

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. JBE 16-06

SUSPENSION OF EARLY VOTING

- WHEREAS,** La. R.S. 18:401.1 provides a procedure whereby the emergency suspension or delay and rescheduling of qualifying, early voting and elections can occur when there is a possibility of an emergency or common disaster occurring before or during a regularly scheduled or special election “in order to ensure maximum citizen participation in the electoral process and provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons seeking to qualify or exercise their right to vote, to minimize to whatever degree possible a person’s exposure to danger during declared states of emergency, and to protect the integrity of the electoral process...”
- WHEREAS,** early voting for the March 5, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary, Municipal Primary and proposition elections is scheduled to be conducted within the State of Louisiana on February 23, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.;
- WHEREAS,** on February 23, 2016, pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 18:401.1(B), the Secretary of State certified to the Governor that, as a result of the severe weather which has prompted the closure of state government offices in multiple parishes on February 23, 2016, a state of emergency exists in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana, and recommends that early voting be suspended from noon until 6:00 p.m. on February 23, 2016, and resume early voting at 8:30 a.m. on February 24, 2016 for all named parishes except the parish of Jefferson; recommends that early voting be suspended from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the parish of Jefferson, and resume early voting at 8:30 a.m. on February 23, 2016; and recommends that early voting be suspended on February 23, 2016 until 6:00 p.m. and resume early voting at 8:30 a.m. on February 24, 2016 in any additional parish where the Commissioner of Administration or parish governing authority announces the closure of state or parish government offices.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

- SECTION 1:** Under the authority of La. R.S. 18:401.1(B) and based on the February 23, 2016 certification from the Secretary of State that a state of emergency exists in the above mentioned parishes:
- (a) Early voting for the March 5, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary and proposition elections is suspended on February 23, 2016 from noon until 6:00 p.m. and early voting will resume on February 24, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafourche, Livingston,

Orleans, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana;

- (b) Early voting for the March 5, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary and proposition elections is suspended on February 23, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and early voting will resume on February 24, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the parish of Jefferson; and
- (c) Early voting for the March 5, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary and proposition elections is suspended on February 23, 2016 until 6:00 p.m. and early voting will resume on February 24, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in any additional parish where the Commissioner of Administration or parish governing authority announces the closure of state or parish government offices.

SECTION 2:

This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 23rd day of February, 2016.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR**

SECRETARY OF STATE