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# NEWS RELEASE

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**Louisiana  
Department of State**



**Tom Schedler  
Secretary of State**

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## **QUALIFYING BEGINS WEDNESDAY FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY**

Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler reminds everyone that qualifying begins for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) Election and Municipal Primary Election in 16 parishes on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and runs through Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> until 4:30 p.m. daily. The PPP is held on the first Saturday in March of 2016 and allows electors of each political party in the state (with 40,000 or more registered members) to express their preference for a person to be the nominee for president of the United States. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party will also have their state central committee and parish executive committee elections. In Louisiana, the PPP and the state and local party elections are the only closed elections held statewide meaning voters can only cast ballots for a candidate affiliated with the party in which the voter is registered. In other words, only Democrats can vote for Democrats, and Republicans can vote for Republicans.

Those intending to qualify as a nominee for president of the United States in the PPP must follow the procedures established by their party and pay a \$750 qualifying fee plus a \$375 party fee, for a total of \$1125, or file a nominating petition. Candidates must also file a notice of candidacy specific to the PPP which must include the candidate's name, the office sought, address of domicile, political party and how their name is to appear on the ballot.

"We don't expect to see any presidential candidates here in Louisiana to qualify for the PPP," said Secretary of State Tom Schedler. "Most will send a representative to qualify them by proxy or mail their paperwork into our office. Even though we're just wrapping up our gubernatorial elections, Wednesday's qualifying officially kicks-off our entrance into the 2016 political season, and we're ready."

In addition to the PPP, judicial candidates for a special election in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Election Section 1A, Democratic and Republican state central committees and parish executive committees and several parish/municipal elections will also qualify during

this time period. Presidential nominees and Court of Appeal candidates will qualify with the Secretary of State's Office at 8585 Archives Ave. in Baton Rouge. Democratic and Republican state central committees and parish executive committees as well as all other local/municipal candidates will qualify with their local clerk of court.

To track qualified candidates in real time as they file their paperwork, go to <http://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/GetElectionInformation/SearchForCandidates/Pages/default.aspx>.

The following 16 parishes will be qualifying candidates in 26 municipalities for a total of 158 offices beginning Wednesday: Bienville, Caddo, Caldwell, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant, Jefferson, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Red River, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Martin, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa.

Additionally, the following 18 parishes will be qualifying candidates for special elections: Acadia, Allen, Evangeline, Franklin, Iberville, Jackson, Lafourche, LaSalle, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. John, St. Landry, Tensas, Union, Vernon, Webster, West Baton Rouge and West Carroll.

Louisiana's Presidential Preference/Municipal Primary Election will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016 and the Spring Municipal General Election will be held on Saturday April 9, 2016.

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