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Election monitors sent to LA

DOJ sends many more than in previous years

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana and the The Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division announced plans on Oct. 21 to oversee federal voting protections and address potential election-related violations in Louisiana.

This initiative is part of a nationwide effort, with the DOJ planning to deploy 1,000 personnel as election monitors across the U.S. for the 2026 midterm elections.

The DOJ's Civil Rights Division routinely monitors election-day activities, utilizing either DOJ personnel or federal observers, throughout the country to help observe and assess compliance with federal voting rights and laws.

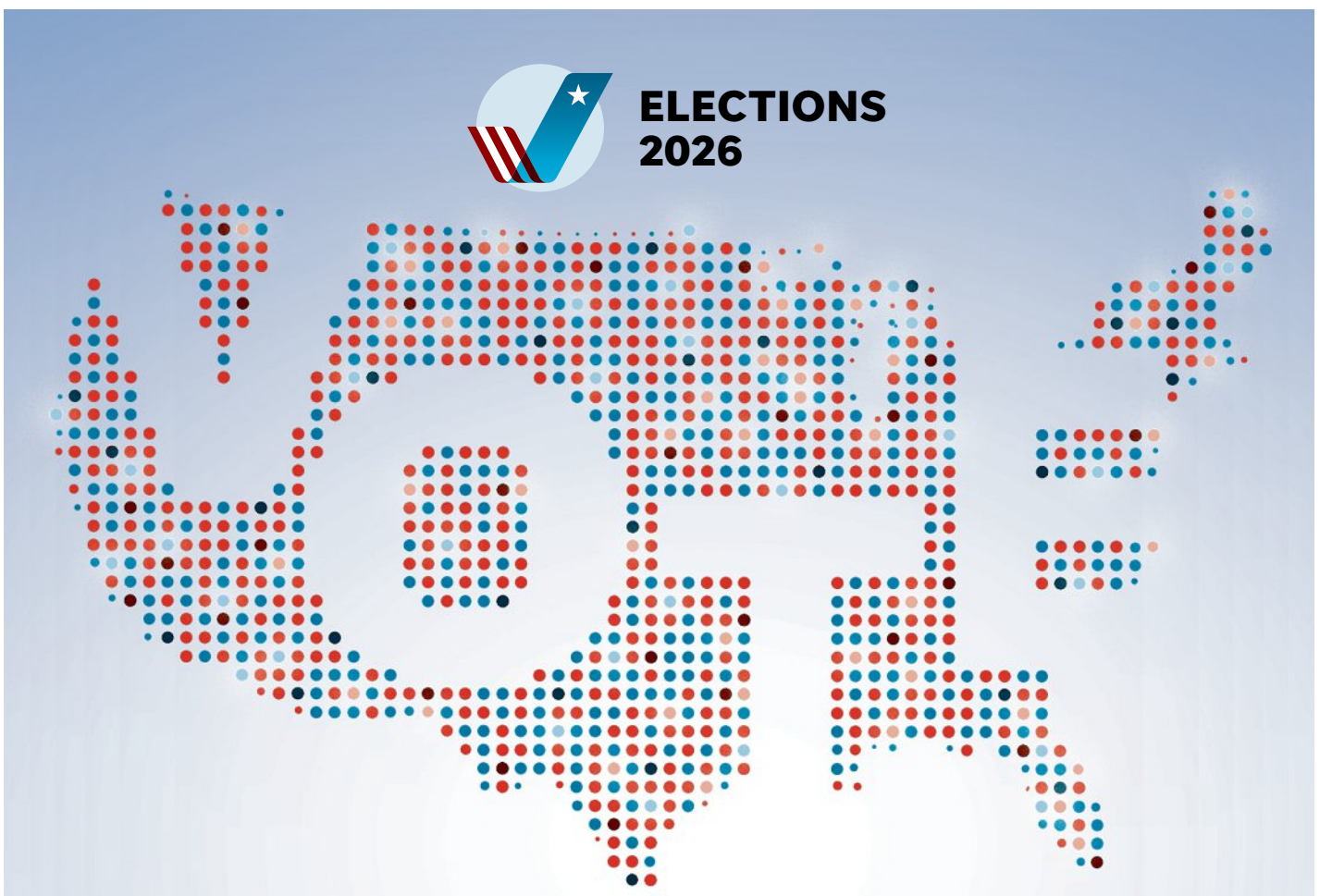
The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana says it will work with federal, state and local election partners to enforce federal election laws while protecting the right of every legal voter to cast a ballot without intimidation or obstruction, says the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana.

The scale of election monitoring will be larger for this year's midterms than previously, with 612 more monitors to be

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The DOJ is sending 1,000 election monitors across the country, many more than in previous years. GETTY IMAGES



MIDTERMS WILL RESHAPE POLITICS

Susan Page
USA TODAY

ANALYSIS

The midterms will change Washington. They already have.

Even before the votes are counted, the 2026 campaign has focused grievances against President Donald Trump, shuffled the political map, opened a door for Democratic Socialists, surged opposition to data centers, let 2028 presidential hopefuls test the waters and demonstrated the record-setting reach of billionaires' bucks – and also their limits.

Straight ahead is the main event: Who wins?

"You know, a midterm is usually not that exciting," Trump told reporters as he left Joint Base Andrews on Oct. 27 for a final campaign swing to Texas. "This has become very exciting."

The results are expected to reset power in the nation's capital, giving Democrats control of the House of Representatives and with that the ability to pass legislation, convene hearings, issue subpoenas and impeach.

The nonpartisan Cook Political Report as of Oct. 29 rated 220 House districts as favoring Democratic candidates, more than enough to claim the 218-seat majority. If the 17 contests that remain too close to call swing the Democrats' way, they could rival the solid 235-seat majority they won in the

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Election coverage

For the most updated election news, visit **usatoday.com** or the Nation & World Extra section, a subscriber-only feature in your eNewspaper.

Vote today

Polls are open until 8 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION BY TYLER RAU/USA TODAY NETWORK; AND GETTY IMAGES

5 best cities for young professionals in the state ranked

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Niche has identified the best places for young professionals to live, providing a comprehensive assessment of key factors that are important for young professionals.

In the ranking, Niche takes into account details like employment, nightlife, entertainment, cost of living, commute and diversity.

Why these are the 5 best places for young professionals to live in Louisiana for 2026

Here are the five best cities in Louisiana for young professionals, according to Niche, based on the number of millennial residents, job opportunities, as well as access to bars, restaurants and affordable housing.

1. Metairie

Metairie is the best city for young professionals to live in Louisiana, as many young professionals and retirees live here. This city has a population of 139,729 and offers residents an urban suburban mix feel. It is highly rated for families, diversity, nightlife and public schools. Here, the median home value is $327,500 and the median rent is $1,175, according to Niche.

2. New Orleans

New Orleans is the second best place for young professionals in Louisiana, with many families and young professionals living here. It has a population of 371,853 and it offers residents a dense suburban feel. The city ranks highly for diversity, commute, outdoor activities and nightlife. The median home value here is $315,700 and the median rent is $1,251.

3. Lafayette

The third best city for young professionals in Louisiana is Lafayette, with

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