

LOUISIANA POLITICAL PARTIES

- If a candidate is a member of a **recognized political party** in Louisiana, then the name of the party appears after the candidate’s name in the computer and on the ballot.
- If the candidate is a **member of a political party** that is **NOT a recognized political party** in Louisiana, then “O” for “Other” appears after the candidate’s name in the computer and the name of the political party is typed in the computer so that it will print on the qualifying form, but nothing appears after the candidate’s name on the ballot.
- If the candidate is **NOT affiliated with any political party**, then “N” for “No Party” appears after the candidate’s name in the computer and “No Party” appears after the candidate’s name on the ballot.
- There has been some confusion over “**Independent**”. Some voters register as a member of the Independent Party. Some voters do not wish to be affiliated with a political party and refer to themselves as Independent. If a candidate indicates “Independent” on qualifying papers, please confirm whether or not this is a party designation, because it determines whether the candidate is designated as “O” for Other (indicating a non-recognized political party affiliation) or “N” for “No Party”.

Political Party	Computer Designation	Type of Political Party	Appears on the Qualifying Form	Appears on the Ballot
Democratic	D	recognized	Democrat	Democrat
Republican	R	recognized	Republican	Republican
Green	G	recognized	Green	Green
Libertarian	L	recognized	Libertarian	Libertarian
Reform	M	recognized	Reform	Reform
Other	O	not recognized	party name that was typed in computer	ballot is blank after candidate’s name
Not affiliated with any party	N	-	No Party	No Party

R.S. 18:441.B authorizes political parties (other than Democratic and Republican) to become recognized if:

- At least 1,000 registered voters are registered as being affiliated with the party.
- The party files a notarized registration statement with Secretary of State. (form available on website: sos.louisiana.gov)
- The party pays a registration fee of \$1,000 to Secretary of State.

Restrictions on newly-recognized political parties:

- Party is not entitled to representation on Parish Board of Election Supervisors, unless 5% of the registered voters in the state are registered as being affiliated with the party.
- When qualifying for office, candidates pay only the state qualifying fee and do not pay any party fees.
- Party cannot have Presidential Preference Primary party candidates for presidential nominee; must have 40,000 registered voters to participate in PPP.
- Party will cease to be recognized if no registered member of the party qualifies as a candidate in a primary election for any period of four consecutive years.