

Section 1: The Fair Ballot Access Act

Section 2: Amendments to LA Rev Stat § 18:465

Nominating petitions

A. Time and place of filing. A nominating petition shall be filed with the official with whom the candidate qualifies and shall accompany the notice of candidacy.

B. Method of nominating candidates. A person may only be nominated as a candidate in a primary election by persons who are registered to vote on the office he seeks who sign a nominating petition for him no more than one hundred twenty days before the qualifying period opens for candidates in the primary election. In addition to his signature, each voter who signs a nominating petition shall date his signature and shall provide the ward and precinct in which he is registered to vote, his residence address, including the municipal number, the apartment number, if any, the rural route and box number, or any other physical description that will identify his actual place of residence. Once a voter has signed a nominating petition, he may not withdraw the nomination. The secretary of state shall prepare forms which may be used by any person who seeks nomination as a candidate by nominating petition. The secretary of state shall furnish copies of the forms to each clerk of court, and the forms shall be available, upon request, at the office of the secretary of state or at the office of the clerk of court. Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require nominating petitions to be filed only on forms prepared by the secretary of state.

C. Number of signatures required. The number of qualified voters who must timely sign a nominating petition is:

(1) For a candidate for an office voted on throughout the state— ~~five~~ two thousand five hundred, not less than ~~five~~ two hundred of which shall be from each of the congressional districts into which the state is divided.

(2) For a candidate for membership on the Public Service Commission— ~~one thousand~~ seven hundred fifty from within that district.

(3) For a candidate for any of the following offices:

(a) Louisiana Supreme Court Justice— ~~one thousand~~ seven hundred fifty from within that district.

(b) United States Representatives in Congress— ~~one thousand~~ seven hundred fifty from within that district.

(c) Member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education— ~~one thousand~~ seven hundred fifty from within that district.

(d) Judge of a court of appeal--five hundred from within that district.

(e) Any officer elected from throughout a judicial district--five hundred from within the district.

(f) Louisiana Senate--five hundred from within the senatorial district.

(g) Louisiana House of Representatives--four hundred from within the representative district.

(h) Any officer elected from throughout a parish--four hundred.

(i) Any officer elected from throughout a ward--one hundred for member of a parish governing authority and for member of a parish or city school board and one hundred for any other.

Section 3. If any provision of this act is found to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.