

Disclaimer:

This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision making.

Questions Involving Access to the Ballot:

1. It is after 6:00 AM and the polling place is not open. What should I do?

Where available, contact the Legal Command Center in the voter's area immediately so that a mobile field attorney can go to the polling place. An attorney will contact the parish election officials to report the problem.

If the polling place is open at 6:00 a.m. but the voting machines have not arrived, call headquarters immediately. Voters should be permitted to vote by back-up paper ballots or by provisional ballots.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

2. It is 8:00 PM and my polling place is closed or closing and they will not let me vote. What should I do?

Immediately contact the Legal Command Center so that a mobile field attorney can be assigned to go to the polling place immediately. An attorney will contact the parish election officials to report the problem.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

3. There are equipment problems at my precinct and I cannot vote. What should I do?

Encourage the voter to ask to vote by a back-up paper ballot or by provisional ballot. Call the Legal Command Center immediately so that an attorney can go to the precinct to check on the problem. An attorney will also contact the parish election officials to report the problem.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

Identification and Provisional Ballots:

1. I do not have any identification with me. Can I vote?

Yes, if the voter signs an affidavit, and provides additional identifying information such as a current registration certificate, date of birth, or other information disclosed in the precinct register that is

requested by the commissioners. The voter can vote after a commissioner is satisfied that the voter is the same person as named in the precinct register and is qualified to vote.

2. I am a registered voter who is not named on my precinct register. Can I vote?

Confirm that the voter is qualified to vote (i.e., meets the age, criminal status and durational residency requirements) and that the voter registered in time to vote in this election. Next, using the online poll locator tool, make sure the voter is at the correct polling place.

If the voter has registered on time, is eligible and is in the correct polling place, direct the voter to ask the poll worker to call the county clerk and confirm the registration. If the voter still is not on the register, let the voter know that the voter can vote provisionally. This is the LAST resort, as provisional ballots will only be counted if the county clerk can later verify the voter's registration status before the election is certified.

3. Poll workers are turning voters away if they don't have photo ID.

Call the Legal Command Center immediately to report the problem. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. Encourage the voter to go back inside the polling place and demand the right to vote by a REGULAR ballot.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

4. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Provisional ballots are the LAST resort.

Provisional ballots will be counted on the third day following the election, prior to the compilation of returns at the office of the registrar of voters, or at a public facility in the parish designated by the parish board of election supervisors. The registrar of voters compiles a list of names of individuals who voted a provisional ballot, including those who voted early voting provisional ballots. The registrar of voters, Secretary of State, and other state and local agencies will compile and provide available registration documentation to the parish board of election supervisors for the purpose of determining whether the individual casting a provisional ballot is a registered voter and eligible to vote in the election. The parish board of election supervisors is responsible for counting and tabulating all of the provisional ballots for federal office.

Voters who cast provisional ballots and want to know whether their votes were counted can call the Secretary of State Elections Division at 1-800-883-2805. Voters should wait at least seven days after an election to call and should have their provisional ballot number when they make the call.

Where to Vote:

I. Where do I vote (for voters who have not moved)?

You can look up polling locations at Louisiana's online poll locator at the Secretary of State of Louisiana's website at <http://pollinglocator.sos.louisiana.gov/> or contact the applicable registrar of voters. A list of the registrar of voters and corresponding contact information, by parish, is in Appendix D of the manual.

2. I have moved within the same PRECINCT (and parish) and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

If the voter has moved within the same precinct (in the same parish), the voter may vote at the polling place of the last address on file with the registrar of voters upon completing an address confirmation card affirming the new address within the precinct.

3. I have moved to a different precinct within the same PARISH and I have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

The voter may vote at the polling place of the last address on file with the registrar of voters upon completing an address confirmation card affirming the new address within the parish.

4. I have moved from one parish to another and have not updated my address for voter registration purposes. Where should I vote?

The voter may vote at the polling place of the last address on file with the registrar of voters upon completing an address confirmation card affirming the new address and affirming that the length of time since the move has not exceeded three months. If the registrant does not affirm that he/she has moved within the last three months, he/she will not be permitted to vote.

Assistance at the polls:

1. I am physically disabled and need assistance; will my polling place be accessible?

Louisiana law requires that whenever a voter's assigned polling place is inaccessible to him/her because of a physical disability, the voter may cast his/her vote at the polling place nearest the voter's registered precinct which is accessible to the voter, provided such polling place is within the same district as the voter's registered precinct. To be permitted to cast a vote at *another* precinct, the voter must produce evidence of the disability to the registrar of voters in the parish in which he/she is registered, at least ten days before the election. If, in the registrar's opinion, the voter, because of the physical disability, is unable to cast his/her vote at the voter's registered precinct, the registrar will issue special authorization to the voter to cast his/her vote at another specifically named precinct and will transfer the registration certificate of such voter to that precinct. The voter must show the authorization to the commissioners at the polling place.

If a voter reports that a polling place is not accessible to the physically disabled consistent with the above requirements, call the Legal Command Center so an attorney can get in touch with the responsible election official to report the problem immediately. Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

2. I am blind, unable to read, unable to vote without assistance because of a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance at the polls in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

A voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above can take a person of his/her choice into the voting booth (except a candidate in any election, a commissioner-in-charge, an employer, an agent of an employer, or a union agent). Any voter who needs assistance, other than one who cannot read or write, must file a statement with the registrar that includes a physician's certificate as proof of disability. The registrar will indicate the need for assistance on the voter's original application

for registration, on the voting certificate, and on any other official registration records. The registrar will retain the statement of disability for 30 days after the election. Thereafter, the voter will not be required to present evidence of any kind at the polls. If the voter did not previously file proof of disability with the registrar, he/she will still be entitled to assistance on Election Day by presenting to the commissioner-in-charge a physician's certificate as proof of disability. The commissioner-in-charge will place the physician's certificate in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters" and attach the envelope to the precinct register.

Election Protection volunteers can serve as assistants to disabled or illiterate voters if asked to do so by the voter. In addition, a voter who is visibly handicapped, and the person assisting him or her, will be allowed to go to the front of the line to cast a ballot. If a poll worker refuses to allow a disabled or illiterate voter to bring a person of his or her choice into the voting booth, or refuses to allow a visibly handicapped person to the front of the line, call the Legal Command Center or, where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem

Louisiana is covered by the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. If you reside in Allen Parish, you are entitled to receive ballots, instructions and other voting materials in certain Native American languages.

Miscellaneous Issues:

1. I have been approached by candidates or others at the polls on Election Day.

Any persons conducting the following activities must stay at least 600 feet from the entrance to the polling place: (a) soliciting any person to vote for or against any candidate or proposition; (b) remaining within such polling place or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance of such polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed, in writing, by an election commissioner or law enforcement officer to leave the premises or area of a polling place; (c) handing out, placing or displaying campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature; or (d) placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising. They can solicit you if they comply with this rule. If they are violating the 600-foot requirement, contact the Legal Command Center to report the problem, let the command center know the extent of the problem and work with the command center to assess if calling an election official is necessary.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.

2. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

As long as the voter has NOT already submitted the absentee ballot, and is otherwise qualified, he/she should be allowed to vote in person by REGULAR ballot.

3. There are people at the polls trying to intimidate voters.

Call the Legal Command Center immediately. An attorney will be dispatched to the polling place. If the voter agrees, put the caller on hold while you call the Legal Command Center so an attorney can be dispatched to the location immediately. Then, gather as much information from the voter as possible. After hanging up with the caller, call back the Legal Command Center and give the attorneys there the details. Also, alert the call center manager.

Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem. Again, be sure to alert the call center manager.

In addition, the Louisiana Secretary of State's Elections Compliance Unit, and its Election Fraud hotline, will be open on Election Day and can be reached at **1-800-722-5305** or **1-225-342-4479** to receive complaints of election irregularities, including voter fraud and abuse, vote buying, and threats to disrupt or inhibit the election process.

4. I had a felony conviction. Can I vote?

Yes. Louisiana law permits convicted felons to vote so long as they are not currently "under an order of imprisonment" for a felony conviction, which includes on parole or probation, or serving a suspended sentence.

5. I am a college student, can I vote where I go to school?

Yes. Full-time students attending an institution of higher learning in Louisiana may choose to register at the place they reside while attending the institution or where they reside while not attending the institution, but cannot have more than one residence at any one time for purposes of registering to vote. Students do not need to have intent to reside indefinitely at the place where they offer to register. If a student has been turned away at the polls, ascertain if the student has fulfilled all of the registration requirements (age, criminal status, durational residency requirements) and has registered on time for this election. If so, contact the Legal Command Center to dispatch an attorney to the location and contact the appropriate election official. Where there is no Legal Command Center, call the election supervisor's office for that parish. If there is an on-call attorney in that jurisdiction, advise the attorney of the problem.