

June 14, 2020

State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Honorable Ethics Board Members:

I, Biaster Hewitt-George, recently received a letter from your office informing me that my suspension of fees no longer applies, and that they are now due. During the time of filing my campaign finance forms 10P and 10G the internet was giving me problems, which happens from time to time in my small hometown. When the internet was working, the campaign finance website kept making me start over even after it showed me that I had successfully filed.

In addition to having this problem, I became so desperate to get them in on time that I decided to try to file again by sending hard copies to your office, which were sent back to me because they had to be filed electronically. In September of 2019 I had to attend a teacher conference in Shreveport at the Hilton. I thought that I could try again on my laptop in my hotel room, where I knew that the internet would be working properly. The same problem occurred. So, I sought help from the campaign finance department who I gave permission to enter my laptop and see what I may have been doing wrong. It gave the technician problems too, but she was able to confirm that my papers were filed successfully. I even took pictures with my cell phone of the successful filing and the emails I received stating that I did. I took these photos as proof of my filing and also as proof of my issues with filing to avoid the problems that I acquired back in 2015.

I filed my work on time, so I thought, but due to circumstances out of my control they were not. I thought that I was okay and would not be penalized since I had not heard from your office. I felt that everything was fine.

I honestly did all that I could and took the affordable avenues that I had at my disposal to file on time, even before time. I do not take pleasure in causing mistrust with the Board and to owe money that I do not have. I especially did not intend to break the agreement of suspension of some of the fees that the board members graciously granted me a few years ago. Attached are pictures of successful filing from my laptop, from September 23, 2019 in the hotel room, along with emails. There is also a picture of me seeking assistance.

Therefore, I am humbly asking for reinstatement of my fee suspensions /waiver for this unintentional mishap. Your consideration will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Biaster Hewitt-George

Biaster Hewitt-George

BHG

Media

LEADERS Online Filing LA 79221

Biaster Hewitt George Inbox

? **ethics.louisiana@la.gov** 8:26 PM
to me



Filer Name: Biaster Hewitt George

Filer ID: CAN993492

**LEADERS Online -- Louisiana Financial Disclosure Filing
Acknowledgement**

This is to acknowledge the receipt and acceptance of your
electronic filing via of Form 102 on the LEADERS Online
System.

Your filing was received and accepted by our system on
9/23/2019, and was assigned the Filing ID of: LA-79221.

Please make a note of this, as it will be necessary to refer to
this information in the future.

Thank you for using the LEADERS Online System.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

← Reply

↩ Reply all

→ Forward





LEADERS Online: Filing LA-79220 - Biaster Hewitt George Inbox



? **ethics.louisiana@la.gov** 8:23 PM
to me



Filer Name: Biaster Hewitt George

Filer ID: CAN993492

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[Click here to view the report.](#)

Reply

Reply all

Forward



The report (#79221) has been submitted successfully

[View Report](#)

[Back to Form Select](#)



Tom Cortina (axrme@stx.com)





LOUISIANA ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Allow Remote Control



Please tell your partner the following ID to connect to your desktop:

Your ID

146 208 250

Password

☒ Ready to connect (secure connection)

www.teamviewer.com

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1	12	13	14
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5	26	27	28



LOUISIANA ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

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View All Reports Add New Report Address Book							
All Reports							
Selection	Report Type	Start Date	End Date	Report #	Date Filed		
10/12/2019	(102) 30th Day Prior to Primary	01/01/2019	09/12/2019	LA-79221	09/23/2019		
10/12/2019	(102) 10th Day Prior to Primary	09/03/2019	09/22/2019	LA-79220	09/23/2019		
10/24/2015	(102) 10th Day Prior to General	10/05/2015	11/01/2015	LA-59517	07/19/2016		
10/24/2015	(102) 10th Day Prior to Primary	09/15/2015	10/04/2015	LA-59516	07/19/2016		
10/24/2015	(102) 30th Day Prior to Primary	04/14/2015	09/14/2015	LA-59515	07/19/2016		

View all reports that you have filed electronically.

View all financial disclosure forms (such as Form 278) that you have filed.

CANDIDATE'S REPORT

(to be filed by a candidate or his principal campaign committee)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Report Number: 82289

Date Filed: 10/23/2019

Report Includes Schedules:

1. Qualifying Name and Address of Candidate

BIASTER HEWITT GEORGE
607 Trass Street
Lake Providence, LA 71254

2. Office Sought (Include title of office as well)

Assessor
East Carroll

3. Date of Primary

10/12/2019

This report covers from 9/3/2019 through 9/22/2019

4. Type of Report:

☐ 180th day prior to primary ☐ 40th day after general
☐ 90th day prior to primary ☐ Annual (future election)
☐ 30th day prior to primary ☐ Supplemental (past election)
☒ 10th day prior to primary ☒ Amendment to prior report
☐ 10th day prior to general

5. FINAL REPORT if:

☐ Withdrawn ☐ Filed after the election AND all loans and debts paid
☐ Unopposed

6. Name and Address of Financial Institution (You are required by law to use one or more banks, savings and loan associations, or money market mutual fund as the depository of all

BIASTER HEWITT GEORGE
607 Trass Street
Lake Providence, LA 71254

7. Full Name and Address of Treasurer

BIASTER HEWITT GEORGE
607 Trass Street
Lake Providence, LA 71254

9. Name of Person Preparing Report

BIASTER HEWITT GEORGE

Daytime Telephone 318.559.2873

10. WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the information contained in this report and the attached schedules is true and correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief, and that no expenditures have been made nor contributions received that have not been reported herein, and that no information required to be reported by the Louisiana Campaign Finance Disclosure

This 23rd day of October, 2019

Biaster Hewitt George

Signature of Candidate/Chairperson
(To be signed by Chairperson only if report by principal campaign committee)

318.559.2873

Daytime Telephone

Biaster Hewitt George

Signature of Treasurer

318.559.2873

Daytime Telephone

8. FOR PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES ONLY
a. Name and address of principal campaign committee, committee's chairperson, and subsidiary committees, if any (use additional sheets if necessary).

On attached sheet

Name and address of principal campaign committee, committee's chairperson, and subsidiary committees, if any (use additional sheets if necessary).

Name and Address of Principal Campaign Committee

BIASTER HEWITT GEORGE
607 Trass Street
Lake Providence, LA 71254

SUMMARY PAGE

RECEIPTS	This Period
1. Contributions (Schedule A-1)	\$ 0.00
2. In-kind Contributions (Schedule A-2)	\$ 0.00
3. Campaign paraphernalia sales of \$25 or less	\$ 0.00
4. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Lines 1 + 2 + 3)	\$ 0.00
5. Other Receipts (Schedule A-3)	\$ 0.00
6. Loans Received (Schedule B)	\$ 0.00
7. Loan Repayments Received (Schedule D)	\$ 0.00
8. TOTAL RECEIPTS (Lines 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	\$ 0.00

DISBURSEMENTS	This Period
9. Expenditures (Schedule E-1)	\$ 0.00
10. Other Disbursements (Schedule E-2)	\$ 0.00
11. Loan Repayments Made (Schedule B)	\$ 0.00
12. Funds Loaned (Schedule D)	\$ 0.00
13. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (Lines 9 + 10 + 11 + 12)	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	Amount
14. Funds on hand at beginning of reporting period <small>(Must equal funds on hand at close from last report or -0- if first report for this election)</small>	\$ 0.00
15. <i>Plus</i> total receipts this period <small>(Line 8 above)</small>	\$ 0.00
16. <i>Less</i> total disbursements this period <small>(Line 13 above)</small>	\$ 0.00
17. <i>Less</i> in-kind contributions <small>(Line 2 above)</small>	\$ 0.00
18. Funds on hand at close of reporting period	\$ 0.00

Form 102, Rev. 3/98, Page Rev. 3/98

19. Of funds on hand at beginning of reporting period (Line 14, above), amount held in investments (i.e., savings accounts, CD's, money market funds, etc.)	\$ 0.00
20. Of funds on hand at close of reporting period (Line 18, above), amount held in investments	\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL SUMMARY	Amount
21. Candidate's personal funds (Use of personal funds as either a contribution or loan to the campaign should be reported on Schedules A-1 or B.)	\$ 0.00
22. Contributions received from political committees (From Schedules A-1 and A-2)	\$ 0.00
23. All proceeds from the sale of tickets to fundraising events (Receipts from the sale of tickets are contributions and must also be reported on Schedule A-1.)	\$ 0.00
24. Proceeds from the sale of campaign paraphernalia (Receipts from the sale of campaign paraphernalia are contributions and must also be reported on Schedule A-1 or Line 3, above.)	\$ 0.00
25. Expenditures from petty cash fund (Must also be reported on Schedule E-1.)	\$ 0.00

SPECIAL TRANSACTIONS - total for the election	This Election
26. Total amount of contributions received from political committees for both the primary and general elections combined since the first report filed for this election.	\$ 0.00

NOTICE
<p>The personal use of campaign funds is prohibited.* The use of campaign funds must be related to a political campaign or the holding of a public office or party position. However, campaign funds may be used to reimburse a candidate for expenses related to his campaign or office, to pay taxes on the interest earned on campaign funds or to replace articles lost, stolen, or damaged in connection with a campaign.</p> <p>Excess campaign funds may be returned to contributors on a pro rata basis, given as a charitable contribution as provided in 26 USC 170(c), given to a charitable organization as defined in 26 USC 501(c)(3), expended in support of or opposition to a proposition, political party, or candidacy of any person, or maintained in a segregated fund for use in future political campaigns or activity related to preparing for future candidacy to elective office.</p> <p>*The prohibition on the personal use of campaign funds does not apply to campaign funds received prior to July 15.</p>

Form 102 Rev. Rev. 3/98 Page Rev. 3/00



Biostr Hewitt - George
607 Ivass Street
Lake Providence
Louisiana
71454

State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4398
Baton Rouge, LA. 70821



1000



70821

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Handle with Care • Prenez soin

Shawon Bernard
5501 Norgate Drive
New Orleans

June 3, 2020

State of Louisiana
Department of State Civil Service
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

June 2, 2020

RE: Waiver Request for Late fee Assessment for the October 12, 2019 Election
2019 Supplemental Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 8 days late

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am in receipt of your Late Fee Assessment Order that outlines the law related to my requirements for timely filing my campaign finance report for the October 12, 2019 election, your finding of such report being filed 8 days late and the assessment of the \$100.00 per day fine that amounts to \$800.00.

For your consideration to reduce, suspend or waive the late fee assessment of \$800.00, I offer the following:

1. It was never my intent to be late with the 2019 Supplemental filing for the October 12, 2019.
2. This was the first statewide campaign that I was a candidate in. While I had previously been a candidate in a parish election, this statewide election resulted in more contributors, donations, expenditures, and reporting time.
3. The required time to complete each filing became taxing and confusing. It required more time than I had previously needed to timely comply with the campaign finance reporting. The process to complete the online filing with me making a personal loan to my campaign was very confusing to close out the campaign.
4. The campaign had a minimal deficient amount of funds with an outstanding personal loan. In fact, the 2019 Supplement filing was in essence a procedural forgiveness of a personal loan I made to the campaign. There were no expenditures during this period other than me forgiving the loan to close out the campaign.
5. I was in communication with your office for assistance prior to the 2019 Supplemental filing. I received assistance to complete that prior filing. The result of that filing revealed

the deficiencies and clarified the outstanding personal loan contribution I made to the campaign. There were no additional contributions or expenditures made during the final period.

6. Upon immediate receiving the Notice of Delinquency, I completed and submitted the 2019 Supplemental October 12, 2019 filing report. The Supplemental report was due on February 18, 2020; the deficiency letter was mailed from your office on February 21, 2020 and was received on February 26, 2020. The report was immediately completed and submitted.
7. Please note that this time frame of your department sending the notice and me receiving the notice and submitting the supplemental report included the long weekend of the Mardi Gras holiday. A letter that usually takes 1-2 days from Baton Rouge to New Orleans to arrive resulted in an usually increase of 5 days for delivery.

As you consider my appeal for a waiver of the \$800.00 late fee fine, I ask you to consider my prior timely compliance with reporting. Because of the newness of my first statewide campaign, the reporting became overwhelming. In addition, when I needed assistance with completing and filing the prior report I did reach out for assistance from your office. Lastly, the final supplemental report reflected a forgiveness of a personal loan I made to the campaign.

Again, your consideration of providing a waiver of the \$800.00 for late fees in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Shawon Bernard

Melissa Horn

From: Shawon Bernard <shawonbernard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:55 AM
To: Melissa Horn
Subject: Re: 2019 Suppl/ Financial Information Form
Attachments: Ethics Waiver.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hi,

Attached is my waiver letter. I could not find how to upload it on the ethic page. I will continue to try. If it must be uploaded to that page, please advise.

Thanks
Shawon Bernard

On Monday, June 1, 2020, 02:48:17 PM CDT, Melissa Horn <melissa.horn@la.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

As per our conversation, attached is the Financial Statement which needs to be completed in support of your waiver request.

Please contact me should you need additional information or have questions.

Thank you,

Melissa H. Horn

Program Compliance Officer

Louisiana Board of Ethics

P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821