

2024 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE BILL NO. 9

BY SENATOR MIGUEZ

ELECTION CODE. Provides relative to ranked-choice voting and instant runoff voting.
(Item #10)(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1400.7 and to enact R.S. 18:2(6.1) and 405, relative to
3 elections; to define ranked-choice voting and instant runoff voting; to prohibit for
4 certain elections; to provide for election expenses; to provide for an effective date;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1400.7 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:2(6.1) and
8 405 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2. Definitions

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

12 * * *

13 **(6.1)(a) "Ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" means a**
14 **method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office as follows:**

15 **(i) Voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference.**

16 **(ii) Tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round, one or more**
17 **candidates are nominated or elected, or a last-place candidate is defeated.**

1 the parish governing authority for their election expenses, shall be responsible
 2 for all election expenses incurred in any precinct which uses a method of
 3 ranked-choice or instant runoff voting as defined in R.S. 18:2(6.1), and shall
 4 reimburse the parish governing authority for any such costs.

5 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 9 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

SB 9 Engrossed

2024 First Extraordinary Session

Miguez

Present law provides definitions for terms used in the Election Code.

Proposed law adds a definition for "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting".
 Provides that such terms will mean a method of nominating or electing one or more
 candidates to an office when:

- (1) Voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference.
- (2) Tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round, one or more candidates are
 nominated or elected, or a last-place candidate is defeated.
- (3) Votes are transferred from nominated, elected, or defeated candidates to the voter's
 next-ranked candidate or candidates in order of preference.
- (4) Tabulation ends when a candidate receives the majority of the votes cast or when the
 number of candidates nominated or elected equals the number of offices to be filled,
 as applicable.

Proposed law further defines that "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" does
 not mean a method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office via
 absentee voting by military and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas
 Voting Act.

Proposed law prohibits the method of ranked-choice voting or instant runoff voting for
 determining the election or nomination of any candidate to any state or federal elective
 office.

Present law (R.S. 18:532(B)(4)) regarding the establishment of precincts, requires that
 precincts have 300 registered voters within its geographic boundaries with certain
 exceptions.

Present law provides that on and after January 1, 1997, the parish governing authority will
 be responsible for all election expenses incurred in any precinct which is not in compliance

with present law and the parish shall reimburse the state for any such costs.

Proposed law provides that on and after February 1, 2024, the parish governing authority shall be responsible for all election expenses incurred in any precinct which uses a method of ranked-choice or instant runoff voting as defined proposed law, and shall reimburse the state for any such costs.

Proposed law provides that on and after February 1, 2024, any municipality that determines to use a method of ranked-choice or instant runoff voting, and who does not receive approval from the parish governing authority for their election expenses, shall be responsible for all election expenses incurred in any precinct which uses a method of ranked-choice or instant runoff voting and shall reimburse the parish governing authority for any such costs

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 18:1400.7; adds R.S. 18:2(6.1) and 405)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add limitation to definition of "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" regarding the Uniformed and Overseas Voting Act.