

## LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Minutes

March 6, 2026

The Board of Ethics met on March 6, 2026 at 9:04 a.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, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Roberts and Scott present. Board Members Danos, Grand, and Whipple were 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.

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 to a future meeting.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-627 submitted by Timothy Burbach, Helix Network of Educational Choices, Mentorship Academy, Helix Community Schools, 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 to a future meeting.

Board Member Danos arrived at 9:07 a.m.

Mr. Tristan Gruspier appeared before the Board in Docket No. 26-107 regarding an advisory opinion request on behalf of the Louisiana Bridge Builders ("LBB"), as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits LBB from making payments to certain entities serving as

potential subcontractors on a project with Louisiana Department of Transportation. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter to a future meeting.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G3-G23 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 G3-G23, taking the following action:

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-762 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the continued employment of John Durkin with Disability Determination Services Program in the Louisiana Department of Health while his sister serves as a Disability Determinations Manager 3; and, a request for approval of a Disqualification Plan. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit the continued employment of John Durkin while his sister Courtney Olivia serves as the Disability Determinations Manager. Further, the proposed disqualification plan is approved, as it is sufficient to prevent violations under Section 1112B(1) of the Code of Governmental Ethics and 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. 25-772 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the continued employment of Alicia Carelus, the spouse of Matthew Fairbrother, a member of the Volunteer Louisiana Commission ("VLC"), with Teach for America ("TFA") while TFA has a contractual, business or financial relationship with the VLC. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Fairbrother from receiving a thing of economic

value through compensation received by his spouse, Ms. Carelus, for her services rendered to TFA while TFA has a contractual, business, and/or financial relationship with VLC.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-780 regarding post-employment restrictions for Stephen H. Lee, a former employee of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the post-employment restrictions contained in the Code of Governmental Ethics, apply to Mr. Lee for a period of two years following his retirement on January 11, 2025. The Board also advised that, should a specific situation arise that may present a potential violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics' post-employment restrictions, he should seek an updated advisory opinion.

The Board approved the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-803 by Natasha S. Johnson, Selectwoman, District 6, City of Plaquemine, related to reporting in-kind contributions per Ms. Johnsons' request.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-006 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits a member of the Coulee Croche Fire Protection District 4 Board from being appointed to the position of Fire Chief of the District. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render an advisory opinion since based on additional information obtained regarding this advisory opinion request, the board member in question was not appointed to the position of Fire Chief. As such, this matter appears to concern past conduct.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-007 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Francis Dorsey, a member of the Iberia Republican Parish Executive Committee, from serving as the president of a nonprofit

organization. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that no provision of the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Mr. Dorsey from serving as the President of the Cannabis Council of Louisiana while simultaneously serving as an elected member of the Iberia Republican Parish Executive Committee, since he is not a public servant and the parish executive committee is not a governmental entity subject to the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-008 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the employer of John Jackson, a member of the nominating committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority ("SLFPA"), from contracting with the SLFPA. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Jackson's service on the SLFPA-nominating committee while his employer has contractual, business, and/or financial relationships with SLFPA.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-010 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits spouses to serve as the Fire Chief and the Treasurer of the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render an advisory opinion since both spouses involved in this matter have resigned from their positions with the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department and the point is moot.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-014 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits a person to serve on the Lower Cameron Hospital Service District Board of Commissioners who does not live within the District boundaries. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render

an advisory opinion since Dr. Dupke does not have standing to request this advisory opinion as he is not requesting it on behalf of the Lower Cameron Hospital Service District Board of Commissioners. Further, whether Ms. Canik is eligible to serve on the Board of Commissioners and whether her service on the Board of Commissioners if not eligible constitutes malfeasance in office is not under the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-015 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Patrice Thomas, an employee of the Legislative Fiscal Office, from providing compensated notarial work and accounting services to a behavioral health agency. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Ms. Thomas to perform notarial and accounting services for a private company on a part-time basis, and outside her normal working hours for compensation while she is an employee at the Louisiana Legislative Fiscal Office.

The Board considered a disqualification plan in Docket No. 26-021 regarding the employment of Terrance David, Jr., the son of the EMS Supervisor at Station 19 with the Shreveport Fire Department working at a Station at which his father, Terrance Davis, Sr. serves as the EMS Supervisor. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the disqualification plan, as it is sufficient to prevent violations of the Code of Governmental Ethics and 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. 26-030 from Mayor Roderick D. Hampton, on behalf of the Town of Haynesville (the "Town"), regarding as to whether the code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the purchase of goods and materials from a company owned by John Stephenson, an employee of the Haynesville Police Department

("HPD"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit the Town from entering into transactions with the Company, to the extent the transactions are not under the supervision or jurisdiction of HPD.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-031 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Juana Felton, the former Grants Manager for the Community Services Block Grant Program within the Human Services Department of Calcasieu Parish, from being appointed to the Human Services Advisory Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Felton from serving on the Calcasieu Parish's Human Services Advisory Board representing the National Association of University Women.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-035 regarding whether the Garon Paul Atkinson Lewis Foundation ("GPAL"), founded by a member of the Iberia Parish School Board, can utilize School Board property at no charge. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit the Iberia Parish School Board from renewing the Truancy Contract with GPAL since Mr. Lewis remains uncompensated and maintains no ownership interest in GPAL. Whether the Iberia Parish School board can donate the use of public property to a private entity or use public funds to pay for services used by a private entity, is not under the jurisdiction of the Board. The School Board should contact the Attorney General's Office for guidance on the appropriate use of public funds and public property.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-036 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Troy St. Ann, the brother of LaWanda St. Ann, the Director of Finance for the City of Opelousas, from being employed with the Water

Department. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit the employment of LaWanda St. Ann's brother with the City of Opelousas's Water Department while she is the Finance Director. However, Ms. St. Ann is prohibited from participating in any transaction involving the City of Opelousas in which her brother has a personal substantial economic interest.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-039 from Mark Elkassouf, former employee of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development ("DOTD"), related to post-employment. He is currently employed with HNTB Corporation (the "Company"). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mr. Elkassouf, for a period of two years, from assisting the Company in matters in which he participated while at DOTD. The Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit him from assisting the Company in matters relating to DOTD in which he had no involvement while at DOTD.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-052 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits James Morgan, an employee of West Carroll Parish School System, from running for a position on the school board and taking office after he retires. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Morgan from running for office while employed with the school system. In addition, there is no issue if he takes office immediately following his retirement.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-060 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Shawn Francis, a member of the Bayou L'Ourse Volunteer Fire Department, from serving as the Department's Assistant Fire Chief while

his brother serves as Fire Chief. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics provides an exception that permits Mr. Francis to serve as the Assistant Fire Chief of the Department while his brother serves as the Department's Fire Chief and agency head. Also, there is no provision in the Code of Governmental Ethics that would prohibit him or his cousin from serving as officers of the Department.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-062 from Jerald N. Jones, on behalf of Kimberly Peters, as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Peters' company, DD V2, LLC, from contracting with Louisiana State University while she is employed as an instructor. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Peters' company from contracting with LSU, either directly or indirectly, to the extent the contract is not under the supervision or jurisdiction of the Accounting Department.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-063 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Cully Cressionie, a member of the Lafourche Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 ("LPFPD"), from participating in transactions involving the District in which Sunbelt Fire has a substantial economic interest when the member has a personal relationship with the daughter of the General Manager of Sunbelt Fire. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Cressionie from serving on the advisory board for the LPFPD while he lives with the daughter of the general manager of Sunbelt Fire and Sunbelt fire maintains a contractual, business, or financial relationship with the LPFPD.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-092 from Representative Rashid Young, as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics permits him to contract with or be employed by a Louisiana charter school authorized by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education while he serves as a state representative. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Mr. Young, as a state representative, from being employed by or contracting with a Type II Charter School. Further, the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Representative Young from participating in matters in which his employer has a substantial economic interest, but does not prohibit him from debating or discussing such matters.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the February 5th and February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Board meetings.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance, the Board considered Docket No. 22-023 regarding the assessment of the enhanced penalty pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(b) for Ray Francois, a candidate for Chief of Police, Town of Roseland, in the November 3, 2020 election, for his failure to file 10-P, 10-G and 40-G Campaign finance disclosure reports. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board assessed a civil penalty of \$10,000 each, (\$30,000) for the 10-P, 10-G and 40-G Campaign finance disclosure reports.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 23-390 regarding Denarold Anderson entering into a transaction with the St. John the Baptist Housing Authority, while his mother served on the Board of the Housing Authority. Mr. Anderson executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation of Section 1113B of the Code of Governmental Ethics with a

\$1,000 civil penalty. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication and authorized staff to dismiss the charges filed against Mr. Anderson with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 24-113 regarding Mark Hartman and Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc. (“EAE”), entering into prohibited transactions. EAE executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation of Section 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics with a \$5,000 civil penalty. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication and authorized staff to dismiss the charges filed against Mark Hartman and EAE with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 24-576 regarding Allegiance Ag and Turf, LLC (“AAT”) violating Section 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics. AAT executed the consent opinion admitting to a violation with a \$1,000 civil penalty. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance, the Board considered Docket No. 25-405 regarding the assessment of the enhanced penalty pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(a) and La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(b) for Shane M. Bailey, a candidate for State Representative, 57th Representative District, in the November 18, 2023 election, for his failure to file 30-P, 10-P and 10-G Campaign finance disclosure reports. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board assessed a civil penalty of \$10,000 each, (\$30,000) for the 30-P, 10-P and 10-G Campaign finance disclosure reports.

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

1. Due to upcoming Good Friday Holiday, next meetings will be held on Wednesday April 1 and Thursday, April 2, 2026.
2. Mr. Bordelon and the Board expressed their appreciation for the exemplary efforts of Ethics staff Kristy Gary, Angela Newsom and Ashley Wimberley.

3. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved Data Report 1 as presented by David Bordelon.
4. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved Data Report 2 as presented by David Bordelon.

The Board moved Docket No. 3126-002 to the end of the meeting.

The Board considered a memorandum in Docket No. 3126-005 regarding the dollar amount for the food and drink limit that can be provided to a public servant per event pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1115.1. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved to promulgate a rule which increases the current value of the food and drink limit to \$84 per event beginning July 1, 2026.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance, the Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for “good cause” waivers of campaign finance disclosure late fees assessed against individuals included in item G33, 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 G33, excluding Docket No. 26-026, taking the following action:

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously reduced to \$400 based on Rule 1205C and declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 25-804 from Philip Dane Cutrer, 10-G of a \$500 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously suspended all fees based on future compliance assessed against the following:

Docket No. 26-024 from Joaquin "Jr." Matheu, 2024 Annual of a \$1000 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously reduced to \$800 based on Rule 1205C and declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 26-048 from Wilton R. Dunaway, 40-G of a \$500 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 26-026 regarding the \$1,000 Campaign finance late fee assessed against Nicholas J. "Nick" Lorusso, candidate for State Representative, 94th Representative District in a future election, whose 2024 Annual campaign finance disclosure report was 138 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board reduced the late fee to \$100 based on Rule 1205C and declined to waive the campaign finance late fee.

The Board considered a Lobbying waiver request in Docket No. 26-061 regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed against Damien Watt for filing his 2025 lobbying registration payment 17 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board waived the fee since this is Mr. Watt's first late filing.

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 G35, 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 G35, taking the following action:

The Board unanimously suspended all but \$250 of the personal financial disclosure late fees based on future compliance with the Code of Ethics. The \$250 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 25-805 Charles McMillin, Amend 2023 Tier 3, 68 days late of a \$500 late fee.

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

Docket 25-806 LaVerne Cook, Jr., Amend 2023 Tier 3, 4 days late of a \$100 late fee;

Docket 25-806 LaVerne Cook, Jr., 2025 School Board Disclosure, 10 days late of a \$500 late fee;  
Docket 26-027 Jered M. Thomas, Amend 2023 Tier 3, 48 days late of a \$500 late fee;  
Docket 26-028 Jesse L. Means III, Amend 2022 Tier 2.1, 88 days late of a \$1500 late fee;  
Docket 26-029 Joshua Edmund, Amend 2023 Tier 2, 25 days late of a \$2500 late fee;  
and,  
Docket 26-047 Aaron J. Lawler, Amend 2023 Tier 2, 249 days late of a \$2500 late fee.

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

Docket 26-003 John Faust, Amend 2023 Tier 2.1, 3 days late of a \$150 late fee;  
Docket 26-025 Winfort Steward, III, Amend 2023 Tier 3, 19 days late of a \$475 late fee;  
and  
Docket 26-049 Joseph M. Roberts, Amend 2024 Tier 3, 23 days late of a \$500 late fee.

The Board considered the General Supplemental Agenda.

Board Member Davis recused himself from voting on Docket Nos. 22-830 and 23-012.

The Board considered pending charges in Docket No. 22-830 against Dr. James Sandefur and Optometry Association of Louisiana for violation of Sections 1111C(2)(d) and 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges against Dr. Sandefur and Optometry Association of Louisiana.

The Board considered pending charges in Docket No. 22-012 against Optometry Association of Louisiana for violation of Section 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges against Optometry Association of Louisiana.

The Board discussed pending charges in Docket No. 22-629 against LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of New Orleans, regarding her receipt of travel upgrades. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges against LaToya Cantrell.

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.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

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**Secretary**

**APPROVED:**

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**Chairman**