



VOTER GUIDE

LOUISIANA



Geaux Vote, But Safely

Voting safely is the big priority for Louisiana this fall. Unlike the rest of the country, the state has to plan for two elections: the presidential race and a congressional primary on Nov. 3 and a runoff on Dec. 5.

For voters, that means studying options well in advance. Those who are 65 or older or meet other qualifications, such as a disability, can vote absentee and avoid the crowds.

Residents who are worried about lines on Election Day during the pandemic may vote early in their parish, from Oct. 20 to Oct. 27.

Because of the coronavirus threat, traditional campaigning will be limited, and that makes it harder to learn about candidates and issues.

AARP Louisiana will get information to members about the major priorities, but first, people need to be confident that their health won't be risked by voting, said Troy Broussard, the organization's state advocacy director.

"Some of our voters will vote safely from home with an absentee ballot," he said. "For those who decide to go the polls, we want to

provide them with information to do so in a safe manner."

For other voters, Broussard added, "being able to vote by mail is important to them."

Voters can expect some of the health and safety measures they experienced in the July primary. Poll workers will be supplied with personal protective equipment and will regularly sanitize designated areas and wipe down voting machines.

Hand sanitizer will be provided to voters. Social distancing will be practiced, and wearing a mask may also be required.

When Broussard voted in the primary, he found the process sanitary, with just one person allowed in the voting area at a time and even a small covering provided for the tip of the finger, for protection from the touch screen.

On Nov. 3 citizens will cast ballots for president as well as vote for congressional candi-

dates in an open primary. If no one wins a majority for the U.S. Senate race or a U.S. House seat, a two-person runoff will be held Dec. 5.

Protecting Medicare and Social Security remains a priority for older voters, but Broussard worries turnout will be lower this year.

To encourage residents to vote, AARP Louisiana will send mailers on important issues, use social media and host a tele-town hall. Go to aarp.org/la for updates. —*Hollie Deese*

"Being able to vote by mail is important" for voters.

—**Troy Broussard,**
AARP Louisiana state
advocacy director

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 5: Deadline to register by mail or in person

Oct. 13: Deadline to register online

Oct. 20–27: Early-voting period

Oct. 30: Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail (other than military, overseas and hospitalized voters, who have until Nov. 2)

Nov. 3: Election Day

Dec. 5: Congressional runoff

VOTING RULES AND OPTIONS

- Register online at sos.la.gov or at your parish Registrar of Voters Office.
- You can request an absentee ballot if you are 65 or older, have a disability or meet other qualifications.
- Request an absentee ballot at voterportal.sos.la.gov (click on Search by Voter).
- Use voterportal.sos.la.gov to find early-voting locations.
- You will need a driver's license or other form of ID at the polls. If you don't have an ID, you can sign an affidavit to vote.
- Expect hand sanitizer, social distancing and other safety precautions at polling sites.
- Use voterportal.sos.la.gov to find your polling place on Election Day.
- On Election Day, polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

RESOURCES

- For information on election rules and voting procedures, go to sos.la.gov.
- For AARP Louisiana updates, go to aarp.org/LAvotes. For national updates, go to aarp.org/election2020.
- Ballotpedia.org has information on races and campaigns around the country.
- Find more information at usa.gov/voting.

FOCUS ON DECISION DAY

KEY RACES

U.S. Senate: Primary on Nov. 3; runoff on Dec. 5

U.S. House: Primary on Nov. 3; runoff on Dec. 5

MAJOR ISSUES

Nursing homes: With the high death toll in nursing homes due to COVID-19, what can the state and federal governments do to improve conditions?

Prescription drug prices: What actions should government take, if any, to block large price hikes?

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 2016 presidential election, **60.6 percent** of those eligible to vote in Louisiana turned out. That's right at the national average.