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Saturday's election results are in

Ian Robinson
Monroe News-Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Northeast Louisiana voters participated in municipal elections on Saturday.

Voters in Ouachita Parish voted to renew a 1.75-mill tax that will continue the operation of the parish animal shelter and health unit, as well as construction for a new shelter.

Results are complete as of late Saturday, but unofficial until verified.

Here are the results of all of Saturday's municipal elections in the Northeast Louisiana. Outright election winners are in **Bold** and those qualified for a runoff are in *Bold Italic*.

ners are in **Bold** and those qualified for a runoff are in *Bold Italic*.

Jackson

Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District D

- **Eric Borland**, Independent - 111 votes, 54%
- Deanna McGee Carter, No Party - 93 votes, 46%
- Voter Turnout: 6.3%

Lincoln

- **City of Ruston Proposition No. 1 of 5**
• **Yes: 1,639 votes, 81%**

- No: 391 votes, 19%
 - Voter Turnout: 18.8%
 - **City of Ruston Proposition No. 2 of 5**
• **Yes: 1,599 votes, 79%**
• No: 428 votes, 21%
 - Voter Turnout: 18.8%
 - **City of Ruston Proposition No. 3 of 5**
• **Yes: 1,049 votes, 52%**
• **No: 967 votes, 48%**
• Voter Turnout: 18.7%
 - **City of Ruston Proposition No. 4 of 5**
• **Yes: 1,185 votes, 59%**
- See **ELECTION**, Page 2A



Results from Northeast Louisiana municipal elections are complete as of late Saturday, but unofficial until verified. GETTY IMAGES



Kelsie Judice disinfects countertops at Shoetique on Hector Connolly Road in Carencro. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisiana has one of the lowest rates of businesses utilizing telework options, according to new data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. SCOTT CLAUSE/USA TODAY NETWORK

La. businesses use telework less than most states

Rate has dropped sharply since COVID pandemic

William Taylor Potter
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

About 21,000 businesses in Louisiana continued to use telework in some capacity during the summer of 2022 - accounting for close to one-fifth of all businesses in the state - though the rate has dropped sharply since the COVID-19 pandemic, data shows.

New data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed an estimated 10,246 business establishments had all their employees using telework all the time in August and September 2022, accounting for an estimated 8.9% of the state's establishments.

An additional 10,823 businesses used

Of all 53 U.S. states and territories, Louisiana's percentage of businesses using all telework ranked 37th, and the percentage of those using at least some telework ranked 50th.

at least some telework for some employees during those months, making up about 9.4% of businesses.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisiana has one of the lowest rates of businesses utilizing telework options, the data shows. Of all 53 U.S. states and territories, Louisiana's percentage of businesses using all tele-

work ranked 37th, and the percentage of those using at least some telework ranked 50th.

An estimated 30,951 Louisiana employees worked for businesses using all telework, accounting for about 2% of Louisiana's private sector employees. That 2% ranked 44th of 53 U.S. states and territories. About 197,050 were at businesses with some telework, which was about 13% of private sector workers, ranking 51st.

Louisiana saw its use of telework increase rapidly during the pandemic, when the state implemented a lockdown for several months. But even then, Louisiana did not embrace telework as readily as other states, the data shows.

During the pandemic, 29,420 businesses increased their use of telework,

See **TELEWORK**, Page 2A

Louisiana sets new record for job openings in January

William Taylor Potter
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana had around 178,000 total job openings in January 2023, which was the most the state has had for a January since at least 2001, new data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows.

The state has had a surplus of job openings for the last several months, with the state having more than two openings per unemployed person for four consecutive months - the longest streak in the state's history. The state has also seen new hires rise, but it has not kept up with the pace of separations and openings.

The 178,000 jobs openings was an increase of 35,000 or 24.5% from January 2022, the data shows. Before this year, January 2022 had the record for new job openings with 143,000. In January 2023, Louisiana had the 24th most openings of all states.

The state had a job opening rate of 8.4% for January 2023, meaning 8.4% of the total number of employed workers and openings were job openings. The state had the 3rd-highest opening rate in the nation for January 2023, after ranking 35th in January 2022 with a rate of 7%. From January 2022 to January 2023, the state had the 2nd-largest increase in job opening rate.

The state also saw a high number of workers separated from their jobs in January 2023, both voluntarily and involuntarily. Around 102,000 Louisiana

See **JOBS**, Page 2A



The Re-Entry Job Fair, targeting people who have previously been incarcerated, was held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Lafayette in 2019. ANDRE BROUSSARD/SPECIAL TO THE ADVERTISER

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