

LOUISIANA 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key provisions found within Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

- Intimidating, obstructing, hindering, or deceiving a voter related to their vote is a felony.
- Possessing a firearm in a polling place is a misdemeanor, except by peace officers in the performance of their duties.
- Engaging in any form of intimidation to influence an election official's performance of their duties is a felony.

VOTING HOURS

Election Day
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2024 ELECTION DATES

Presidential Primary: March 23
General Election: November 5

For more election dates:
[sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/
PublishedDocuments/
ElectionsCalendar2024.pdf](https://sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ElectionsCalendar2024.pdf)

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

Your local election official:
voterportal.sos.la.gov/registrar

LA Secretary of State:
800-883-2805 or 800-722-5305
[sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/
GetElectionInformation/Pages/
default.aspx](https://sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/Pages/default.aspx)



Election offenses involving threats or intimidation of voters

La. Rev. Stat. § 18.1461.4

- A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:
- (1) Intimidate, deceive, or misinform, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or nonvoting or voter registration or nonregistration, or the signing or not signing of a petition, including but not limited to any matter concerning the voluntary affiliation or nonaffiliation of a voter with any political party.
 - (2) While in the voting booth assisting another person in voting, coerce, compel, or otherwise influence the assisted voter to cast his vote in a certain way.
 - (3) Intimidate a person by the use of violence, force, or threats with the intent to influence that person's decision to vote or to impede such person's ingress or egress from a polling place.
 - (4) Without lawful authority, obstruct, hinder, or delay any voter on his way to or while returning home from any polling place where an election is being held or on his way to or while returning home from a place where he can legally exercise a vote concerning candidate representation of his party.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

C. No person shall:

(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.

Election offenses involving bribery, threats or intimidation of election officials

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

(1) Offer money or anything of apparent present or prospective value or use, directly or indirectly, or engage in any form of intimidation to influence the action or encourage inaction of any election official with regard to the duties of his office.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

Election offenses involving tampering with election equipment

La. Rev. Stat. § 18.1461.6

- A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:
- (1) Prior to an election, during transit to a polling place, during early voting, during election day voting or while in storage awaiting certification of election results, with intent to defraud, tamper with any voting equipment so as to attempt to influence the accurate and timely reporting of election results.
 - (2) Unlawfully, directly or indirectly, possess, tamper with, break, impair, impede, or otherwise interfere with the maintenance, adjustment, delivery, use, or operation of any voting machine or part thereof or with any of the paraphernalia connected with or appertaining thereto.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

Election offenses affecting election officials or watchers; penalties

La. Rev. Stat. § 18.1461.3

- A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:
- (1) Being an election official, permit fraudulent votes to be cast, or knowingly count votes not entitled to be cast.
 - (2) Fail, refuse, or neglect to discharge any duty imposed upon him, either individually or in an official capacity, by any provision of this Title.

(3) Supply a false answer or statement to an election official or in any document required by this Title, or execute an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information.

B. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection A of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.

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

(1) Being a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner fail to identify an applicant to vote as required by this Title.

(2) Sign another voter's name in the precinct register.

(3) Attempt to influence an election official or watcher in the performance of his duties on election day.

(4) Disobey any lawful instruction of a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner or a law enforcement officer providing assistance to maintain order at a polling place.

D. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection C of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned in the parish jail for not more than six months, or both.

Acts prohibited during early voting or on election day; electioneering; intimidation; exceptions; enforcement; penalties

La. Rev. Stat. § 18:1462

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. In order to preserve the integrity of its election process, and to protect the right of citizens to vote freely for the candidates of their choice, the state has a compelling interest in establishing a zone securing polling locations against certain conduct and activities, including voter intimidation, election fraud, confusion, and general disorder, that would interfere with the exercise of the right to vote. 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, 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 advocate 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 advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.

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

Law enforcement assistance to commissioners

La. Rev. Stat. § 18:428

A. Presence at polling places on election day. Law enforcement officers shall not be stationed at polling places on election day, but the commissioners or the clerk of court may summon law enforcement officers to assist them in preserving order, enforcing the election laws, or protecting election officials from interference with the performance of their duties. Law enforcement officers shall not be eligible to serve as commissioners-

in-charge, commissioners, alternate commissioners, or watchers.

B. Authority over law enforcement officers. — A law enforcement officer at a polling place on election day is subject only to the orders of the commissioners at that polling place.

C. Duty of law enforcement officers. — A law enforcement officer at a polling place on election day shall assist the commissioners in preserving order, enforcing the election laws, and protecting election officials from interference with the performance of their duties. A law enforcement officer shall not enter a polling place on election day except to vote or to enforce the orders of the commissioners, and a law enforcement officer shall not interfere with the conduct of the election, the voters, or the election officials.

D. The office of the district attorney in each parish in which an election where a candidate appears on the ballot is being conducted may remain open during the hours that polling places are required to be open for voting. However, the office of the district attorney in each parish in which a special bond or tax election is being held shall not remain open during the hours that polling places are required to be open for voting, unless requested by the governing authority.

E. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, law enforcement officers may be stationed at polling places if in the regular course and scope of their duties such law enforcement officers provide security for the public building in which the polling place is located and for the personnel working in such building.

Law enforcement officers stationed at a polling place pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection shall not interfere with the conduct of the election, the voters, or the election officials.

F. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, law enforcement officers may enter the polling place when there is a reasonable belief there is an emergency and the commissioners are unable to summon the law enforcement officers.

G. Law enforcement officers. — For purposes of this Code, the term "law enforcement officer" shall mean any employee of the state, a municipality, a sheriff, or other public agency, whose permanent duties actually include the making of arrests, the performing of searches and seizures, or the execution of criminal warrants, and who is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or for the enforcement of the penal, traffic, or highway laws of this state.

Election offenses

La. Rev. Stat. § 18.1461.2

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

(6) Forge, alter, add to, deface, take, destroy, or remove from proper custodial care any book, card, record, voter registration application, election return, nomination papers, withdrawals of candidacy, election supplies, election paraphernalia, or any affidavit or other document required or provided for under the provisions of this Title, unless required to be removed by a court of competent jurisdiction for inspection and photostatic copying for the court record.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.



Committee for

**SAFE AND SECURE
ELECTIONS**

