

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 217

BY SENATOR MIGUEZ

ELECTION CODE. Defines "deep fake" in the Election Code. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(2) through (15) and to enact R.S. 18:2(16), relative to
3 definitions; to define the term "deep fake"; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 18:2(2) through (15) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
6 18:2(16) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §2. Definitions

8 As used in this Code, the following words and terms shall have the meanings
9 hereinafter ascribed to each, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning:

10 * * *

11 **(2) "Deep fake" means the use of manipulated images or audio or visual**
12 **depictions of a candidate for office with the intent to deceive members of the**
13 **public as being a genuine representation of the candidate.**

14 ~~(2)~~**(3)** "Federal election" means a general, special, primary, or runoff election
15 for federal office; a convention or caucus of a political party which has authority to
16 nominate a candidate for federal office; a primary election held for the selection of
17 delegates to a national nominating convention of a political party; and a primary

1 election held for the expression of a preference for the nomination of individuals for
2 election to the office of president.

3 ~~(3)~~**(4)** "Federal office" means the office of president or vice president of the
4 United States or of senator or representative in the United States Congress.

5 ~~(4)~~**(5)** "Immediate family" means the individual's children, the spouses of his
6 children, his brothers and their spouses, his sisters and their spouses, his parents, his
7 spouse, and the parents of his spouse.

8 ~~(5)~~**(6)** "Parish governing authority" or "governing authority of the parish"
9 with respect to Orleans Parish means the city council.

10 *[Effective Date: Text of Paragraph (6) effective on January 1, 2026.]*

11 ~~(6)~~**(7)** "Party affiliation" and "affiliation with a political party" means the
12 party affiliation designated in the registrant's information on the state voter
13 registration computer system.

14 *[Effective Date: Text of Paragraph (7) effective on January 1, 2026.]*

15 ~~(7)~~**(8)** "Party primary office" means an office of senator or representative in
16 the United States Congress, justice of the supreme court, the State Board of
17 Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Public Service Commission.

18 ~~(8)~~**(9)** "Polling place" means any location where voting, either early or on
19 election day, is conducted pursuant to this Code.

20 ~~(9)~~**(10)** "Precinct" means the smallest political unit of a ward having defined
21 geographical boundaries.

22 *[Effective Date: Text of Paragraph (10) effective on January 1, 2026.]*

23 ~~(10)~~**(11)** "Primary election" means a primary election for a party primary
24 office or an office other than a party primary office.

25 ~~(11)~~**(12)** "Signature" means the name of a person which is signed. Signature
26 in this Title includes the handwritten, electronic, or digitized name of an individual,
27 except when the handwritten signature of the individual is specifically required.

28 ~~(12)~~**(13)** "Under an order of imprisonment" means a sentence of confinement,
29 whether or not suspended, whether or not the subject of the order has been placed on

1 probation, with or without supervision, and whether or not the subject of the order
2 has been paroled.

3 ~~(13)~~**(14)** "Voter registration agency" means an office designated under R.S.
4 18:116(A) to perform voter registration activities.

5 ~~(14)~~**(15)** "Voting district" means a geographical area composed of one or
6 more precincts in a parish in which every elector within that area votes in the same
7 congressional district, statewide board or commission district, judicial district,
8 Senate District, House of Representative District, parish governing authority district,
9 local and ward office district, municipal office district, and all other special election
10 districts.

11 ~~(15)~~**(16)** "Ward" means a police jury ward in a parish and in parishes having
12 no police jury wards means the subdivision of the parish equivalent to a police jury
13 ward.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 217 Original

2024 Regular Session

Miguez

Present law defines the terms "federal election", "federal office", "immediate family", "parish governing authority" or "governing authority of the parish", "party affiliation" and "affiliation with a political party", "Party primary office", "polling place", "primary election", "signature", "under an order of imprisonment", "voter registration agency", "voting district", and "ward".

Proposed law retains present law and defines the term "deep fake" as the use of manipulated images or audio or visual depictions of a candidate for office with the intent to deceive members of the public as being a genuine representation of the candidate.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:2(2-15); adds R.S. 18:2(16))