# Important Information

2018 Open Primary and Congressional Election

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018 - Election Day

Polls open at **6 a.m.** and close at **8 p.m.** 

The <u>early voting</u> period is: Oct. 23, 2018 - Oct. 30, 2018 (Except Sunday, Oct. 28)

# Early voting hours are: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Early voting takes place at the Registrar of Voters' Office in each parish and at designated locations in certain parishes.

#### Be Prepared and Go Vote!

Be prepared to show a photo identification card with your photo and signature when voting. If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free Louisiana special identification card by presenting your voter registration information card to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) or you may vote by affidavit after correctly answering identifying information before voting.

For more information, visit: http://www.sos.la.gov/





Important Information from your State Representative Inside!!!



# A Legislative Update State Representative Joseph Bouie

#### **Dear Friends**,

When you go to vote Tuesday, Nov. 6, you will find six constitutional amendments on the ballot, along with congressional elections, a special election to choose a new secretary of state and some local or state government officials, and a proposal to legalize fantasy sports.

The constitutional amendments deal with prohibiting felons from seeking or holding office until five years after their sentences have ended, requiring unanimous jury votes to send someone to prison, allowing governments to lend assistance to each other, funneling more money into road construction, and (two amendments) affecting payment of property taxes.

To help you make a decision, this guide provides an impartial look at what happens if you vote yes or no on the propositions. The Public Affairs Research Council (PAR) has a more detailed explanation on its website, <u>http://www.parlouisiana.org.</u>

I hope you find this information helpful. When you have made your decisions regarding these amendments, you may detach the provided sample ballot to take with you when you vote.

Early voting at your Registrar of Voters' Office or at designated sites in some parishes begins October 23, and ends October 30. If you do not vote early, please remember to vote on Election Day, November 6. You can find your polling locations, sample ballots and other election information at https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your state representative. If I may be of further assistance on any matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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Joseph Bouie State Representative

# Proposed Constitutional Amendments

#### Amendment No. 1

### **Prohibiting Felons from Holding Office**

In 1998, Louisiana voters adopted a constitutional amendment prohibiting felons from seeking or holding elective or appointive office unless they had been pardoned or waited at least 15 years after completion of sentence. However, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled in 2016 that it was not constitutionally adopted because the language presented to voters differed from what the Legislature approved.

A vote **FOR** this amendment would establish a constitutional prohibition against a felon holding an elected or appointed position "of honor, trust, or profit in this state" until at least a five-year period, which includes probation or parole, has elapsed since completing the sentence.

A vote **<u>AGAINST</u>** would leave Louisiana without a constitutional prohibition against felons running for or holding office.

# Amendment No. 2

### **Unanimous Verdict for All Felony Cases**

Currently, only Louisiana and Oregon allow convictions for non-capital felony offenses with less than unanimous decisions of juries. In Louisiana, a person can be sent to prison for up to life with a 10-2 vote, but conviction of a charge that could receive a death penalty requires a unanimous decision.

A vote **FOR** would require a unanimous jury verdict for all felony convictions for offenses committed on or after Jan. 1, 2019.

A vote **AGAINST** would continue to allow non-capital felony convictions with a 10-2 jury vote.

# Amendment No. 3

# Lending of Equipment & Personnel for Governmental Bodies

The present constitution bans lending, pledging or donating funds, credit or the property of the state or any of its political subdivisions (municipalities or parishes) to any person, association or corporation, with numerous exceptions.

A vote **FOR** would add to the exceptions: (1) the donation of and use of public equipment and personnel between political subdivisions and (2) the loan, pledge or guarantee of public funds by a state infrastructure bank for transportation projects.

A vote **AGAINST** would not add more exceptions.

# Vote Tuesday, November 6!

### Amendment No. 4

# **Removes Authority to Fund State Police Traffic Control With TTF**

Proceeds from state taxes on gasoline and other fuels go into the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). The constitution allows the fund to be used for certain uses including, state police traffic control, the Statewide Flood Control Program, ports, airports, transit, aviation, and parish transportation, in addition to the building and maintaining of roads and bridges.

A vote **FOR** would remove the authority to use the Transportation Trust Fund for state police traffic control.

A vote **<u>AGAINST</u>** would continue allowing Transportation Trust Fund dollars to go to state police traffic control.

## Amendment No. 5

# Special Property Tax Treatment

Recent amendments to the constitution allow the freezing of property tax assessments for property owned by disabled veterans and their spouses and persons over age 65 (if their adjusted gross income meets certain guidelines), and 100 percent property tax exemptions for the surviving spouses of active duty military, first responders, law enforcement and fire protection officers killed while performing their duties.

A vote **FOR** would also extend these special property tax benefits to those who hold property in trust and meet certain qualifications.

A vote **<u>AGAINST</u>** would not extend these special property tax benefits to property held in trust.

### Amendment No. 6

#### **Phased-In Property Tax Increases**

The present constitution requires property subject to ad valorem taxes to be listed on the assessment roles at its assessed value, which is a percentage of its fair market value, and it requires reappraisal at least every four years.

A vote **FOR** would require, phasing-in over four years, the increase in the assessed value of residential property if the reappraised value increased by more than 50 percent. The decrease in the total amount of ad valorem taxes collected as a result of the phase-in could not create additional tax liability for other taxpayers.

A vote **AGAINST** would require all residential property owners to pay the full increase in the assessed value of their property in the first year.

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

# **SAMPLE BALLOT**

#	YES	NO	AMENDMENT
1			PROHIBITS FELONS FROM OFFICE
2			REQUIRES UNANIMOUS JURY VERDICT
3			ADDS EXCEPTIONS FOR GOVERNMENTAL BODIES
4			REMOVES AUTHORITY TO FUND STATE POLICE TRAFFIC CONTROL WITH TTF
5			EXTENDS SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX TREATMENT
6			PHASES IN PROPERTY TAX INCREASES

You may bring this with you to the polls on...

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Tuesday, November 6, 2018 !