

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Minutes

July 2, 2026

The Board of Ethics met on July 2, 2026 at 9:02 a.m. in the LaBelle Room on the first floor of the LaSalle Building located at 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Members Amato, Bryant, Colomb, Crigler, Davis, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Roberts, and Scott present. Board Members Danos, Fremin and Whipple were absent. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon; the Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, Charles McCowan, Jessica Meiners, Charles Reeves, Kathryn Rich and Kelsey Simmons.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on Consent Agenda and Consent Opinion items G1-G16 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 G1-G16, excluding item G15, taking the following action:

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-203 from Destiny Lynch, a former employee of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority ("CPRA"), regarding whether she can provide compensated construction administration services that directly support CPRA projects through her current employer, Intracoastal Consultants LLC ("Intracoastal"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the post-employment prohibitions set forth in Section 1121 of the Code of Governmental Ethics apply to Ms. Lynch and Intracoastal until April 11, 2027, which is two years from the date she terminated her public employment with CPRA. The Board also advised that, should a specific

transaction arise that may present a violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics' post-employment restrictions, Ms. Lynch should seek an updated advisory opinion.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-243 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Kay Keen, an employee of Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness from receiving reimbursement for travel costs and a stipend from VIA LINK, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, for participating in a working group. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Ms. Keen to receive reimbursement for travel costs and a stipend from VIA LINK for participating in a working group outside her normal working hours and outside her capacity as a State Voluntary Agency Liaison.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-277 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits a company owned by the Mayor of the Town of Olla from transacting with the Town of Olla. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits the Town of Olla to continue transacting with C&V Outdoors if Mr. Veuleman is elected as Mayor, provided he complies with the requirements of Section 1123(22) of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-279 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits transactions between Candi Haynes, the sister-in-law of O.H. "Hank" Haynes, the Chief Deputy of the Webster Parish Sheriff Office ("WPSO") and the Department. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mrs. Haynes from acquiring a book of business that includes the health insurance policies currently held by WPSO while her brother-in-law, Chief Deputy of WPSO, O.H. "Hank" Haynes, IV, is employed with WPSO.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-281 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the Chief of Police of the Town of Cullen from serving as a resource officer for another city. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render an advisory opinion since Ms. Epps-Hoof, a councilwoman for the Town of Cullen, lacks standing to make the opinion request.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-283 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Bailey Barker Tailon, an employee of the City of Ponchatoula, from serving as Chairman of the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Board (the “PSFB”). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render an advisory opinion since the correspondent, Mr. Lanier, lacks capacity to act on behalf of the PSFB and therefore cannot make the opinion request.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-289 from Michelle Lewis, a teacher at St. Amant High School, as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits her from engaging in certain activities during class time. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that that while the Board does not provide any opinion as to whether the actions Ms. Lewis describes would violate any policies of the School or the School Board, such actions do not present an issue under the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-293 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Bart Himel's continued employment with Baton Rouge Water Company while it has a contractual, financial, or business relationship with the Ascension Parish School Board if he is elected and serves as a member of the Ascension Parish School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded

that Section 1111C(2)(d) of the Code of Governmental Ethics will not prohibit Mr. Himel's continued employment with Baton Rouge Water Company while it has a contractual, business, or financial relationship with the Ascension Parish School District if he becomes a member of the Ascension Parish School Board, provided Mr. Himel meets all of the required conditions of La. R.S. 42:1111C(6). Here, (1) Mr. Himel is a wage-earning employee of Baton Rouge Water Company; (2) his compensation from Baton Rouge Water Company is substantially unaffected by Baton Rouge Water Company's contractual, business, or financial relationship with the Ascension Parish School District; (3) he is not an officer, director, trustee, or partner of Baton Rouge Water Company; and (4) he does not own an interest which exceeds one percent of Baton Rouge Water Company. Additionally, if (5) Bart Himel does not participate in any transaction in his capacity as a member of the Ascension Parish School Board, including recusing himself from any vote, involving the Ascension Parish School Board and his employer, Baton Rouge Water Company; and (6) he files the annual financial disclosure statement by May 15th with the Louisiana Board of Ethics in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1114, Mr. Himel should be able to meet all required conditions set forth in La. R.S. 42:1111C(6).

The Board considered a request to approve a disqualification plan in Docket No. 26-306 regarding employees in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation at the Louisiana State Police. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to approve the disqualification plan since based on additional information obtained, it appears this matter concerns past conduct. The Board instructed staff to notify Colonel Robert P. Hodges, Superintendent of Louisiana State Police, of his obligation to report potential violations of the Code of Governmental Ethics under La. R.S. 42:1161A.

The Board considered a request to approve a disqualification plan in Docket No. 26-307 submitted by President Jay Clune of Nicholls State University regarding the employment of Lindsay Spencer within the Al Danos College of Business while her mother-in-law Amber Brady-Billiot serves as the Master of Business Administration Director. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the disqualification plan since it is sufficient to prevent violations under Section 1112B(1) of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, and it meets the Board's requirements pursuant to Louisiana Administrative Code Title 52, Chapter 14, Section 1402.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-308 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Webster-Taylor from continuing her current employment if elected to the LaSalle Parish School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Ms. Webster-Taylor's continued employment with Christus Health should she become an elected member of the LaSalle Parish School Board.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-309 from Patrick Icenogle, employee of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development ("DOTD"), relating to post-employment. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Icenogle, 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 him from assisting others in matters relating to DOTD in which he had no involvement while at DOTD, including the I-10 Project.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-323 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the Calcasieu Parish School Board from

purchasing land owned by Jeremy Ashworth, the brother of the spouse of Tony O'Bannion, a School Board member. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics permits the Calcasieu Parish School Board to continue transacting with the landowner for the purchase of this land since Mr. Ashworth is not considered an immediate family member of Mr. O'Bannion.

The Board granted the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-324 at the petition of requester the General Counsel for the Regional Transit Authority since such matters involve the interpretation and application of state law and personnel policies and therefore fall outside the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics.

The Board considered a disqualification plan approval request in Docket No. 26-359 from the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office regarding the employment of Chief Deputy Jerry Spencer, Jr., his son, Jerry "Trey" Spencer, III, and Jakob Stansbury, his son-in-law. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the disqualification plan since it is sufficient to prevent violations under Sections 1112B(1) and 1112C of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, and it meets the Board's requirements pursuant to Louisiana Administrative Code Title 52, Chapter 14, Section 1402.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-327 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits post-employment services by Gretchen Ferguson, a former employee of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, with the former employee's new employer. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter to a future meeting.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the June 4th

and June 5th, 2026 Board meeting minutes.

Board Member Danos arrived at the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-321 from Candy Bertrand, employee of the City of St. Martinville (the "City") relating to purchase of adjudicated properties. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded and instructed staff to prepare an opinion for the August 2026 meeting which will inform Ms. Bertrand that Section 1113 of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits transactions between public servants and their agency, and that the purchase of auctioned property does not qualify for the exception contained in Section 1113A(1)(c) of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

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

1. Disclosure Staff processed 6,746 personal financial statements filed by the May 15th deadline. Of those, 1,282 were e-filed.
2. Election Information: June 27, 2026 was the first occurrence of a "second party primary" in connection with elections for Public Service Commission (District 1) and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (District 1). The second party primary election triggered filing requirements for campaign finance purposes for candidates in those districts. Campaign Finance staff sent reminders to the candidates to encourage compliance with the new filing laws.
3. Qualifying for the Nov. 3rd election will occur Aug. 5th - 7th.
4. Objection to Candidacy Letters were sent out on July 1, 2026.
5. Joel Manuel was recognized for twenty-seven years of service at the Board of Ethics.

The Board took no action on an updated legislation report in Docket No. 3126-02 regarding proposed legislation filed for the 2026 Legislative Session as to the laws administered by the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

The Board considered a Lobbying waiver request in Docket No. 26-315 regarding the \$400 late fee assessed against Kayla Bourgeois for submitting her 2026 lobbying registration payment date 8 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board waived the fee since this is Ms. Bourgeois' first late filing.

The Board considered a reconsideration waiver request in Docket No. 26-029 regarding its decision to decline to waive a \$2,500 late fee assessed against Joshua Edmond, Member of School Board / District 3 / Lafayette Parish, for filing his amended 2023 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 25 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board reconsidered the decision and waived the late fee since this amendment involved the failure to disclose public income by specific dollar figure, but it was disclosed by category.

The Board considered charges in Docket No. 24-232 and Adjudicatory Board Docket No. 25-9358-BOE issued against Abita Springs Public Works Supervisor Frederick "Ricky" Young. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board added Docket No. 2025-171 to the General Agenda.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 2025-171 regarding Louisiana Oilfield Restoration Association Inc. ("LORA"), Chromos Wealth Solutions LLC ("Chromos"), and Andrew Berthelot, a resident of the State of Louisiana violating the Code of Governmental Ethics by virtue of providing a thing of economic value to Johnny W. Adams, an employee of the Louisiana State Office of Conservation which he was prohibited from receiving. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted for publication the consent opinion with a civil penalty of \$5,000 each to LORA, Chromos and Mr. Berthelot for violation of Section 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman