



Louisiana 2019 Elections: Pitfalls, Potential and Promise

Prepared for the Louisiana Chemical Association

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Congressional Races

- The primary will be held November 6, 2018, with runoffs as necessary on December 8.
- All six congressional districts are up for reelection. All incumbents have opponents, but none have real contests:
 - First Congressional District: U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, R-Jefferson, drew five opponents and is running for his sixth term.
 - Second Congressional District: U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, has three opponents and is running for his fifth term.
 - Third Congressional District: U.S. Rep. Clay Higgins, R-Lafayette, has six opponents and is running for his second term.
 - Fourth Congressional District: U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Benton, drew two opponents and is running for his first full term.
 - Fifth Congressional District: U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham, R-Alto, has three opponents and is running for his second term.
 - Sixth Congressional District: U.S. Rep. Garret Graves, R-Baton Rouge, has three opponents and is running for his second term.

Legislative Races

- There are four races to replace members of the state legislature:
 - Senate District 26 – Jonathan Perry, R-Kaplan, was elected to a judgeship
 - House District 10 – Gene Reynolds, D-Minden, was appointed to serve as the state parks director
 - House District 33 - Mike Danahay, D-Sulphur, was elected as mayor of his town
 - House District 90 – Greg Cromer, R-Slidell, was elected as mayor of his town

Legislative Races

- Senate District 26
 - State Rep. Bob Hensgens, R-Gueydan, a nursing home administrator
 - Jerry Gaspard, R-Abbeville, a retired Farm Bureau field representative
 - Jean Menard, D-Church Point, a homeschooler
- House District 10
 - Wayne McMahan, R-Springhill, a veterinarian
 - He was elected unopposed
- House District 12
 - State Rep. Rob Shadoin, R-Ruston, took a job at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 - The election has not yet been scheduled

Legislative Races

- House District 33
 - Les Farnum, D-Sulphur, Calcasieu Parish police juror and manager of an electrical consulting and engineering firm
 - Teri Johnson, D-Sulphur, president of the Calcasieu Federation of Teachers
 - Stuart Moss, R-Sulphur, Sulphur city councilman
- House District 90
 - Mary DuBuisson, R-Slidell, Cromer's legislative assistant
 - Brian Glorioso, R-Slidell, partner in Tonry, Brinson & Glorioso, a criminal defense trial firm
 - Sean Morrison, D-Slidell, an attorney focusing on planning for children with special needs
 - John Raymond, R-Slidell, businessman and VP of the parish Republican Executive Committee



Governor's Race Primary - Oct. 12, 2019/General - Nov. 16, 2019

- The qualifying period for the primary elections is August 6-8, 2019.
- Announced candidates:
 - Incumbent John Bel Edwards, D-Amite
 - U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham, R-Alto
 - Businessman Eddie Rispone, R-Baton Rouge

Governor's Race

Primary - Oct. 12, 2019/General – Nov. 16, 2019

- Thinking about it:
 - U.S. Sen. John Kennedy, R-Madisonville
 - State Sen. Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell
- Threatening to run:
 - Attorney General Jeff Landry, R-St. Martinville
- Won't run, even though he's being asked:
 - U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, R-Metairie
 - U.S. Rep. Garrett Graves, R-Baton Rouge
- Waiting in the wings to see who runs:
 - LABI President Stephen Waguespack, R-Baton Rouge

Fight to the Finish

- The most recent quarterly poll from Morning Consult shows Gov. Edwards with a 47 percent approval rating.
 - The same poll in July had him at 49 percent; he was at 56 percent in January.
- An October SurveyUSA poll shows, in a head-to-head competition, Kennedy defeats Edwards 48-39 percent.
 - With the full field involved, the poll shows Edwards at 36 percent, Kennedy with 30 percent, Landry with 8 percent, Abraham with 6 percent, Rispone with 4 percent and 18 percent undecided.
- A JMC Analytics poll shows a tight race, regardless of who runs:
 - 43 percent want Edwards reelected
 - 37 percent said he should not be reelected
 - 20 percent are undecided
- There are divisions among parties, races and locations, most of which don't play to Edwards' favor:
 - Republicans are 65-16 percent against Edwards' reelection.
 - Democrats are 65-14 percent in favor of reelection.
 - Independents are 48-29 percent against.
 - Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas support reelection 51-29 percent; the rest of the state came in at 46-34 percent against.

Election Issues

- Modernizing the state's tax structure/developing stable fiscal policy
- Convening a constitutional convention
- Improving the environment for small business and industry
 - Training Louisiana workers for existing jobs
 - Creating jobs for Louisiana workers
- Strengthening the state's educational framework
 - Improve state's low national scores in public education
 - Increasing teacher pay
- Prioritizing the state's transportation infrastructure improvement and development
- Continuing criminal justice reform

Louisiana State Legislature

- Next year will represent a huge loss of historical knowledge in the Louisiana Legislature:
 - Forty-nine legislators (34 percent) will be ineligible to run, 16 Senators (four Democrats, 12 Republicans) and 33 House members (14 Democrats, 18 Republicans, one Independent)
 - At least 16 (and probably more) term-limited House members are talking about running for the Senate
 - At least three senators are talking about running for the House
- With new lawmakers come new committee assignments, new committee chairmen and vice chairmen and new leadership.
- Louisiana implemented term limits in 2007; 2019 will be the biggest turnover since that time.
- Significantly, legislators elected next year will be the ones voting on redistricting the Louisiana Legislature in 2020, and, if they're still around, in 2030.

Members leaving or seeking other positions

- Five members have already left:
 - Sen. Jonathan Perry, R-Kaplan, won a judgeship
 - Rep. Greg Cromer, R-Slidell, was elected as mayor
 - Rep. Mike Danahay, D-Sulphur, was elected as mayor
 - Rep. Gene Reynolds, D-Minden, was appointed as director of state parks
 - His seat was filled by Wayne McMahan, R-Springhill, who ran unopposed
 - Rep. Rob Shadoin, R-Ruston, left for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- These seats will be filled in special elections.

Members leaving or seeking other positions

- Rep. Rick Edmonds, R-Baton Rouge, is running for Secretary of State this fall.
- Rep. Jeff Hall, D-Alexandria, is running for mayor.
- Rep. Kenny Havard, R-St. Francisville, is running for West Feliciana Parish president.
- Rep. Chris Hazel, R-Pineville, is running for a judgeship.
- Rep. Bob Hensgens, R-Abbeville, is running for the Senate seat vacated by Jonathan Perry.
- Rep. Marcus Hunter, D-Monroe, is running for a judgeship.
- Rep. Julie Stokes, R-Kenner, is running for Secretary of State.
- Rep. Major Thibaut, D-New Roads, is running for parish president.

House Leadership



- Current Speaker of the House Taylor Barras, R-New Iberia, is term-limited. The current governor if re-elected or the new governor will have a say in who will be elected Speaker of the House. However, it will remain a heavily Republican-dominated body.
- Legislators currently positioning to run for Speaker include:
 - Rep. Johnny Berthelot, R-Gonzales
 - Rep. Stuart Bishop, R-Lafayette
 - Rep. Paula Davis, R-Baton Rouge
 - Rep. Barry Ivey, R-Baton Rouge
 - Rep. Sherman Mack, R-Albany
 - Rep. Jack McFarland, R-Jonesboro
 - Rep. Blake Miguez, R-Erath



14 House members running for the Senate (and probably more)

- SD 8/Alario: Rep. Pat Connick, R-Marrero (term limited)
- SD 9/Appel: Reps. Neil Abramson, D-New Orleans, and Cameron Henry, R-Metairie (term limited)
- SD 10/Martiny: Rep. Kirk Talbot, R-River Ridge (term limited)
- SD 11/Donahue: Rep. Reid Falconer, R-Mandeville
- SD 13/Erdey: Rep. Rogers Pope, R-Denham Springs (term limited)
- SD 14/Colomb: Rep. Pat Smith, D-Baton Rouge (term limited)
- SD 16/Claitor: Reps. Steve Carter, R-Baton Rouge, and Franklin Foil, R-Baton Rouge (term limited)
- SD 25/Morrish: Reps. Mark Abraham, R-Lake Charles, (not term limited) and Johnny Guinn, R-Jennings (term limited)
- SD 28/LaFleur: Rep. Bernard LeBas, D-Ville Platte (term limited)
- SD 30/Smith (John): Rep. James Armes, D-Leesville (term limited)
- SD 32/Riser: Rep. Andy Anders, D-Vidalia (term limited)
- SD 33/Walsworth: Rep. Frank Hoffmann, R-West Monroe (term limited)
- SD 34/Thompson: Rep. Katrina Jackson, D-Monroe

Louisiana Senate Leadership

President of the Senate, Sen. John Alario, R-Westwego, is term-limited. Senators hoping to take his place include:

- Bret Allain, R-Franklin
- Page Cortez, R-Lafayette
- Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell
- Ronnie Johns, R-Lake Charles
- Rick Ward, R-Port Allen



Senators running for the House

- HD 83/Billiot: Sen. John Alario, R-Westwego???
- HD 15/Hoffman: Sen. Mike Walsworth, R-West Monroe
- HD 19/Chaney: Sen. Francis Thompson, D-Delhi
- HD 21/Anders: Sen. Neil Riser, R-Columbia



21 Incumbents seeking reelection to the Senate

- Bret Allain, R-Franklin
- Regina Barrow, D-Baton Rouge
- Wesley Bishop, D-New Orleans
- Gerald Boudreaux, D-Lafayette
- Troy Carter, D-New Orleans
- Page Cortez, R-Lafayette
- Jim Fannin, R-Jonesboro
- Ryan Gatti, R-Bossier City
- Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell (may run for statewide office)
- Ronnie Johns, R-Lake Charles
- Eddie Lambert, R-Gonzales
- Jay Luneau, D-Alexandria
- John Milkovich, D-Shreveport
- Fred Mills, R-Parks
- Beth Mizell, R-Franklinton
- Barrow Peacock, R-Bossier City
- Edward Price, D-Gonzales
- Gary Smith, D-Norco
- Gregory Tarver, D-Shreveport
- Rick Ward, R-Port Allen
- Bodi White, R-Baton Rouge.

68 Incumbents seeking reelection to the House

- Mark Abraham, R-Lake Charles (may run for Senate)
- Beryl Amedee, R-Houma
- Tony Bacala, R-Prairieville
- Larry Bagley, R-Stonewall
- John Bagneris, D-New Orleans
- Johnny Berthelot, R-Gonzales
- Stuart Bishop, R-Lafayette
- Joe Bouie, D-New Orleans
- Ken Brass, D-Vacherie
- Chad Brown, D-Plaquemine
- Terry Brown, I-Colfax
- Barbara Carpenter, D-Baton Rouge
- Gary Carpenter, Jr. – D-New Orleans
- Robby Carpenter, D-Amite
- Jean-Paul Coussan, R-Lafayette
- Kenny Cox, D-Natchitoches
- Raymond Crews, R-Bossier City
- Paula Davis, R-Baton Rouge
- Phillip DeVillier, R-Eunice
- Royce Duplessis, D-New Orleans
- Stephen Dwight, R-Lake Charles
- Rick Edmonds, R-Baton Rouge (running for secretary of state)
- Julie Emerson, R-Carencro
- Reid Falconer, R-Mandeville (running for Senate)

68 Incumbents seeking reelection to the House

- Randal Gaines, D-LaPlace
- Ray Garofalo, R-Chalmette
- Cedric Glover, D-Shreveport
- Jeff Hall, D-Alexandria (running for mayor)
- Jimmy Harris, D-New Orleans (may run for Senate)
- Lance Harris, R-Alexandria
- Kenny Havard, R-St. Francisville (running for parish president)
- Bob Hensgens, R-Abbeville (running for Senate)
- Stephanie Hilferty, R-Metairie
- Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs
- Paul Hollis, R-Covington
- Dodie Horton, R-Haughton
- Marcus Hunter, D-Monroe (running for judge)
- Mike Huval, R-Breaux Bridge
- Barry Ivey, R-Baton Rouge
- Katrina Jackson, D-Monroe
- Ted James, D-Baton Rouge
- Patrick Jefferson, D-Homer
- Sam Jenkins, D-Shreveport
- Edmond Jordan, D-Baton Rouge
- Terry Landry, D-Lafayette
- Chris Leopold, R-Chalmette
- Rodney Lyons, D-Harvey
- Sherman Mack, R-Albany

68 Incumbents seeking reelection to the House

- Tanner Magee, R-Houma
- Denise Marcelle, D-Baton Rouge
- Joe Marino, I-Gretna
- Jack McFarland, R-Jonesboro
- Blake Miguez, R-Erath
- Dustin Miller, D-Opelousas
- Greg Miller, R-Norco
- Jay Morris, R-Monroe
- Nick Muscarello, R-Hammond
- Vincent Pierre, D-Opelousas
- Steve Pylant, R-Winnsboro
- Clay Schexnayder, R-Gonzales
- Alan Seabaugh, R-Shreveport (being considered for federal judge appointment)
- Joe Stagni, R-Kenner
- John Stefanski, R-Crowley
- Julie Stokes, R-Kenner (running for secretary of state)
- Polly Thomas, R-Metairie
- Malinda White, D-Bogalusa
- Mark Wright, R-Covington
- Jerome Zeringue, R-Houma

Legislative Predictions

- More Republicans and more conservatives will be elected.
- Regardless of who is elected, both chambers will be more independent of the administration.
- Because of turnover, old issues will be new, and the chance for fiscal reform will be more possible.
- OR – a limited constitutional convention will be called to deal with the state's financial structure.



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