

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
MINUTES
February 5, 2026

The Board of Ethics met on February 5, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. in the LaBelle Room on the first floor of the LaSalle Building located at 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Board Members Amato, Bryant, Colomb, Crigler, Davis, Fremin, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Roberts and Whipple present. Board Member Scott was absent. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon; the Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, Kathryn Calmes, Jessica Meiners and Charles Reeves.

Mr. Dustin E. Danos was given his oath of office presented by David Bordelon, after which he was introduced to the Board and Staff.

Board Member Scott arrived at 2:33 p.m.

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
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The Board of Ethics met on February 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the LaBelle Room on the 1st floor of the LaSalle Building located at 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Board Members Amato, Bryant, Colomb, Crigler, Danos, Davis, Fremin, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Roberts, Scott and Whipple present. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon; the Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, Kathryn Calmes, Jessica Meiners and Charles Reeves.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-419 submitted by Donald Ray "Don" Cravins, Sr., former member of the Louisiana Racing Commission, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2021 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 348 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until a future Board meeting.

The Board considered a reconsideration of a waiver request in Docket No. 25-533 submitted by Steven Jackson, State Representative / 2nd Representative District, to reconsider the Board's decision to suspend all but \$1,000 of the \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2022 Tier 2 Candidate personal financial disclosure 855 days late; and, the Board's decision to suspend all but \$1,000 of a \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2022 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 183 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until a future Board meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-582 regarding Steven Jackson, a successful candidate for State Representative, District 2, Bossier and Caddo Parishes, in the October 14, 2023 election regarding: 1) a \$60 late fee for a 30-P report filed 1 day late; 2) a \$660 fee for a 10-G report which was filed 11 days late; 3) a \$2,000 late fee for a 10-G report which was filed inaccurately; and 4) a \$2,000 late fee for a SUPP2023 report which was filed inaccurately. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until a future Board meeting.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-627 submitted by Timothy Burbach, Helix Network of Educational Choices, Mentorship Academy HCS Baton Rouge Charter Schools, regarding a \$500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2022 Tier 3 Annual

personal financial disclosure 598 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until a future Board meeting.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 26-054 submitted by Louis Lambert, a member of the Ascension Parish School Board, regarding a \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2022 Financial disclosure statement 858 days late; and a \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2023 Financial disclosure statement 492 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all fees based on future compliance since the Board does not have waive guidelines for this type of disclosure and this was Mr. Lambert's first late filing.

Mr. Louis Russell, II, the former Director of the Multifamily Housing Development Department ("MFHD") for the Louisiana Housing Corporation ("LHC") appeared before the Board as they considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-707 regarding the application of the post-employment provisions. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded and informed Mr. Russell that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits him, and any legal entity he may establish, for a period of two years following his resignation as Director of the MFHD at LHC, from receiving compensation for assisting other persons with transactions involving his former agency, MFHD, including the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the National Housing Trust Fund, the Tax-Exempt Bond Program, and the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery initiatives.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G6-G17 en globo subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on items G6-G17, excluding item G12 taking the following action:

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-709 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the hiring of Joby Verret, the brother of Jimmy Verret, a former member of the Terrebonne Parish Fire Protection District No. 10 (the “District”). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics will not prohibit the employment of Joby Verret with the District if his brother resigns from the District’s Board. Further, the Code of Governmental Ethics will not prohibit the reappointment of Jimmy Verret to the District’s Board while his brother is employed with the district; but, the Code will prohibit the continued employment of Joby Verret unless he has been employed with the District for at least one year prior to the reappointment.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-723 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Eugene Cooke, spouse of Terri Cooke, an Office of Behavioral Health (“OBH”) employee, from soliciting business with the OBH and other State agencies for which he would receive a commission. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Cooke from receiving a commission for soliciting and securing a contractual, other business, or financial relationship with his wife’s agency, Fiscal Operations for OBH’s Administration and Finance Unit, but not with other OBH or State agencies. The Board advises Mr. Cooke to seek an updated advisory opinion should a potential contract arise involving OBH’s Administration and Finance Unit and Terraboost Media.

The Board approved the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-754 from Thea Tran at West Calcasieu Hospital regarding outside employment per Ms. Tran's request.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-771 regarding Ryan Richard, employee of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development ("DOTD"), relating to post-employment matters. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Richard, for a period of two years, from assisting others in matters in which he participated while at DOTD. The Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Richard from assisting others in matters relating to DOTD in which he had no involvement while at DOTD.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-779 from Keith Lampkin, employee of the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits him to run for office and serve as a state legislator while serving as an employee of the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Mr. Lampkin's campaign for state legislative office and service as a legislator does not pose an issue under the Code of Governmental Ethics. However, he should be advised that this opinion request may present an issue associated with the Louisiana Dual Office-Holding/Dual Employment laws, which are under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. The Board suggests that he contact that office regarding the application of those laws. A copy of his request and this opinion has been forwarded to the Attorney General's Office. Additionally, this request may present an issue associated with civil service rules related to prohibited political activity, which rules are under the jurisdiction of the Orleans Parish

District Attorney's Office. A copy of Mr. Lampkin's request and this opinion has been forwarded to the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-781 regarding as to whether Livaudais Electrical & Construction, LLC ("Livaudais Electrical"), an electrical company owned by Philip Livaudais, the son of Rebecca Livaudais, an appointed member of the St. Bernard Parish Library Board of Control can contract with the library to perform services. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics the Code prohibits Philip Livaudais and his company, Livaudais Electrical, from contracting with the St. Bernard Parish Library while Rebecca Livaudais is an appointed member of the St. Bernard Parish Library Board of Control.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-794 submitted by Bryan Tabor, Parish Council Member, District 1, Lafayette Parish, as to whether he may serve as a compensated director of SLEMCO, a local utility company. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Tabor, as a member of the Lafayette Parish Council, from receiving compensation from SLEMCO while SLEMCO has business or financial relationships with Lafayette Consolidated Government.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-796 concerning Andrew Leonards, a reserve deputy with the Lake Charles Marshal's Office providing contracted legal services through his employer, The Johnson Firm, to the Marshal's Office while he remains an active reserve deputy or within two years of his retirement as a reserve deputy. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that, as an active reserve deputy with the Marshal's Office, the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Leonards from

receiving compensation from The Johnson Firm while The Johnson Firm has a contractual, business, or financial relationship with the Marshal's Office. However, the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit him from providing legal service through The Johnson Firm to the Marshal's Office immediately upon his resignation as a reserve deputy since he did not previously render legal services to the Marshal's Office at any time during his public service with the Marshal's Office.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-023 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Theodore Sanders, III, President of the New Orleans Achievement Foundation ("NOAF"), from serving as Chief Executive Office of the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. ("LAMP") if NOAF enters into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Department of Treasury. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Sanders from serving as President of NOAF and Chief Executive Officer of LAMP while NOAF is a party to a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Department of Treasury.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-040 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Claudia Armwood from accepting a teaching position with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System while her half-sister is a member of the school board and she holds an Out-of-Field Authorization to Teach Certificate (OFAT). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics will not prohibit Ms. Armwood's employment with Scotlandville Magnet High as a virtual-classroom teacher while her half-sister serves as a member of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board since she holds an OFAT while pursuing teacher certification.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-055 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Louis Lambert, an elected member of the Ascension Parish School Board, from rendering compensated services to Atmos Gas Company while it has a contractual, financial, or business relationship with the Ascension Parish School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Louis Lambert, while serving as a member of the Ascension Parish School Board, from receiving any thing of economic value for services rendered to Atmos Gas Company while it provides natural gas to the Ascension Parish School District. Mr. Lambert should file annual financial disclosure statements by May 15th with the Board of Ethics pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1114.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-788 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Dana Gros, principal of South Larose Elementary, from rendering compensated services to Lafourche Education Foundation while it has a contractual, business or financial relationship with schools within Lafourche Parish School District. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the March Board meeting.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

Board Members Danos, Roberts and Whipple recused themselves from voting on the January 8th and January 9th, 2026 meeting minutes.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the January 8th and January 9th, 2026 meetings.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 23-996 regarding Ryker Anthony and Anthony's Tree Service, LLC, arising from charges filed for a violation of Section

1113A(1)(a) of the Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board authorized staff to dismiss the charges filed against Ryker Anthony and Anthony's Tree Service, LLC with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 24-119 regarding James King entering into prohibited transactions in his capacity as an appointed member of the Board of Commissioners for the Concordia Parish Hospital Service District Number One. Mr. King executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation of Section 1112B of the Code of Governmental Ethics with a \$1,500 civil penalty. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board authorized staff to dismiss the charges filed against James King with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 24-393 regarding Danny Allen Hobgood, an elected member of the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Slaughter, in connection with his receipt of compensation in violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Mr. Hobgood executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation of Section 1111C(2)(d) of the Code of Governmental Ethics with a \$2,500 civil penalty. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 24-835 regarding a nepotism issue involving the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Claudia Armstrong has executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation of Section 1119 of the Code of Governmental Ethics with no civil penalty and resigned from her employment with the school system. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication.

The Board considered Mr. Bordelon's Administrator's Notes in Docket No. 3126-01:

1. Tier 2 Personal Financial Disclosure Forms are due May 15th. The forms must be filed electronically beginning this year as a result of Act 301 of the 2025 Regular Session. Please contact Ashley Wimberley and/or Jerri Brees to create an electronic filing profile in our filing system
2. The campaign finance staff shipped 650 information packets to the clerks of court in connection with the upcoming qualifying period beginning on Feb. 11th.
3. David Bordelon, Charles Reeves and Angela Newsom conducted a Campaign Finance training to the Louisiana Municipal Association this past Wednesday and Executive Director Barney Arceneaux wanted to express his thanks to the staff.

The Board approved an updated proposed legislation report in Docket No. 3126-002 regarding suggestions to the Legislature for changes/amendments to the laws administered by the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

The Board approved the ethics rule review report in Docket No. 3126-003 regarding the review of Chapters 8-14 of the Rules for the Louisiana Board of Ethics (LAC 52:I) pursuant to Act 192 of the 2024 Regular Session and Executive Order 25-038.

The Board approved an attached report and cover letter in Docket No. 3126-004 regarding a response to House Resolution 202.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-770 regarding the \$2,000 campaign finance late fee assessed against Amy Pollard, disqualified candidate for State Representative, 61st Representative District in the October 12, 2019 election, whose 30-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 2260 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all fees based on future compliance.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-775 regarding the \$500 campaign finance late fee assessed against Patrice Joseph Smith, an unsuccessful candidate for Council Member /District 3,

City of Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, in the November 5, 2024 election, whose 10-P campaign finance disclosure report that was filed inaccurately. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-786 regarding the \$1,000 campaign finance late fee assessed against Thomas J. "Tom" Spencer, III, in his capacity as a candidate for Police Juror, District D, Rapides Parish in the October 12, 2019 election, whose 10-G campaign finance disclosure report was 260 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee.

The Board considered a Lobbying waiver request in Docket No. 25-797 regarding a \$500 late fee assessed against Cason O'Banion for the late filing of the September 2025 Lobbying expenditure report. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the fee since the steps to terminate were provided to the lobbyist via email and no action was taken.

The Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for "good cause" waivers of personal financial disclosure late fees assessed against individuals included in item G29, en globo, subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on the items in G29, excluding Docket No. 25-769, taking the following action:

The Board unanimously suspended all of the personal financial disclosure late fees based on future compliance for the following:

Docket 25-757 Douglas Lawrence Stream, Amend 2023 Tier 2.1, 52 days late of a \$1500 late fee; and,

Docket 25-784 Richard Sheffield "Rick" Danielson, Amend 2023 Tier 2, 18 days late of a \$1800 late fee.

The Board unanimously declined to waive the personal financial disclosure late fees assessed against the following:

Docket 25-767 Andrea Manuel, Amend 2024 Tier 2, 94 days late of a \$2500 late fee;
Docket 25-768 Timothy Turner, Amend 2023 Tier 3, 159 days late of a \$500 late fee; and
Docket 25-785 Melvin Lee Hasten, Sr., 2023 Tier 2, 473 days late of a \$2500 late fee.

The Board unanimously suspended all but \$150 of the personal financial disclosure late fees based on future compliance with the Code of Ethics. The \$150 is payable within 20 days and if payment is not received within 20 days, the full amount of the late fee becomes due and owing for the following:

Docket 25-783 Stephen J. Gremillion, Sr., Amend 2023 Tier 3, 34 days late of a \$500 late fee.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-769 submitted by Ingrid Felicia Payne, former East Baton Rouge Council on Aging / East Baton Rouge Parish, regarding a \$50 late fee assessed for filing her 2023 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 1 day late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended the fee based on future compliance.

The Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for “good cause” reconsiderations of waiver requests for School Board Disclosure late fees assessed against individuals included in item G30, en globo, subject to any items being removed from the en globo listing for further discussion.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the staff recommendations on the items in G30, taking the following action:

The Board unanimously suspended all of the School Board Disclosure (“SBD”) late fees based on future compliance for the following:

Docket 25-755 Lolita S. Porter, 2025 SBD, 10 days late of a \$500 late fee; and
Docket 25-782 Dusty Fallin, 2025 SBD, 10 days late of a \$500 late fee.

The Board unanimously declined to waive the 2025 School Board Disclosure (“SBD”) late fees assessed against the following:

Docket 25-756 J.D. Dantzler, Jr., 2025 SBD, 31 days late of a \$1500 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance, the Board considered an untimely waiver request in Docket 24-309 regarding that the Board reconsider its decision to decline to waive a \$1,800 campaign finance late fee assessed against Revitalize Northeast Louisiana PAC, a political action committee, and its committee's chairperson, Mary Cruz Berzoza, whose 2023 August Monthly campaign finance disclosure report was filed 9 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered the untimely request. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to waive the late fee since the filer failed to state good cause which is outside of the control of the filer.

The Board considered the General Supplemental Agenda.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-022 regarding Adam Koenig, on behalf of the St. James Parish Council and Pete Dufresne, President of St. James Parish (the "Parish"), as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits the Parish to purchase property from the Estate of Ellis and Lena W. Bourgeois (the "Estate"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit the purchase of the Subject Land by the Parish from the Estate, provided that Mr. Dufresne avoids taking action to approve or effectuate such purchase.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board added Docket No. 21-701 to the agenda.

The Board considered a scheduled hearing in Docket No. 21-701 related to an anonymous complaint. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board instructed

staff to file a motion to dismiss the charges since the respondent in the matter, Mr. Jimmie Thomas, is recently deceased.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman