

DATE

Alesia M. Ardoin
Law Offices of R. Gray Sexton
8680 Bluebonnet Blvd, Suite D
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810

Re: **Louisiana Board of Ethics**
Docket No. 2020-704

Dear Ms. Ardoin,

At its meeting on October 19, 2020, the Louisiana Board of Ethics, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, considered your request for an advisory opinion on behalf of John DeRosier as to whether the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act would prohibit the refunding of tickets purchased for a cancelled campaign event.

FACTS PROVIDED

John DeRosier is the Calcasieu Parish District Attorney. In February and March 2020, Mr. DeRosier's campaign sold tickets for \$100 per couple to a crawfish boil that was scheduled for April 24, 2020. On March 24, 2020, Mr. DeRosier's campaign announced that the crawfish boil would be rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 14, 2020, Mr. DeRosier announced that he would not seek re-election. The crawfish boil was ultimately cancelled.

LAW

La. R.S. 18:1505.21(1) provides:

On or after January 1, 1991, contributions received by a candidate or a political committee may be expended for any lawful purpose, but such funds shall not be used, loaned, or pledged by any person for any personal use unrelated to a political campaign, the holding of a public office or party position, or, in the case of a political committee, other than a candidate's principal campaign committee or subsidiary committee, the administrative costs or operating expenses of the political committee; except that excess campaign funds may be returned to contributors on a pro rata basis ...

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that Mr. DeRosier's campaign is not prohibited by the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act from refunding the full purchase price of the crawfish boil tickets to each individual contributor. Since the event was cancelled, the payments received by the campaign are not considered excess campaign funds.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800)842-6630 or (225)219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

David M. Bordelon
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which the matter is considered.