



MIDCITY VOTES!

Mid-City Neighborhood Organization
Non-Partisan Voters Guide for Mid-City Residents

Fall 2020

Let's all show up.

Did you know: The average voter turnout in Mid-City so far in 2020 is only about 20%? Voting is the most powerful way we connect with our local, state, and federal representative, to tell them how we want our government to run, and what things we want prioritized (ahem, street flooding?). We get a say in things like how the city is going to spend the taxes it collects, what issues should be prioritized, what needs to be changed, and what needs to be protected. **All we have to do is show up.** Even if the candidate you want to win doesn't win your vote still tells the winners what you think! And that matters. Let's tell our city, state and country that Mid-City is here and we want to be heard! **Let's get out and VOTE!**

Mark your Calendar: Important Dates!

October 13, 2020 is the last day to register to vote in person during the Early Voting period or on election day. Voters must use the [online portal](#) on the Louisiana Secretary of State website or through the [Geaux Vote App](#)

October 30, 2020 is the last day to request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be returned no later than Nov 2 by 4:30pm. *Remember, if you request an absentee ballot but do not use it, the voter roll at the polls will show that you voted absentee. If that happens - don't leave! Ask a poll worker to help to figure out what to do. You may need to fill out a provisional ballot, but you should still be allowed to vote.

October 16 - 27, 2020 is the [EARLY VOTING PERIOD](#) for the 11/3 election! Avoid long lines on election day by voting early!

PRO TIP:
KIDS WELCOME!
YOU CAN BRING YOUR KIDS
TO THE POLLS
WITH YOU.
LET THEM SEE VOTING IN
ACTION!

NOVEMBER 3 - Presidential General, Open Congressional Primary
DECEMBER 5 - Open General, Congressional & Republican State Central Committee

Video Guide for completing your absentee or mail-in ballot:



Correct and clear completion of your absentee or mail-in ballot helps eliminate problems or uncertainty for those counting them. Dot your I's and cross your T's!

Read about Voting Rules and Regulations:



Most problems at the polls should not keep you from voting - don't be afraid to ask a poll worker for help if you're not sure what to do.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Voting Hours

Tuesday Elections (11/3): 6 am - 8pm

Saturday Elections (12/5): 7am - 8pm

PRO TIP:

Your assigned polling location might not be the one closest to you. Double check your voting location in advance.

2. SUCCESS PREP @ THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL 4621 CANAL ST

- Ward 4/ Precinct 7 (4/7)
- Ward 4/ Precinct 8 (4/8)
- Ward 5/ Precinct 15 (5/15)
- Ward 5/ Precinct 16 (5/16)

POLLING LOCATIONS

ENGINE HOUSE #35 964 N CARROLLTON AVE

- Ward 5/ Precinct 12 (5/12)

ESPERANZA CHARTER SCHOOL 4407 S CARROLLTON AVE

- Ward 3/ Precinct 18 (3/18)
- Ward 3/ Precinct 19 (3/19)
- Ward 3/ Precinct 20 (3/20)

WARREN EASTON SCHOOL 3019 CANAL ST

- Ward 4/ Precinct 5 (4/5)
- Ward 4/ Precinct 6 (4/6)
- Ward 5/ Precinct 9 (5/9)
- Ward 5/ Precinct 10 (5/10)
- Ward 5/ Precinct 11 (5/11)

ENGINE HOUSE #26 436 S JEFFERSON DAVIS PKWY

- Ward 3/ Precinct 12 (3/12)
- Ward 3/ Precinct 14 (3/14)
- Ward 3/ Precinct 15 (3/15)

1. PHILLIS WHEATLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2300 DUMAINE ST

- Ward 4/ Precinct 3 (4/3)
- Ward 5/ Precinct 8 (5/8)

ISRAEL AUGUSTINE CRIM. JUSTICE CTR 2700 TULANE AVE

- Ward 3/ Precinct 8 (3/8)
- Ward 3/ Precinct 9 (3/9)

CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION, CONFIRM YOUR ELECTION DAY POLLING LOCATION, AND LOOK AT YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT:



FIND YOUR EARLY VOTING LOCATION:



ON THE BALLOT

PRO TIP:
Voters are asked to take only about **3 minutes** to vote. Write down your ballot choices at home and take them with you to the polls.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE BRANCH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
President U.S. Senator
Vice-President U.S. House Rep.



STATE GOVERNMENT

JUDICIAL BRANCH
State Supreme Court
Justice

7 STATE CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

1 PARISH PROPOSITION



PARISH GOVERNMENT

JUDICIAL BRANCH
District Civil Court Judge
District Criminal Court Judge
District Attorney
Juvenile Court Judge
Municipal & Traffic Court

DEPT. of EDUCATION
Parish School Board

YOUR
VOICE
MATTERS



Get to know YOUR BALLOT

Learn more about what
you're voting for and
why it matters.

View your sample ballot:



3. Ballot Text: "US Representative – 2nd Congressional District"

Explanation: Your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, the lower house of Congress (law-making branch). A "house rep" is someone who helps to create and pass laws (a "legislator") All states are divided into "congressional districts." Mid-City, part of Orleans parish, falls in the 2nd Congressional district, which includes all of New Orleans and a large chunk of area between here and Baton Rouge. House Reps are elected to a two-year term to represent the interests of our congressional district in the lower house of congress. Duties include introducing bills and resolutions which are sent to the Senate to then be sent to the president to be signed into law, offer amendments to existing bills and serve on committees.

Learn more about the [U.S. House of Representatives](#)

6. Ballot Text: Judge Criminal District Court, Section A, D, E, G, K, L (multiple lines)

Explanation: Your picks for 6 of the 10 judges who will preside over criminal cases at the district level. There are 40 judicial districts in Louisiana, and Orleans Parish is its own district. In Orleans Parish, the district court is divided into civil and criminal district courts, which function separately. The criminal district court has 12 elected judges and one magistrate judge, representing 13 "sections" of the criminal court, and are elected to a 6-year term. Sections A-L primarily handle felony cases, and most activity occurs at the courthouse on Tulane and Broad.

Learn more about the [Orleans Parish District Criminal Court](#)

1. Ballot Text: "Presidential Electors"

Explanation: Your pick for President and Vice President of the United States. The ballot says "electors" because the president and vice president are not elected by popular vote. Instead, when you cast your vote for the President/ Vice president ticket, you are actually casting votes for "electors" who, as part of the "Electoral College" are tasked with electing the president and vice president. These electors are selected by the political parties in each state and you vote for them by casting your ballot in November. The number of electors is equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state is entitled in congress. (Const. U. S. art. 2)

Learn more about the [powers of the president](#)
Learn more about the [Electoral College](#)

4. Ballot Text: "Associate Justice Supreme Court, 7th Supreme Court District"

Explanation: Your pick for a justice (judge) to represent our district in the [Louisiana State Supreme Court](#), the highest court of the judicial branch of our State Government. The Louisiana Supreme Court (S.C.) has is primarily responsible for hearing cases involving disciplinary actions against lawyers and judges, and appeals in cases involving questions involving the state constitution. The Louisiana S.C. also has a supervisory role over all other Louisiana courts and is located in the City of New Orleans. There are 7 justices in the Louisiana S.C., each representing one of the 7 supreme court districts, and are elected to a 10-year term. The MidCity falls in to the 7th S.C. district. Learn more about the [Louisiana Supreme Court](#)

7. Ballot Text: District Attorney Criminal District Court

Explanation: The "DA," Your pick for the person who will act as the head attorney in the office that prosecutes criminal cases in Orleans parish. The district attorney (DA) is elected to a 6-year term, and is generally responsible for reviewing police arrest reports, deciding whether to bring criminal charges against arrested people, and prosecuting criminal cases in court. The DA may also supervise other attorneys, called "Deputy District Attorneys" or "Assistant District Attorneys."

Learn more about the [responsibilities of a DA](#)

2. Ballot Text: "U.S. Senator"

Explanation: One of your two representatives in the United States Senate, the upper house of Congress (law-making branch). A senator is someone who helps to create and pass laws (a "legislator"). Our senators are the people we pick to go to Washington DC to make and pass laws that represent the interests and priorities of Louisiana residents. All bills must pass Congress before they can go to the President to be signed into law. Each state as two representatives in the US Senate. In Louisiana, we are currently voting to replace one of our two senators. A senator's term of office is six years and approximately one-third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every two years by direct, popular vote.

Learn more about the [U.S. Senate](#)

5. Ballot Text: Judge Civil District Court, Divisions E, F, J, I; domestic section I (multiple lines)

Explanation: Your picks for 5 of the 14 judges who preside over civil cases at the district level. There are 40 judicial districts in Louisiana, and Orleans Parish is its own district. In Orleans Parish, the district court is divided into civil and criminal district courts, which function separately. In civil court, judges will see cases concerning marriage or, divorce, custody or support of children, property or housing disputes, and the like. The civil district court has 14 judges, representing 14 "divisions" and are elected to a 6-year term.

Learn more about the [Orleans Parish Civil District Court](#)

Learn more about the [Louisiana Court Structure](#)

8. Ballot Text: Judge Juvenile Court Sections A & F

Explanation: Your pick for 2 of the 5 judges who will preside over cases involving youth under the age of 17 ("juvenile") in Orleans Parish. The Orleans Parish Juvenile Court handles two types of cases, **child protection and adoption** cases in the [Dependency Division](#) and **criminal matters** in the [Delinquency Division](#). Orleans Parish Juvenile Court oversees several juvenile rehabilitative programs including Families in Need of Service, Restitution/Community service, and Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Judges of the Orleans Parish Juvenile courts are elected to 8-year terms.

Learn more about [Orleans Parish Juvenile Court](#)

9. Ballot Text: Judge Municipal and Traffic Court Division A

Explanation: Your pick for 1 of the 8 judges who will preside over cases involving traffic violations. The Orleans Parish Traffic Court is known as a “limited jurisdiction court,” which means that it only hears cases about a few things, namely traffic violations such as speeding tickets and DUI’s. The court has 8 divisions with a judge representing each one, and judges are elected to 8-year terms.

Learn more about the [Orleans Parish Municipal and Traffic Court](#)

Learn more about the [structure of Louisiana municipal courts](#)

10. Ballot Text: Member of School Board (District 3 OR District 7)

Explanation: Your pick for your district’s representative on the Orleans Parish school board, the governing body for New Orleans’ public schools. The Orleans Parish School board is a government body for roughly 87 schools, and is composed of 7 elected officials each representing one of the 7 school districts in the parish. The main role of the school board is to make decisions about education resources, specifically how much and where money and services will go. The School Board meets monthly, and meetings are free and open to the public.

Learn more about the [Orleans Parish School Board](#)

Read full explanations, and arguments for and against Amendments and the Sports Wagering Proposition in the [Non-partisan PAR Guide to Constitutional Amendments](#)



Ballot Text: CA NO. 3 (Act 367 - HB 267) - Amends Use of Budget

Stabilization Fund: Do you support an amendment to allow for the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, for state costs associated with a disaster declared by the federal government? (Amends Article VII, Section 10.3(C)(3) and (4); Adds Article VII, Section 10.3(A)(5) and (C)(5))

Explanation: “Rainy Day Fund and Disasters” - Amendment 3 would allow the Louisiana State Legislature to use up to 1/3rd of the revenue in the Budget Stabilization Fund to cover the state’s costs associated with a federally-declared disaster. Federal deposits into the fund for the declared disaster cannot exceed the amount appropriated by the state for the same disaster. Proponents and opponents differ in the appropriateness and making it easier to use the “Rainy Day Fund” for weather-related emergencies, which may deplete the fund too frequently, even if federal reimbursement is expected.

A “yes” vote supports this amendment to allow the budget stabilization fund to be tapped when there is a federally declared disaster but makes no other changes to how and for what the fund can be tapped.

A “no” vote opposes the amendment and restricts the use of the Budget Stabilization fund to act as a cushion for revenue shortfalls only (to make up for the gap between money the state expected to take in and the money the state actually took in.)

Read the [House Bill proposing the amendment](#)

Ballot Text: CA NO. 1 (ACT 447, 2019 - HB 425) - Relating to Declaring There is No Right to and No Funding of Abortion in the Louisiana Constitution: Do you support an amendment declaring that, to protect human life, a right to abortion and the funding of abortion shall not be found in the Louisiana Constitution? (Adds Article I, Section 20.1)

Explanation: The constitutional amendment would add a sentence to the Louisiana Declaration of Rights: "To protect human life, nothing in this constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion." The intent of this amendment is to establish in the Louisiana state constitution a means to limit the power of courts to rule state abortion laws using a constitutional argument. If the amendment is passed, it would have no immediate effect but would limit any future state judicial interpretation that might otherwise find a right to abortion.

A "yes" vote supports adding language to the Louisiana Constitution stating that "nothing in this constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

A "no" vote opposes adding language to the Louisiana Constitution stating that "nothing in this constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

Read the [House Bill proposing the amendment](#)

Ballot Text: CA NO. 2 (368 - HB 360) - Amends Determination of Fair Market Value of Oil or Gas Well: Do you support an amendment to permit the presence or production of oil or gas to be included in the methodology used to determine the fair market value of an oil or gas well for the purpose of property assessment? (Amends Article VII, Section 4(B))

Explanation: The constitutional amendment would specify that the production of an oil or gas well may be included in the methodology when determining the fair market value of a well for the purpose of property taxes. The intent of this amendment is to change the method of tax assessment of properties containing oil and gas wells, such that wells that produce less are assessed lower, and wells that produce more are assessed higher. Proponents and opponents differ in their opinion as to the appropriateness of using a constitutional amendment to accomplish this change, as opposed to regular legislation.

A "yes" vote supports this amendment to allow the presence or production of oil or gas to be taken into account when determining the fair market value of an oil or gas well for ad valorem taxes.

A "no" vote opposes taking the presence or production of oil or gas into account when determining the fair market value of an oil or gas well for ad valorem taxes.

Read the [House Bill proposing the amendment](#)

Ballot Text: PW Sports Wagering - Authorize Sports Wagering Activities - Act 215, 2020 Shall sports wagering activities and operations be permitted in the parish of Orleans?

Explanation: Currently, the only sports wagering currently allowed in Louisiana is online fantasy sports contests. A “yes” vote would allow sport betting in Orleans Parish. A “no” vote would prohibit it.

Read the [Senate Bill proposing the change](#)

Ballot Text: CA NO.4 (Act 366 - HB 464) - Limits Expenditure Limit for State General Fund: Do you support an amendment to limit the growth of the expenditure limit for the state general fund and dedicated funds and to remove the calculation of its growth factor from the Constitution? (Effective June 30, 2022) (Amends Article VII, Section 10(C)(1))

Explanation: Amendment 4 would change the formula used to determine how much revenue the state is allowed to spend each year. The measure would remove the expenditure limit formula from the Louisiana Constitution and allow the state legislature to enact a spending formula through a statute that does not allow more than 5% growth per year. The new formula would take effect on June 30, 2022 and would affect spending beginning in 2024. Currently, the expenditure limit is calculated with a growth factor based on changes in average personal income of Louisiana residents. The current expenditure limit is \$14.3 billion based on a growth factor of 2.97% for the past year. Proponents and opponents differ in whether this proposition is sufficiently long-sighted, or if it is more reactionary to the current economic challenges.

A "yes" vote supports this amendment and creates a new state spending limit and a calculation method to be established by the legislature.
A "no" vote opposes this amendment, and the state would sustain its current method for calculating spending limits.
Read the [House Bill proposing the amendment](#)

Ballot Text: CA NO.5 (Act 370 - SB) - Authorizes Cooperative Endeavor Tax Exemptions Do you support an amendment to authorize local governments to enter into cooperative endeavor ad valorem tax exemption agreements with new or expanding manufacturing establishments for payments in lieu of taxes? (Adds Article VII, Section 21(O))

Explanation: "Payments instead of Property Taxes" - Amendment 5 affects "PILOT" (payments in lieu of taxes) agreements, which are already available for certain businesses and manufacturers. The amendment lets manufacturers, businesses and local government bodies negotiate deals for payments in lieu of taxes for new projects or additions without the need to transfer legal title of the project to the government, which is current standard practice. Property covered by an agreement for payments in lieu of taxes would be exempt from the payment of property taxes. The exemption could be applied to new manufacturing establishments or additions to existing manufacturing establishments.

A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to authorize local governments to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with new or expanding manufacturing establishments and allowing the manufacturing establishments to make payments to the taxing authority instead of paying property taxes.
A "no" vote opposes the amendment and sustains the current system of tax assessments and exemptions for manufacturers.
Read the [Senate Bill proposing the amendment](#)

Ballot Text: CA NO. 6 (Act 369 - HB 525) - Increases Income Limit for Homestead Exemption Special Assessment Level Do you support an amendment to increase the maximum amount of income a person may receive and still qualify for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead exemption? (Amends Article VII, Section 18(G) (1)(a)(ii))

Explanation: This amendment affects the treatment of property taxes for the primary residences of individuals who meet the criteria for a special assessment level including: individuals 65 and older, individuals with permanent disabilities, veterans with a service-connected disability, or family of members of the military killed in action or held as a POW. A special assessment level freezes the assessed value of a residential property, and therefore also freezes the amount of property taxes owed unless the tax rate is increased in the parish. For 2020 special assessment applications, the income limit was \$77,030.36. Amendment 6 would increase the income threshold to qualify for the special assessment level for residential property receiving the homestead exemption from \$50,000 (adjusted annually since 2001 based on the Consumer Price Index) to \$100,000 per year beginning in 2026, adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. A special assessment level is attached to the property as long as the individual owns it, the applicant's spouse inherits the property and also meets the income limitation, or the property of the value does not increase by 25% due to structural improvements. This new threshold would be effective upon adoption and would be adjusted for inflation each year starting in the 2026 tax year.

A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to Allow homeowners who qualify for special assessment levels with higher incomes to qualify for the property tax assessment freeze.
A "no" vote opposes amending the state constitution and keeps the current income threshold for property tax freezes for individuals who qualify for special assessment levels. **Read the [House Bill proposing the amendment](#)**

Ballot Text: CA NO. 7 (ACT 38, 1st ES - SB 12) - Creates Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund Do you support an amendment to create the Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund to preserve the money that remains unclaimed by its owner or owners? (July 1, 2021) (Adds Article VII, Sections 10(F)(4)(i) and 28)

Explanation: Amendment 7 creates a new fund for "unclaimed property," the Louisiana Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund. "Unclaimed property" refers to money citizens are entitled to claim but have not yet claimed. Examples include unclaimed bank accounts and utility bill excesses that were meant to be reimbursed, but never reached the intended recipient. The fund principal would be used solely for the payment of claims. Any money not refunded in a given year would stay in the Unclaimed Property Fund rather than flow into the general fund. Any investment income or interest earnings from the fund would be deposited into the state general fund, while the value of the unclaimed properties would remain protected.

A "yes" vote supports the amendment and would protect unclaimed property money in a new trust fund.
A "no" vote opposes this amendment to create the Unclaimed Property Permanent Trust Fund, dedicate fund revenue to paying claims from owners of unclaimed property, and allocate investment revenue and unclaimed property revenue above the state's estimate unclaimed property liability to the state's general fund.
Read the [Senate Bill proposing the amendment](#)

Become a Member of MCNO today!

