8 ** RACE / ETHNIC ORIGIN (CIRCLE ONE)											
		MONTH	DAY	YEAR	NO				MALE		FEMALE		WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	HISPANIC	AMER. INDIAN					
		YES #											OTHER:									
9 PARTY AFFILIATION (CIRCLE ONE)						10 APPLICANT'S PLACE OF BIRTH						11 ** DAYTIME PHONE										
DEM		REP		LIB		GRN		REF		NONE		CITY OR TOWN			PARISH OR COUNTY			STATE		COUNTRY		
OTHER (SPECIFY) _____												()										
12 ** HOME PHONE						13 LAST RESIDENCE ADDRESS						14 PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION			15 MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME							
()						ADDRESS						PARISH OR COUNTY			STATE							
16 * SOCIAL SECURITY # (CIRCLE ONE)						17 FORMER REGISTERED NAME, IF APPLICABLE						18 Will you require assistance at the polls? (CIRCLE ONE)										
NO												NO										
YES #												YES IF YES, GIVE REASON:										
AFFIRMATION: I do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I am a United States citizen, that I am at least 17 years old, that I am not currently under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, that I am not currently under a judgment of full interdiction or limited interdiction where my right to vote has been suspended, that I am a bona fide resident of this state and parish, and that the facts given by me on this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. If I have provided false information, I may be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 (\$2,500 for subsequent offense) or imprisonment for not more than 1 year (5 years for subsequent offense), or both. Any false statement may constitute perjury.																						
19 SIGN YOUR NAME IN BOX AT RIGHT.																						
DATE: _____ / _____ / _____												SIGNATURE: _____										
20 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SIGN YOUR NAME, TWO WITNESSES TO YOUR MARK MUST SIGN HERE.																						
SIGNATURE: _____												SIGNATURE: _____										

* Last 4 digits of the social security number required if no LA driver's license issued; social security number is intended to be used for voter registration purposes only; full # OPTIONAL. ** OPTIONAL LR-1M (REV.10/05) R.S. 18:104