

KeyNotes



CONVENTION of STATES ACTION LOUISIANA
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“He who would

trade liberty for some

little temporary security

deserves neither

liberty nor safety.”

Benjamin Franklin

HOW IMPORTANT ARE OUR SCHOOL BOARDS?

Americans have come to expect the power of government to reign down from the top. We think of it as similar to a monarchy, with the President as authority #1, then our Congress, followed by the court system. The state government then falls beneath the federal, and local government least of all.

In reality, this is almost exactly backwards. Our Constitution begins with, "We the People," setting the citizens as the sovereign. The name of our nation is, "The United States of America." This sets the individual states as the mechanisms through which the people govern themselves, and the nation as a union of states.

Returning to a government closest to the people, we find school boards. How

many of us know who sits on our school board, representing us in the administration of the resources, and policies of our schools?

How many of us know what is required of our children in the classrooms, and on the school campus in general?

Recently, Mr. Ryan Thames protested sexually explicit books in the children's section of the Livingston Parish Public Library. He asked that they be moved to the adult section.

Can you guess how his request was handled?

Gateway Pundit's Christopher Alexander wrote of this issue in his article,

"Louisiana Republican Leaders Muted By The Leftist Cabal"

"The books' content is so graphic that it had to be redacted from a local news article, and

no media outlets have seen fit to publish the actual material. What makes the situation even more alarming is that the books were not accidentally placed in the kids' section, they were intended for their consumption. In any other setting besides a public library, an adult who provided the material at issue to a child would likely be arrested.

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/09/louisiana-republican-leaders-muted-leftist-cabal/>

The first question that comes to my mind is, who intended this material to be made available to children, and why?

This reminds me of audio clips that I've heard from school board meetings throughout our nation, where parents have been shouted down,

and disciplined for reading excerpts from the very books that had been assigned to their children.

These parents have been denied the opportunity to read aloud to adults material that has been made available or assigned to their children by public school administrators. Can you guess why they have been restrained from reading it?

They have been told that it is due to the pornographic nature of the material. This is being done by those that are employed to protect and educate these young, impressionable minds in public libraries and schools throughout our nation, state, and

communities. As of the writing of Mr. Alexander's article, the only Louisiana legislator supporting this objection to public libraries' behavior is Rep. Valarie Hodges.

Louisiana Association of School Librarians President, Amanda Jones, had filed suit against Mr. Thames and Michael Lunsford, founder of the watchdog advocacy group Citizens for a New Louisiana. The suit was dismissed by a Livingston Parish Judge.

Are Louisiana State tax resources being used against citizens, while introducing pornography to minors (criminal activity) at the same time?

Can this travesty really be coming to our schools, and/or libraries? Parents in Virginia began realizing the threats to their children during the virtual

schooling of the Covid lockdowns. As a result, the citizens of Virginia have almost completely replaced their government.

Whether we believe that their replacements will be faithful or successful in correcting these problems, the social and emotional well-being of our children is at risk.

It is of utmost importance who controls our school systems, and who has intimate access to our children.

Do you know who represents you and your children on your school board? If not, perhaps this would be a good time to become acquainted with who the candidates are for these positions in the upcoming election.

Dave Landry
State Content Writer

VOTE

Louisiana's Leading Role in Election Integrity

Dale Clary

Louisiana's Trek to Paper Ballots and COSLA Support

Louisiana's voting systems have been highly regarded for election integrity. The Heritage Foundation ranks Louisiana ninth in the nation on its Election Integrity Scorecard, which compares each state's election laws and regulations. (<https://www.heritage.org/electionscorecard/index.html>)

However, Louisiana is in the midst of a transformation with its election systems. Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin has reported for a few years that the aging voting machines we've been using need replacement. He and his staff twice attempted to issue requests for proposals to voting machines vendors, but political resistance led to stopping the process.

Then in the 2021 legislature, Secretary Ardoin joined

with state senator Sharon Hewitt to support and pass a bill Act 480, which defined general parameters for the next voting system, and COSLA heavily supported this legislation. Act 480 created a Voting System Commission to make recommendations for the next voting system.

The key change is that Louisiana is going to paper ballots as the official tally of election results. Act 480 of the 2021 legislature specifically said the new voting system, "shall produce an auditable voter-verified paper record." This is an election integrity measure Louisiana has not had in my lifetime. The record must be on "paper," and many of us have never voted with paper. The voter must be able to verify his or her vote, which means typically the voter must be able to look at the ballot and verify that the votes on the ballot are accurate.

Finally, that filled-in ballot must be "auditable," meaning it can be checked if necessary. In essence, the paper ballot is the official vote, not the count coming off a machine.

There is significant evidence that electronic voting machines are not trustworthy. Secretary Ardoin himself publicly lambasted Dominion Voting Machine representatives over their failure to advise Louisiana of the compromises reported in the Georgia litigation.

None of the criticism of electronic systems is a criticism of the parish Clerks of Courts and Registrars of Voters who conduct elections on the ground in Louisiana.

Dale Clary serves as COSLA Legislative Liaison. He was a member of the Secretary of State's Voting Systems Commission.





Does My Vote Really Count?

I remember hearing people complain about politics and their concerns about our country when I was a child. Even in the late 1980's, many people were concerned about where the country was heading.

The year that President Clinton ran, my school participated for the first time in a mock election for the students. The library at the school was set up as a polling place. We went in with our IDs and were given

the chance to cast our votes for president. I don't remember who I voted for but I remember the activity and the discussions that went with it. Some of my fellow classmates told the teacher that their parents didn't vote because their vote didn't matter anyway. Even as a child I knew that thinking was wrong.

But wait-look what happened in the last couple of elections with the *Electoral College* vs the *Popular Vote*.

The Electoral College was included in the Constitution to keep the large population cities/states from running over the smaller population states.

I would like to look closer to home. We are in the midst of the campaigns for midterm elections. In this election cycle the Electoral College is not in play, so table that issue. Right now in the upcoming election **EVERY** vote will be counted, and **EVERY**

vote counts. This is your chance to have input on who will make the important decisions that will affect your everyday lives. Remember that just because you don't like who got elected, doesn't mean that your vote doesn't matter.

My grandfather once told me, "If you don't vote you can't complain."

Bethany Coker
State Communications
Coordinator

We Need You!

Become an Election Commissioner or Commissioner-in-Charge:

Information about becoming an Election Commissioner is available at the Secretary of State's website.

www.sos.la.gov

In the search box type "Election Commissioner"

You can also contact your local Clerk of Court's office for information about Election Commissioners.

To Serve as a Commissioner

You must:

- ◆ Be a qualified voter or a 17 year-old U.S. citizen (enrolled in 12th grade) able to handle the duties of a commissioner
- ◆ Attend the general course of instruction for new commissioners and pass the open book test

You will be Paid:

- ◆ \$200, if you attend the required pre-election class
- ◆ \$100, if you miss the required pre-election class

To Serve as a Commissioner-in-Charge

Qualifications:

- ◆ Must have worked at least 2 elections in the last 4 years
- ◆ Must be proficient in all commissioner responsibilities
- ◆ Must attend a *yearly* course of instruction for Commissioners-in-Charge
- ◆ Must pass an open book test

You will be Paid:

- ◆ \$250, if you attend the required classes and handle one precinct
- ◆ \$350, if you attend the required classes and handle a consolidated precinct

Early Voting

October 25-November 1

Primary Election

November 8

Run-off Election

December 10



2022 Louisiana School Board Election

Primary-November 8 General Election December 10

Districts:

Caddo Parish Public Schools

Calcasieu Parish Public Schools

East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools

Jefferson Parish Public Schools

Orleans Parish Public Schools

St. Tammany Parish Public Schools





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