

LWVLA Voter Services Bills/Instruments, 2024 Legislative Session (updated 3/19/2024)

Committee	Bill Number	Author, Party & District	Summary	LWVLA Position
<b>House &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	<a href="#">HB319</a>	Candace Newell (D-Orleans)	ELECTIONS/POLLING PLACES: Provides relative to notice of the reason for changes to polling places	<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. The League has undertaken concerted nationwide efforts to promote voter protection and education to prevent the development of processes and laws that threaten to disenfranchise voters, educate the public on new election procedures, and provide voters with the information they need to cast a vote and be sure that vote is counted. The League supports effective polling place management and fair distribution of polling places and other voter resources.</p> <p>Timely notice of polling place changes is essential in order for voters to cast their votes. Provision of the reason for polling place changes will supply necessary the information to assess whether access to polling places is being managed and distributed in a fair and equitable way and strengthens trust in our election system.</p>
<b>House &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	<a href="#">HB324</a>	Delisha Boyd (D-Orleans)	VOTERS/VOTING: Provides for early voting on Sundays	<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Many voters in Louisiana, particularly those who attend church on Sundays would like the opportunity to engage in “Souls to the Polls” voting events with</p>

				members of their churches. Refusal to hold elections on Sundays disproportionate affects voters of color and those with religious convictions that support voting and civic participation.
<b>House &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	<a href="#">HB347</a>	Kyle M. Green Jr. (D-Jefferson)	ELECTION DAYS: Extends the duration of the early voting period	<b>SUPPORT</b> The League supports expanded opportunities for early voting, which has been increasingly used by Louisiana voters in recent years, especially in public health emergencies.
<b>House &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	<a href="#">HB 476</a>	Josh Carlson (R-Lafayette)	ELECTIONS/ABSENTEE VOTE: Provides for the delivery of absentee ballots by a person other than the voter  Assistance in mailing ballot bill. Prohibits any person except an immediate family member from sending more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar through the U.S. Postal Service or commercial courier. See also SB 155, 218.	<b>OPPOSE</b> Louisiana has been losing population in recent years, particularly among its younger population. Elders, retirees, and disabled people without family in-state find it difficult to find people to assist them with completion, witnessing, and delivery of their absentee mail ballots. If an elderly couple with no family in state are housebound, would they have to get two different non-family members to assist them in putting their ballots in the mail?  This bill criminalizes good neighbors, religious organizations, social services, and helping professions who might be well-situated to help multiple people in their communities who need assistance in voting. It is both voter suppression and voter suppression by proxy in deterring this assistance.
<b>House &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	HB506	Polly Thomas (R-Jefferson)	VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides relative voter registration applications	<b>OPPOSE</b> This bill threatens the work of a range of individuals and actors

			<p>collected through registration drives</p> <p>Requires individuals and entities intending to conduct a voter registration drive to first register with the secretary of state and to acknowledge the laws relative to voter registration activities including criminal offenses and provides for the related duties of the secretary of state.</p>	<p>who seek to register voters across the state in Louisiana. As a nonpartisan civil society organization that has been registering voters for more than a century, the League would likely survive any scrutiny of its status as a legitimate registering entity. But not all organizations have the League’s status, and the League does not operate in all areas of the state.</p> <p>The bill impedes voter registration and raises many questions of how a policy to register individuals and organizations to register voters would be implemented. For example, a “guidance” published by the Secretary of State in 2023 concerning what groups or organizations can do voter registration in high schools was unevenly implemented and resulted in some groups (including the League) from being able to do voter registration in high schools in some parishes. Something similar could well happen with this bill. The criminal penalties associated with this bill are also extreme and would likely deter individuals and groups from registering voters at all.</p>
<p><b>House &amp; Governmental Affairs</b></p>	<p><a href="#">HB581</a></p>	<p>Polly Thomas (R-Jefferson)</p>	<p>ELECTIONS: Provides requirements and restrictions on the ability to witness election documents</p> <p>See:  <a href="https://apnews.com/article/wisconsin-absentee-ballot-">https://apnews.com/article/wisconsin-absentee-ballot-</a></p>	<p><b>OPPOSE</b></p> <p>Louisiana has been losing population in recent years, particularly among its younger population. Elders and retirees without family in-state find people to witness their ballots. This bill also makes it harder for church,</p>

			witness-signature-lawsuit-215d8ae70ee42e1c828b8528987057ad	healthcare, and other workers who may encounter these populations to be able to help them vote. The fines and prison sentences are particularly onerous.
<b>Senate &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	<a href="#">SB96</a>	Sam Jenkins (D-Caddo)	VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to voter registration. (gov sig)	<b>SUPPORT</b> Provides that a person with a valid Louisiana driver's license or special identification card who requires internet access or other assistance may complete the online voter registration application in person at registrar of voters' office in the parish in which they are eligible to vote. This bill will assist voter registration.
<b>Senate &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	<a href="#">SB 155</a>	Caleb Kleinpeter (R-East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana)	VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to marking absentee by mail ballots. (8/1/24)  Absentee ballot witness bill. See also HB 476 and SB 218.	<b>OPPOSE</b> Louisiana has been losing population in recent years, particularly among its younger population. Elders, retirees, and disabled people without family in-state find it difficult to find people to assist them with completion, witnessing, and delivery of their absentee mail ballots. If an elderly couple with no family in state are housebound, would they have to get two different non-family members to assist them in witnessing their ballots?  This bill criminalizes good neighbors, religious organizations, social services, and helping professions who might be well-situated to help multiple people in their communities who need assistance in voting. It is both voter suppression and voter suppression by proxy in deterring this

				assistance.
<b>Senate &amp; Governmental Affairs</b>	<a href="#">SB218</a>	Caleb Kleinpeter (R-East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana)	VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to voting. (8/1/24)  Assistance in voting bill.	<b>OPPOSE</b> Louisiana has been losing population in recent years, particularly among its younger population. Elders, retirees, and disabled people without family in-state find it difficult to find people to assist them with completion, witnessing, and delivery of their absentee mail ballots.  Recording information, including possible payment information about people who assist voters and could deter people from assisting the elderly and disabled to vote.  This bill criminalizes good neighbors, religious organizations, social services, and helping professions who might be well-situated to help multiple people in their communities who need assistance in voting. It is both voter suppression and voter suppression by proxy in deterring this assistance.  Additionally, and it is an odd addition to this bill, discretion whether to provide absentee by mail ballots to those displaced by emergencies could result in people being disenfranchised, when it is the responsibility of the SOS to facilitate their voting. The SOS should not be able to abdicate responsibility for assisting people to vote when they are impacted by a disaster.
<b>Senate &amp;</b>	<a href="#">SB 226</a>	Heather Cloud	VOTERS/VOTING: Provides	<b>OPPOSE</b>

<p><b>Governmental Affairs</b></p>		<p>(R-Evangeline)</p>	<p>relative to absentee by mail ballots. (8/1/24)</p>	<p>Rather than allowing voters the opportunity to cure absentee ballots that may be missing the affidavit flap or missing the information on the flap, this bill seems to greenlight challenges to ballots and increases the possibility that votes won't count. Voters should be given an opportunity to cure ballots, with the assistance of the ROV in these situations.</p>
	<p>SB 384</p>	<p>Cleo Fields (D-East Baton Rouge)</p>	<p>VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to voter identification requirements. (gov sig)</p> <p>Removes requirement to provide mother's maiden name on voter registration application.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>The very term "mother's maiden name" is poorly understood today, particularly among younger voters. To the extent that it creates confusion about which name to enter, it may deter particularly younger voters from registering to vote.</p>