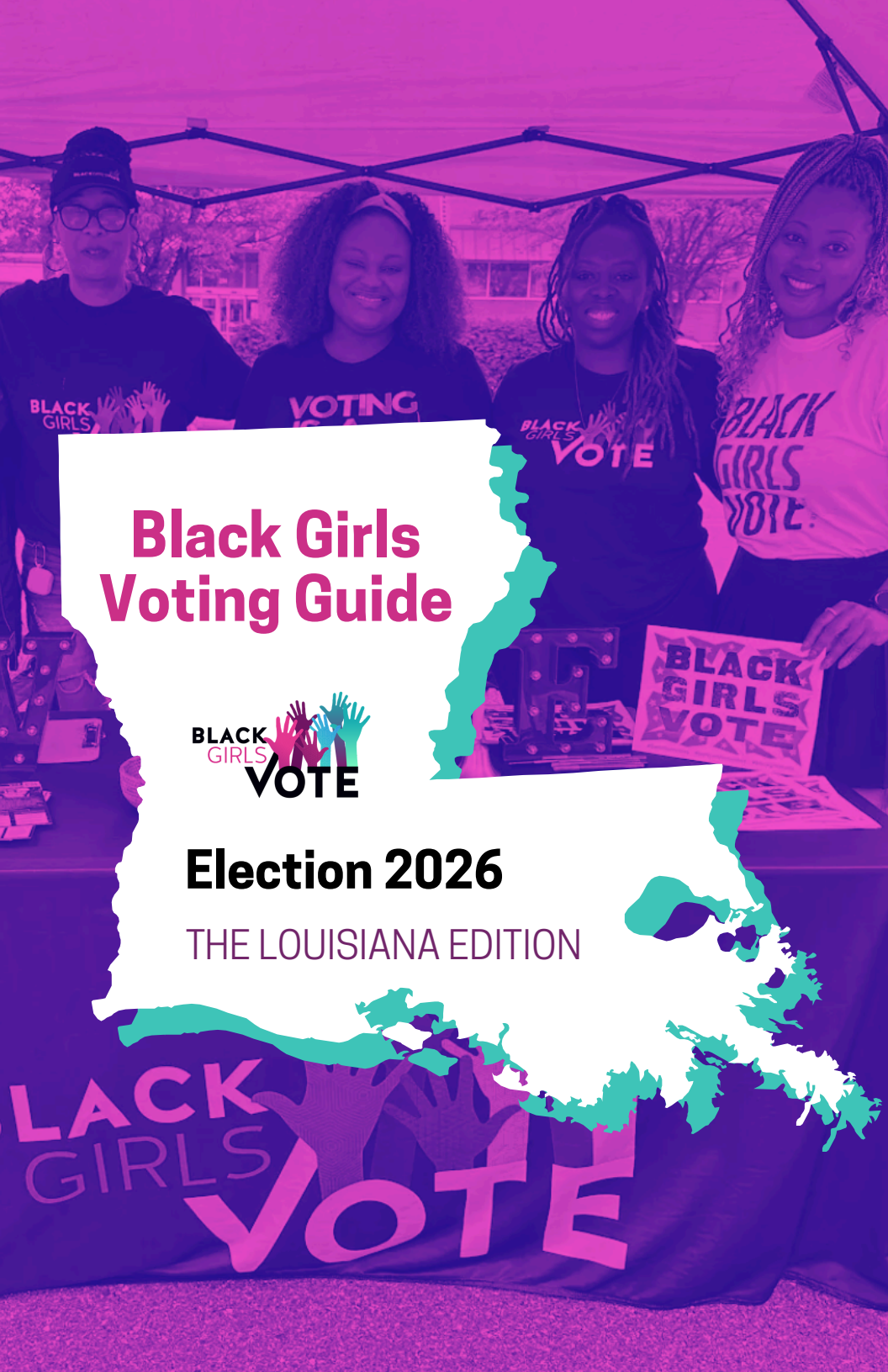




Black Girls Voting Guide



Election 2026

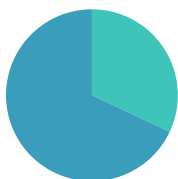
THE LOUISIANA EDITION

BLACK
GIRLS
VOTE

WHAT IS VOTING AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Voting refers to the process of choosing officials or policies by casting a ballot. The leaders we elect make decisions that affect our daily lives. **Elections are our chance to stand up for what matters most to us** and to have an impact on the issues that affect us, our communities, our families and our future.

Black women have historically faced significant barriers to voting in the United States, and continue to face voter suppression to this day. **Despite these challenges, Black women are one of the most powerful voter blocs in this country** and are at the forefront of voter mobilization efforts.



MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF BLACK WOMEN TURNED OUT TO VOTE IN THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Source: CAWP/Higher Heights, 2022

“If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm

First Black Woman Elected to Congress

First Black Woman to Run for President

Black Girls Vote launched on Shirley Chisholm’s birthday, November 30th, 1924.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN LOUISIANA?

You can vote if you are a U.S. citizen, a Louisiana resident, at least 18 years old on or before Election Day, and are registered to vote. Louisiana also requires proof of citizenship with your voter registration application.

If you've been convicted of a crime: Your voting rights are restored automatically once you complete your full sentence, including any time on probation or parole. If you're still on probation or parole, you can also automatically regain the right to vote five years after release, even if your sentence isn't finished.

Registering to Vote

The registration deadline for Louisiana was on October 13, 2026. Louisiana does not offer same-day registration, so if you have not registered to vote, you are no longer eligible to vote.

How to Vote



Early Voting

Vote early at your parish registrar of voters office or designated location. Early voting runs **October 20-27, 2026** (excluding Sunday, October 25).



Vote by Mail

Mail voting in Louisiana requires an approved reason (such as being age 65+, being out of town, or having a disability). If you qualify, request your ballot as soon as possible.



Vote on Election Day

This is the last day you can vote! Election Day is Tuesday, **November 3, 2026**. Polls are open 6 a.m.–8 p.m. If you're in line by 8 p.m., you can vote!



Scan QR for
more info



Louisiana requires photo ID to vote, but you're not turned away without one. You can still vote by signing a Voter Identification Affidavit at the polls.



THE VOTING EXPERIENCE

However you choose to vote, knowing what to expect can help you cast your ballot with confidence.

Voting In-Person

Know where to go.

During Early Voting, you can vote at any early voting center in your county. On Election Day, vote at your assigned polling place.

Ask for help.

If you have questions or experience a problem, ask to speak with an election judge before leaving the polling place.

Stay in line.

If you're in line by 8 p.m. on Election Day, stay in line. You can still vote.

Know your rights.

Voter intimidation is illegal. If someone threatens, harasses, or attempts to interfere with your ability to vote, alert an election judge and contact Election Protection at 866-687-8683.

Voting By-Mail?

See if you qualify.

Louisiana mail voting requires an approved reason. Early voting is the simpler no-excuse option if you don't qualify.

Request your ballot.

Submit your request as soon as possible, by 4:30 p.m. on October 30, 2026 at the latest.

Follow the instructions.

Read the instructions that come with your ballot carefully and complete all required steps before returning it.

Return your ballot.

Your ballot must be received by your parish registrar by 4:30 p.m. on November 2, 2026. After you return your ballot, check its status to make sure it was received.

LOUISIANA'S GOVERNMENT

Louisiana's government has three branches with different roles and responsibilities. Knowing how they work can help you better understand the offices and candidates on your ballot.



Executive

Enforces state laws, oversees the state budget, and appoints officials. Led by the Governor, along with other separately elected leaders. All were elected in 2023 and are not on the 2026 ballot.



Judicial

Interprets state law. Louisiana's system includes the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, District Courts, and City and Parish Courts.



Legislative

Makes Louisiana's laws. The Louisiana Legislature is made up of the State Senate and the House of Representatives. Like the executive officials, legislators were elected in 2023 and are not on the 2026 ballot.

The 2026 Election focuses on federal offices!

Louisiana elects its Governor and state legislature in odd years (2023, 2027), so this November's ballot centers on Congress, including a U.S. Senate seat and all 6 U.S. House seats. Depending on where you live, you may also vote for judges and local officials.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON & BATON ROUGE

Louisianans elect representatives to make laws at both the federal and state levels. Your members of Congress represent you in Washington, D.C., while your state legislators represent you in Baton Rouge.

U.S. Congress

In U.S. elections, voters elect members to the House of Representatives and the Senate, which together form Congress.

House of Representatives

All 6 of Louisiana's U.S. House seats are up for election. Every two years, Louisiana's full congressional delegation goes before voters.

Senate

Louisiana has a U.S. Senate race in 2026. Republican Julia Letlow and Democrat Jamie Davis are the nominees.

Louisiana Legislature

The Legislature makes Louisiana's state laws and is made up of two chambers:

State Senate: 39 senators

House of Delegates: 105 representatives

Louisiana elects its legislators in odd years, so every seat in both chambers was last on the ballot in 2023 and will be up again in 2027 (you won't see these races in 2026).



Look up your
representatives

VOTING FOR JUDGES IN LOUISIANA

Louisiana elects its judges directly, in the same open, all-candidates-on-one-ballot system used for other offices. Judicial races can also go to a December runoff if no candidate wins a majority in November.



Supreme Court

The state's highest court has seven justices, each elected by voters in one of seven Supreme Court districts to a 10-year term.



Courts of Appeal

Louisiana's five appeals circuits review decisions from the lower courts. Judges are elected by voters in their circuit to 10-year terms.



District Courts

These are Louisiana's main trial courts, hearing major civil and criminal cases. There's a district court in every parish, and judges are elected by voters in their judicial district to six-year terms.



City and Parish Courts

These local courts handle lower-level matters like traffic cases, misdemeanors, and smaller civil disputes. Judges are elected by voters in their city or parish to six-year terms.

Judicial decisions can shape people's rights, freedoms, families, and livelihoods. Research the judges and judicial candidates on your ballot so you can make an informed choice.

MARYLAND'S STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Louisiana voters elect statewide leaders who oversee state government, manage public dollars, and enforce state laws. These offices aren't on your 2026 ballot, but here's what each one does and why the role matters.



Governor

The Governor leads Louisiana's executive branch, oversees state agencies, proposes the state budget, and signs or vetoes legislation. The Governor also appoints key state officials and helps set Louisiana's policy priorities.



Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor assumes the governorship if the Governor can no longer serve and oversees the state's culture, recreation, and tourism programs.



Attorney General

The Attorney General is Louisiana's chief legal officer, representing the state in legal matters and providing legal counsel to state agencies. The office also works to protect Louisianans in areas including consumer protection and public safety.



Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is Louisiana's chief elections officer, overseeing how elections are run across the state's parishes. The office also maintains business filings and the state's official records and archives.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Candidates aren't the only choices on your ballot! Louisiana voters will consider ten statewide constitutional amendments in 2026, with five of them about property taxes. Depending on where you live, your ballot may also include local parish propositions, so be sure to review your sample ballot before you vote.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

- Property tax exemption for veterans' surviving spouses
- Local property tax rates
- Bail after conviction for crimes against children
- Governor term limits
- State retirement debt
- Senior property tax exemptions
- Lead water line replacement
- Foreign adversaries and property
- Property tax assessment freeze
- Rehabilitated properties



**Scan to read
more about the
constitutional
amendments**

MAKE A VOTING PLAN

Election Day will be here before you know it! Take a few minutes now to decide how you'll vote, research your ballot, and make a plan to get to the polls.

Research your ballot before you vote!

You can find a sample ballot with candidates and ballot measures on your state voting site.



QR for Vote 411

MY VOTING PLAN



I WILL VOTE...

☐ by mail ☐ during early voting ☐ on Election Day

VOTE BY MAIL PLAN

I will **request** my ballot by: _____

I will **return** my ballot by: _____

VOTING IN-PERSON PLAN

I will vote on this **day**: _____

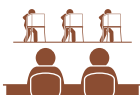
At this **time**: _____

At this **location**: _____



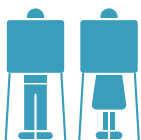
OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are many ways you can step up to strengthen our democracy and show up for your community in this election!



Become an Election Judge or Monitor

You can make sure we have safe, fair, and efficient elections for all voters. Step up and become a paid poll worker for the next election today at powerthepolls.org.



Vote together!

When you take someone to the polls with you, you can bring more people into our democracy and make sure your community's voices are heard. Bring a friend, family member, or even an acquaintance with you to vote!



Spread accurate information

Disinformation and misinformation are everywhere. According to Onyx Impact, over **40 million Americans** within Black online spaces may have been given disinformation about the election. Make sure to fact-check everything and spread accurate information to others.



Become a member of BGV!

Black Girls Vote membership is a direct and powerful way to change our communities and stand as a united front for our representation of our women and girls. Learn more at blackgirlsvote.org/membership.



ABOUT BLACK GIRLS VOTE

Black Girls Vote is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization designed to represent the concerns and interests of Black women.

We are not affiliated with any political party. We are invested in ensuring that Black women are empowered to advance education, economic development, quality health care, and improve outcomes.



blackgirlsvote.com



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