



**BOBBY JINDAL**  
GOVERNOR

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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

July 1, 2011

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer  
Clerk of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 533 by Representative Gallot

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 533 by Representative Gallot makes various changes to the election code. While I am not concerned with these updates to the election code, this bill was amended to also change the designation of candidates on election ballots who are not members of any recognized party. This amendment is problematic.

House Bill No. 533 provides that a candidate who is neither a Republican nor a Democrat and who does not belong to any other unrecognized party shall be listed as "Independent" on an election ballot rather than "No Party" as is current law. La. R.S. 18:441(B)(4) states, in pertinent part, "no political party shall be recognized in this state which declares its name solely to be "Independent" or "the Independent Party"." Therefore, this provision in House Bill No. 533 is in conflict with current law.

For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill No. 533 and hereby return it to the House.

Sincerely,

  
Bobby Jindal  
Governor