



# VOTING BASICS

The Advocacy Center (AC) is a statewide non-profit agency providing free legal services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.



## VOTER REGISTRATION

To register to vote, Louisiana residents must submit a voter registration card at least 30 days prior to any election to be eligible to vote in that election. Voters can register in person, by mail, at the Department of Motor Vehicles or at other designated voter registration agencies, or online at <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Pages/OnlineVoterRegistration.aspx>.

## EARLY VOTING IN PERSON

All registered voters can vote early in person. No excuses are necessary. Early voting occurs 14 to 7 days prior to each election at the Registrar of Voters office. Additional sites for early voting may be available. Call the Registrar of Voter's office or the Secretary of State's election division (1-800-883-2805) for more information.

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS and EARLY VOTING IN PERSON DATES

**For the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election and Congressional Primary:** Tuesday, Oct. 25th through Tuesday, Nov. 1st (except Sunday and holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**For the December 10, 2016 Congressional General Election:** Saturday, Nov. 26th through Saturday, Dec. 3rd (except Sunday and holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Special elections are not included on this list. Call your Registrar of Voters to determine if your parish is holding any special election and you are eligible to vote.

## EARLY VOTING BY MAIL (ABSENTEE VOTING)

If you cannot vote in person and meet certain criteria (for example, you have a Mobility Impairment Card; current proof of disability showing eligibility for social security benefits, veteran's disability benefits, paratransit services, benefits from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services or are 65 years of age or older), you may request an absentee ballot. You must fill out the Request for Absentee Ballot by Mail form and mail it in to your local Registrar of Voters no earlier than 60 days before Election Day and no later than four days before Election Day. Call your parish Registrar of Voters or the Secretary of State

Election Division at 800-883-2805 for more information. Registrar of Voters contact information is available at <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/Pages/RegistrarAddresses.aspx>.

If you request and are certified to vote via absentee ballot because of disability or because you are over 65, you will automatically receive absentee ballots for future elections unless your address changes and your ballot is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

## **ASSISTANCE IN VOTING**

If you need assistance in voting, bring proof of disability with you when you register or go to vote. This proof will be placed in your record so that you may have assistance now and in the future. As an alternative, you may bring any of the following with you to vote or register: your mobility impairment identification card; current proof of disability showing eligibility for social security benefits, veteran's disability benefits, paratransit services, benefits from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, or benefits from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services.

YOU pick the person who will assist you; however it cannot be an election candidate, your employer or union worker. This person picks YOUR choices when YOU vote.

Each time you vote, it is your choice whether you vote in the traditional way, using the audio ballot feature, and/or with assistance.

Your name and the name of the person assisting you will be recorded in the precinct register, and the person who assists you must sign his or her name.

## **ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES**

The Advocacy Center is committed to ensuring that polling places are accessible. Common problems include no designated accessible parking, inaccessible entrance, stairs, no signage, barriers in the path of travel (cords, pots, planters), door handles that aren't accessible, etc. If you find an accessibility problem, please let the Advocacy Center know and tell the poll workers so that the problem can be corrected.

## **ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES**

There are many features available to make voting more accessible for people with disabilities. These include a 8 ½ x 11 magnifying glass to magnify ballots or other materials, audio voting attachments for all voting machines so that voters can listen to the ballot and vote using a keypad, and voting machines that can be lowered to allow a voter who uses a wheelchair to vote independently. Ask the election officials or poll workers for help.

Voters with visible disabilities can avoid waiting in line to vote. Ask a poll worker to be allowed to go to the front of the line.

## **WORKING AS A POLL WORKER**

Trained poll workers can earn up to \$200 per election, or \$250 per election when serving in an administrative capacity. Call your parish Clerk of Court or the Secretary of State Election Division at 800-883-2805 for more information. Clerks of Court contact information is available at

<http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/PublishedDocuments/ClerkOfCourtAndRegistrarOfVotersList.pdf>.

## **PROVISIONAL BALLOTS**

If the poll workers say you cannot vote, ask for a provisional ballot (only in federal elections). To see if it was counted, you may call the Secretary of State's Department of Elections at 1-800-883-2805 or visit <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Pages/ProvisionalVoterSearch.aspx>. Wait seven days after Election Day to call.

## **PROBLEMS?**

If you have problems, COMPLAIN! Contact the Advocacy Center (1-800-960-7705) for help. Don't wait! You ONLY have 90 days from final certification of the election to file a complaint.

### **For Assistance:**

**Call: TOLL-FREE 1-800-960-7705 (Voice or Via Relay)**

**Visit our website: [www.advocacyla.org](http://www.advocacyla.org)**

**Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/advocacyla](http://www.facebook.com/advocacyla)**

**Serving Louisianians, statewide**

To request services in Vietnamese, call 1-800-960-7705, extension 4.

Để đòi hỏi những công tác (dịch vụ) bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi 1-800-960-7705, mở rộng 4.

For information in Spanish please call 1-800-960-7705, ext. 3

Para información en español por favor llame 1-800-960-7705, ext.3.