

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Minutes

May 8, 2026

The Board of Ethics met on May 8, 2026 at 9:05 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, Colomb, Crigler, Danos, Fremin, Grimley, Huval, Roberts and Whipple present. Board Members Bryant, David, Grand, Nowlin and Scott were absent. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon; the Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, Jessica Meiners, Charles Reeves, Kathryn Rich and Kelsey Simmons.

Attorneys Yigel Bander and Tanner Woods appeared with Lester Smith before the Board in Docket No. 21-162 requesting that the Board rescind an order for the assessment of the enhanced penalties (\$30,000 total) pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(a) and (b) for Mr. Smith, a candidate for State Representative, District 3, Caddo Parish, in the October 12, 2019 election, for his failure to file 30-P, 10-P and 10-G campaign finance disclosure reports; and an untimely request that the Board waive three \$2,000 late fees (\$6,000 total) assessed against Lester Smith, an unsuccessful candidate for State Representative, District 3, Caddo Parish, in the October 12, 2019 election, whose 30-P, 10-P and 10-G reports were filed 2,290 days late, 2,270 days late and 2,235 days late respectively. After hearing from Mr. Bander, Mr. Woods, and Mr. Smith, on motion made, seconded and passed by a vote of eight yeas by Board Members Amato, Crigler, Danos, Fremin, Grimley, Huval, Roberts and Whipple and one nay by Board Member Colomb, the Board, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, rescinded two of the enhanced penalties (\$20,000 total) assessed against Mr. Smith, leaving one (\$10,000) due and owing. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the

Board, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, considered the untimely waiver request and declined to waive the three \$2,000 late fees (\$6,000 total) assessed against Lester Smith for the late 30-P, 10-P and 10-G reports.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-533 regarding a request to reconsider the Board's decision to suspend all but \$1,000 of the \$2,500 late fee assessed against Steven Jackson, State Representative, 2nd Representative District, 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 the June 2026 meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance, the Board considered a request in Docket No. 25-582 that it reconsider its decision to decline to waive four late fees assessed against Steven Jackson, a successful candidate for State Representative, District 2, Bossier and Caddo Parishes, in the October 14, 2023 election: 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 the June 2026 meeting.

Tiffany Foxworth, a successful candidate for District Judge, 19th Judicial District Court, ES 2, Division M in the July 11, 2020 and November 3, 2020 elections, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 26-002 requesting that the Board consider a waiver request regarding two (2) \$300.00 and two (2) \$1,000 campaign finance late fees (total of \$2,600) assessed against Ms. Foxworth, whose 2023 and 2024 Supplemental reports were filed 5 and 73 days late; and, an

untimely request that the Board waive the \$60.00, seven (7) \$2,000, the \$840, and the \$1,620 late fees (total \$16,520) assessed against her, whose 10-G, EDE-G, 40-G, 2020 & 2021 Supplemental campaign finance reports were filed 1, 188, 160, 149, 183, 111, 99, 14, 27 and 58 days late respectively. After hearing from Ms. Foxworth, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance, considered the untimely request and suspended all but \$5,000 in late fees based on future compliance.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 26-075 regarding the \$250 and \$50 late fees assessed against Mr. Adrian Bruneau for the late filing of the November 2025 and December 2025 Lobbying Expenditure Reports. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the June 2026 meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee for Campaign Finance, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 26-206 regarding two \$3,000 campaign finance late fees (\$6,000 total) assessed against Revitalize Northeast Louisiana PAC, a political action committee, and its committee's chairperson, Mary Cruz Berzoza, whose 10-G and 2024 Annual campaign finance disclosure reports have not been filed. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the June 2026 meeting.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board agreed to take action on items G7-G18 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 G7-G18, taking the following action:

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-081 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits a member of the Orleans Parish School Board (“OPSB”) from creating a nonprofit, The Learning Community Center (“TLCC”), which partners with other organizations to create programs to benefit teachers and students. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit TLCC from partnering with NOLA Affordable Housing, LLC, or other persons, since TLCC will not be providing compensated services to persons that have or seek a contractual, financial or business relationship with OPSB.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-103 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Matthew Windham, spouse of Morgan Windham, an employee for the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (“LOMV”) from being employed with CHAMP Titles (“CHAMP”), a vendor that has a business relationship with the LOMV. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Mrs. Windham from receiving any thing of economic value through compensation received by her spouse for services by him to CHAMP while CHAMP has a contractual relationship with the Project Management Office of the LOMV and while she is employed with the Project Management Office of the LOMV.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-105 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Heather Howle, an employee at the Louisiana Department of Education (“LDOE”) from working with Louisiana State University Shreveport and REACH University. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Howle from

continuing her adjunct teaching positions with Louisiana State University Shreveport and REACH while maintaining her current employment with LDOE.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-111 from the Bogalusa Chief of Police regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the Bogalusa City School District from paying an officer for providing special security details to Bogalusa City Schools while the officer's mother serves on the Bogalusa City School Board. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the School District from paying Officer Mitchell directly for providing special security details to Bogalusa City Schools while his mother serves on the School Board. Additionally, be aware that any prior conduct that may be in violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics shall be reported to the Board by the agency head pursuant to Section 1161A of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-123 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the continued employment of Janet Vincent, an employee with the City of Deridder if her spouse Clopis E. Vincent, is elected to the City Council. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Mrs. Vincent to continue her employment with the Public Works Department with the City of DeRidder if her husband is elected to the City Council. However, her husband is prohibited from participating in transactions involving the City of DeRidder in which Mrs. Vincent has a substantial economic interest.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-126 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Girlie Anderson, an employee of East Baton Rouge City Parish, from the purchase of adjudicated property in East Baton Rouge Parish. On

motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Anderson from purchasing adjudicated property through the City-Parish's standard public process while she is employed by the City-Parish for EmployBR under the Mayor-President's Office.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-151 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Noel Pisani, a St. Mary Parish School Board employee, from being elected to the St. Mary Parish School Board during his employment and to serve as an elected member after his retirement. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that no provision in the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit Mr. Pisani, in his capacity as an employee of the St. Mary Parish School Board, from running for office and being elected as a member of the St. Mary Parish School Board during his employment, or from serving as an elected member of the School after he retires from employment.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-153 from Ms. Tiffany Manning regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits participation by Stephanie Collier, the Town Clerk of Benton in matters involving the Police Department while her husband Steve Collier is the Police Chief. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board declined to render an opinion since Ms. Manning has not received consent to request this advisory opinion on behalf of the Town Council and therefore, she lacks standing to request such and the point is moot.

The Board granted the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-154 at the petition of requester Shakari Fraser since the opinion is no longer needed.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-178 concerning the application of the post-employment restrictions for Carl Gaudry, an employee with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (“DOTD”). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the two-year post-employment restrictions in the Code of Governmental Ethics applies to any service in which Mr. Gaudry previously rendered, as well as any transaction in which he previously participated, at any time during his continuous public employment with the DOTD, which started in 2008.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-187 regarding post-employment of Peter Emery, a former employee of the Department of Safety and Permits in the City of New Orleans (“DPNSO”). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Mr. Emery to provide third party inspection services to other divisions within DPSNO, provided such services are not rendered to the Mechanical Division of DPNSO.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-189 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Tiffany Davis-Mitchell, a former employee of University View Academy (“UVA”) from entering into transactions with her former agency. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics permits Ms. Davis-Mitchell to establish and operate a micro-academy at UVA to provide student instruction and support on a contractual basis within two years of her resignation from UVA, except that she may not engage in any of the services she previously provided, including assisting teachers in addressing student needs.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

Board Member Whipple recused herself from voting on the April 2026 minutes.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the April 1st and April 2nd, 2026 Board meeting minutes.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 21-889 regarding Keith Schroth related to violation of Section 1111 of the Code of Governmental Ethics. 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. Schroth with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 22-026 regarding Dr. Larry Hollier related to violation of Section 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adopted the consent opinion for publication and authorized staff to dismiss the charges filed against Dr. Hollier with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Board Member Fremin recused himself from voting on Docket No. 23-882

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket No. 23-882 regarding Baja Enterprises of Lockport LLC arising from charges filed for violating 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 and authorized staff to dismiss the charges filed against Nicole Autin and Baja Enterprises of Lockport LLC with the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance, the Board considered the assessment of the enhanced penalty in Docket No. 26-033 pursuant to La. R.S.

18:1505.4A(4)(b) for Mitchell M. Bratton, a candidate for Sheriff, Caldwell Parish, in the October 14, 2023 election, for his failure to file 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 (\$20,000 total) for failure to file the 10-P and the 10-G Campaign finance disclosure reports.

Board Member Fremin left the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance, the Board considered the assessment of the enhanced penalty in Docket No. 26-057 pursuant to La. R.S.

18:1505.4A(4)(b) for Samuel "Quint" Carriere, candidate for Councilman, District 4, City of Alexandria, Rapides Parish, in the November 13, 2021 election, for his failure to file the 2022 and 2023 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure reports. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board assessed a civil penalty of \$10,000 each (\$20,000 total) for failure to file the 2022 and 2023 Supplemental campaign finance disclosure reports.

Board Member Fremin returned to the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-184 from Falon Ward, on behalf of the Louisiana Academy of Production Charter High School (the "School") and its board member Stevee-Rayne Warren, as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the School from entering into transactions with New Orleans Video Access Center, Inc., ("NOVAC"), a non-profit agency which employs Ms. Warren. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit the School from entering into contracts with NOVAC. The Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Warren from receiving compensation from NOVAC while it has a contract with the School to the extent that Ms. Warren meets the conditions of Section 1111C(6) of the Code of Governmental Ethics. If she meets the conditions, then the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Warren from participating in matters involving NOVAC and requires her to file annual financial disclosures.

The Board considered an emergency advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-204 issued to Michele Braud, an employee of the Department of Education, regarding her acceptance of complementary travel. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Ms. Braud from accepting complimentary travel expenses from the French ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in connection with her attendance at Educational Conferences in France. As there is no prohibition on her acceptance of travel expenses, no disclosure form is required to be filed.

The Board considered 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 Board of Ethics will release a newly designed website on May 30, 2026. This will prevent any issues with the upcoming May 15th disclosure deadline date.
3. Mr. Bordelon introduced the following new employees: Kedra Johnson and Harrison Skinner.

The Board moved G28 to the end of the meeting.

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 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, except for Docket Nos. 26-124 and 26-136, taking the following action:

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously suspended all but \$100 of the campaign finance late fees, based on future compliance, assessed against the following:

Docket No. 26-095 from Dominic O. Weilbaecher, 2024 SUPP of a \$2500 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 26-138 from Eric J. Jones, 40-G of a \$1000 late fee; and
Docket No. 26-149 from Dele Adebamiji, 10-G of a \$720 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously reduced to \$1200 based on rule 1205C and declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket No. 26-164 from AFL-CIO PAC, 2025 Sept Monthly of a \$2800 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 26-124 regarding that the Board waive two (2) \$1,000 campaign finance late fees (total \$2,000) assessed against Steven E. “Steve” Pylant, an unsuccessful candidate for Franklin Parish Sheriff in the October 11, 2025 election, whose 30-P and 10-P campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 35 and 42 days late, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the June, 2026 Board meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 26-136 regarding that the Board waive the \$40 campaign finance late fee assessed against James Brent Moreland, an unsuccessful candidate for Police Juror, District 1, Bossier Parish, in the October 11, 2025 election, whose 10-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 1 day late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended the campaign finance late fees, based on future compliance.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance, the Board considered a reconsideration request in Docket No. 23-554 regarding its decision to decline to waive the \$120 and \$2,000 Campaign finance late fees (for a total of \$2,120) assessed against Miguel Marie Roche Romar, an unsuccessful candidate for Jefferson Parish School Board, District 1, in

the November 8, 2022 election, whose 10-P and 10-G Campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 2 and 537 days late, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter until the June 2026 meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance, the Board considered a reconsideration request in Docket No. 24-712 regarding its decision to reduce to \$1,000 and suspend all but \$500 for each of three (3) \$2,500 campaign finance late fees (\$7,500 total) assessed against Daniel M. "Danny" Cole, an unsuccessful candidate for Governor in the October 14, 2023 election, whose 30-P, 10-P & 10-G campaign finance disclosure reports were filed 350, 330 and 295 days late, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board reaffirmed its decision to reduce to \$1,000 and suspend all but \$500 for each of three (3) \$2,500 campaign finance late fees (\$7,500 total).

The Board considered the general supplemental agenda.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 26-265 from John Fleming, Treasurer of the State of Louisiana, as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits the execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement ("CEA") between the Department of the Treasury (the "Treasury Department") and the St. Tammany Parish Development District. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the proposed CEA does not present any issues under Section 1117 of the Code of Governmental Ethics. With respect to payments to the Colliers Strategy and Consulting, Inc. by the St. Tammany Parish Development District, the Board declined to render an advisory opinion with respect to this issue as John Fleming representing the Treasury Department lacks standing to request such an opinion.

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 10:49 a.m.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman