

March 1, 2023

SECRETARY OF STATE KYLE ARDOIN ANNOUNCES ORLEANS PARISH CONSENT JUDGMENT

BATON ROUGE, La. — Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin announced today a consent judgment with the leaders of the proposed mayoral recall in New Orleans.

“The maintenance of voter rolls in Louisiana is of utmost importance to me,” Secretary Ardoin said. “Even though the statutory and constitutional authority to conduct list maintenance rests with each parish’s Registrar of Voters, I continue to call for legislation that would provide for additional tools to better conduct this important job; namely, a supplemental voter canvass. The legislature supported this measure overwhelmingly in 2021 and 2022, but it was vetoed in both years by Governor Edwards. I am again calling on him to sign this critical legislation this year.”

“The ability of all citizens, regardless of political affiliation, to participate in the democratic process necessitates accurate voter rolls. If presented with evidence that voter rolls are incorrect, it is critical that election officials review any alleged inaccuracy. Therefore, as part of the consent judgement we have reached with the leaders of the proposed mayoral recall, my office will lead the effort in reviewing, in-depth, each and every potential ineligible voter in Orleans Parish as identified by the recall leaders. Though this responsibility ultimately rests with the registrar, I want to personally see to it that this does not continue to be an issue by conducting a complete examination of the voting rolls by the Elections Division and the Elections Compliance Unit investigators.”

The entry of a consent judgment by Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Jennifer Medley revises the number of qualified electors in Orleans Parish for purposes of the recall petition. The initial communication of qualified electors from Secretary Ardoin to Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Sandra Wilson was 249,876. The consent judgment reached will revise that number to 224,876.

No voter will be removed from the voter rolls in Orleans Parish due to today’s agreement. The removal of voters must be done in accordance with due process and with all state and federal laws.

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