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# SNAPSHOT

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December 11, 2024

## Recapping the 2024 Constitutional Amendments

*Five More Amendments Added to State Constitution*

Voters have adopted 221 changes to the Louisiana Constitution since its ratification 50 years ago, a total that grew with the November and December elections. Nearly 69% of the 321 amendments posed to voters across those decades have won passage.

PAR compiled [data](#) on proposed and approved constitutional amendments since the first round presented to voters in 1978 and analyzed whether any patterns or trends existed. The fluctuating line of support shows no significant trends in voters' overall support for amendments during that time.

However, a few tendencies about voter turnout are evident.

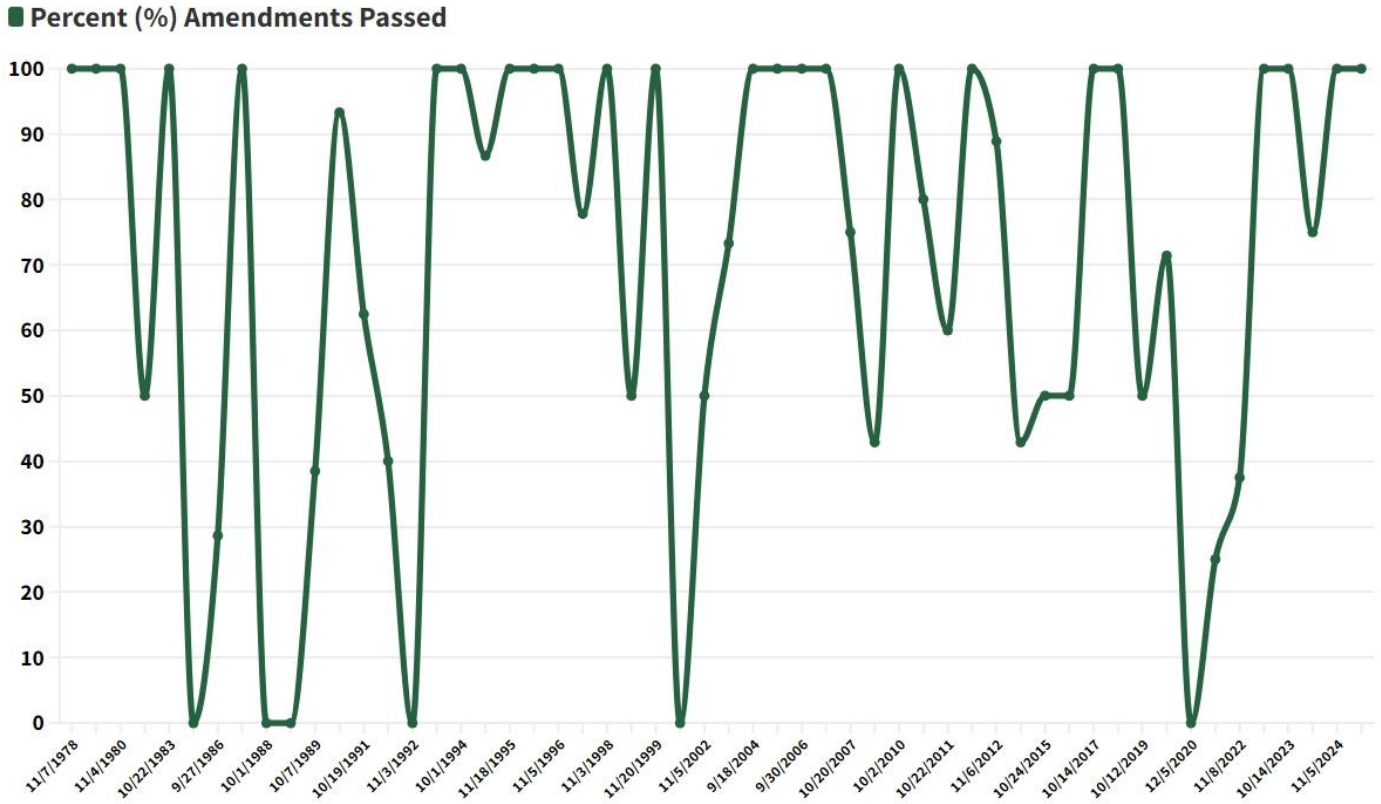
More voters make decisions about constitutional amendments during presidential elections than other elections in Louisiana, on average.

Eleven of the 12 presidential elections held since the constitution was adopted had amendments on the state ballot, with an average of 59.9% of registered voters participating in the amendment questions. Of those 11 presidential election years, 2020 had the highest voter turnout for amendments at 70.1%.

Fewer people tend to participate in choosing the outcome of an amendment than in selecting a candidate at the top of the ballot, so the statewide voter turnout figure is often higher than the percentage of voters weighing in on the amendments. PAR's analysis looks solely at the turnout figures for the amendments.

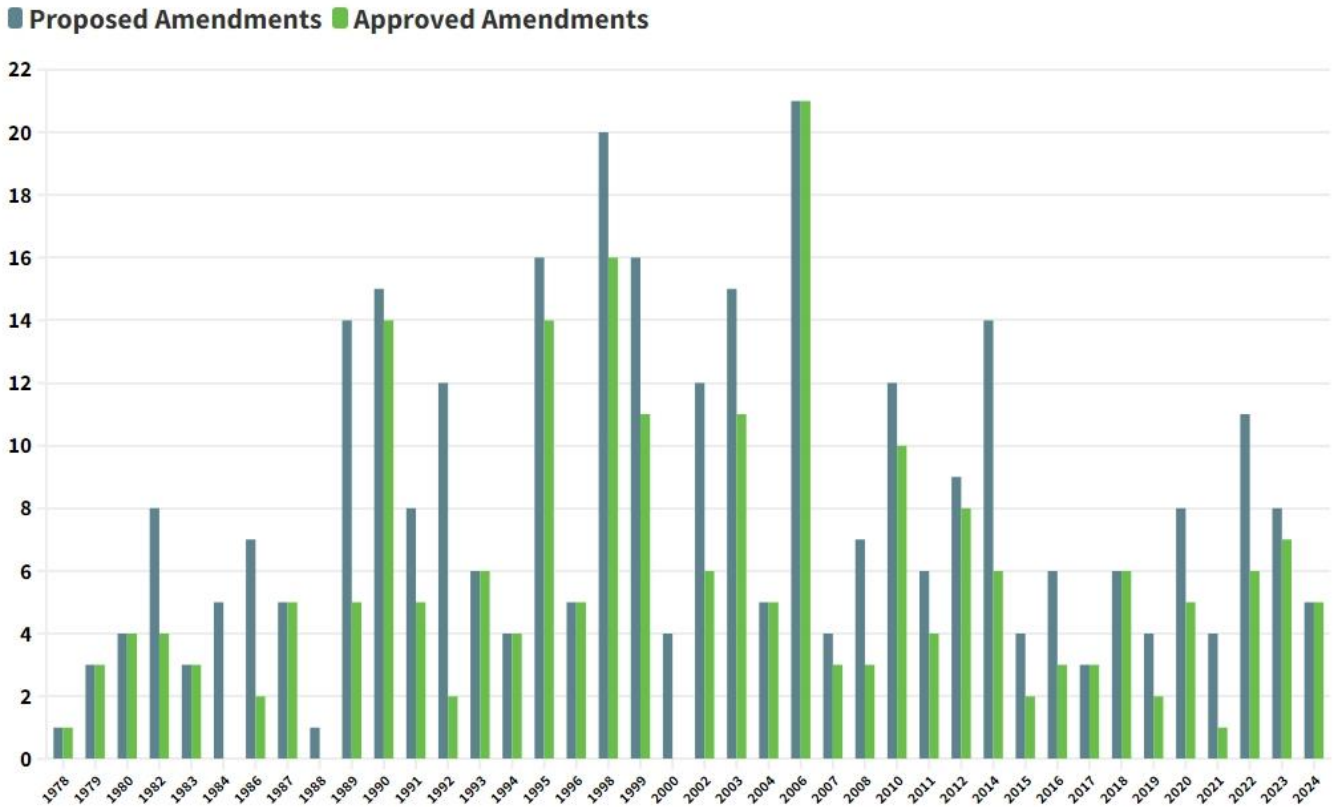
Voter participation in amendment elections during non-presidential years since November 1978 averages 32.7%. The election with the lowest turnout for amendments was the Dec. 7 election, with only 10.8% of voters making decisions on the amendments. Also seeing a dismal participation rate was the November 2021 election, with a 14.1% amendment turnout.

## Percentage of Amendments Passed 1978-2024



Source: PAR, Louisiana Secretary of State's Office

## Proposed and Approved Amendments 1978-2024



Source: PAR, Louisiana Secretary of State's Office

In the Nov. 5 and Dec. 7 elections, Louisiana's voters decided the fate of five constitutional amendments. They accepted all five amendments.

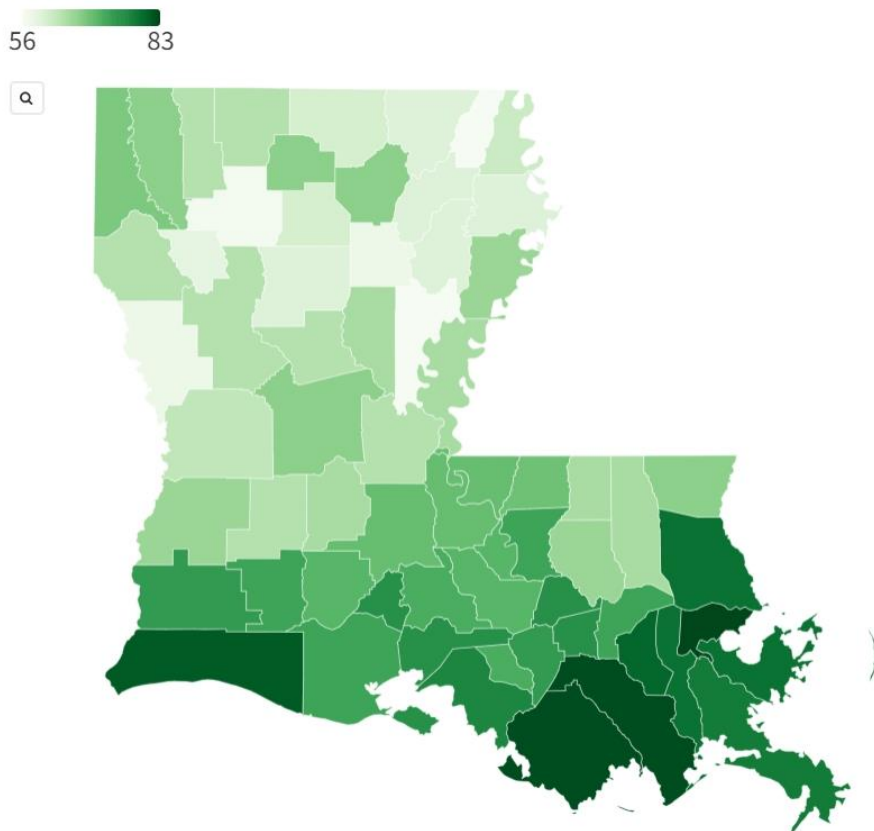
The Nov. 5 amendment passed by voters will:

- Dedicate any federal money Louisiana receives from alternative energy production offshore to the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, where it can only be used on projects aimed at safeguarding the coastal area.

The Dec. 7 amendments passed by voters will:

- Expand the number of members of the state Judiciary Commission by adding five appointees and give the Louisiana Supreme Court authority to direct the commission to investigate judicial misconduct allegations.
- Require lawmakers to wait at least 48 hours to review proposed amendments to bills appropriating money before they can take a final vote.
- Allow lawmakers, with a two-thirds vote, to extend a regular legislative session up to six days if they need more time to pass a bill appropriating money.
- Shift Louisiana from a tax sale process to a tax lien auction process when a property owner hasn't paid property taxes and the local government wants to satisfy the tax debt.

### Support of November Coastal Amendment by Parish



While all 64 parishes by a clear majority supported the November amendment dedicating any offshore alternative energy money Louisiana may receive to the coastal protection fund, the margin of support was higher in south Louisiana compared to most north and central Louisiana parishes.

Coastal region parishes, specifically Orleans (83%), Lafourche (82%), Terrebonne (82%) and Cameron (81%), had the most concentrated support for the amendment.

**Source:** PAR, Louisiana Secretary of State's Office

Voters statewide face more homework with four additional amendments up for consideration on the March 29 special election ballot, proposals passed by lawmakers in the November tax special session. As always, PAR will provide a comprehensive Guide to the 2025 Constitutional Amendments ahead of the spring election.