

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
General Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2025

The Board of Ethics met on September 5, 2025 at 9:04 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, Baños, Bryant, Crigler, Davis, Fremin, Grand, Grimley, Huval, Nowlin, Scott, Speer and Whipple present. Board Members Colomb and Roberts were absent. Also present were the Ethics Administrator, David Bordelon; the Executive Secretary, Carolyn Abadie Landry; and Counsel Tracy Barker, Jessica Meiners, Suzanne Mooney and Charles Reeves.

Mr. Raoul Armando "Skip" Galan, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 24-316 requesting that the Board in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, reconsider an untimely request to decline to waive the \$2,000 campaign finance late fee assessed against Mr. Galan, a disqualified candidate for State Senator, 10th Senatorial District, Jefferson Parish, in the October 14, 2023 election, whose 30-P campaign finance disclosure report was filed 113 days late. After hearing from Mr. Galan, on motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board considered the untimely request. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board reduced the fee to \$600 and declined to waive the fee based on Rule 1205C of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

Board Member Nowlin recused himself from voting in Docket No. 25-097.

Ms. Alesia Ardoin, representing the Lafayette Republican Parish Executive Committee, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 25-097 requesting that the Board waive the four (4) \$3,000 campaign finance late fees for a total of \$12,000 assessed against Lafayette Republican Parish Executive Committee, a political action committee, its committee's chairperson, Tim M. Breaux, and treasurer, Charles Buckels, in the October 14, 2023 election whose, 30-P and 10-P

have not been filed and 10-G and 40-G campaign finance disclosure reports were inaccurately filed. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter to a future meeting.

Board Member Colomb arrived to the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Board Member Baños recused herself from voting in Docket No. 25-250.

Ms. Alesia Ardoin and Mr. Shawn P. Gibbs appeared before the Board in Docket No. 25-250 requesting that the Board consider a waiver request submitted by Mr. Gibbs, Pilotage Fee Commission, regarding a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2021 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 48 days late; and, a \$1,500 late fee assessed for filing his 2022 Tier 2.1 Annual personal financial disclosure 48 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$500 each of the late fees for a total due of \$1,000 based on future compliance.

Board Member Whipple recused herself from voting in Docket No. 25-373.

Ms. Alesia Ardoin, representing Jason Ard, appeared before the Board in Docket No. 25-373 requesting that the Board consider a waiver request submitted by Jason Gerald Ard, Sheriff of Livingston Parish, regarding a \$2,500 late fee assessed for filing his amended 2022 Tier 2 Annual personal financial disclosure 512 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter to a future meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a request for reconsideration in Docket No. 24-034 regarding the decision to reduce to \$500 and decline to waive the \$800 campaign finance late fees (\$1300 total) assessed against Scott Washington, an unsuccessful candidate for Police Juror, District 8, Calcasieu Parish in the October 14, 2023 election, whose 10-P and 10-G campaign finance disclosure reports were filed

14 and 20 days late, respectively. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, with respect to the 10-P, the Board reaffirmed its prior decision to reduce the 10-P fee to \$500 based on Rule 1205C and decline to waive; and with respect to the 10-G, the Board reaffirmed its prior decision to decline to waive.

The Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 24-820 submitted by Adren O. Wilson, former Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Governor, regarding a \$12,500 late fee assessed against him for filing his 2022 Tier 1 Annual personal financial disclosure 37 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all but \$700 of the late fees based on future compliance with the Code of Ethics. The \$700 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.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board reconsidered a request in Docket No. 25-025 regarding its decision to decline to waive four (4) \$3,000 for a total of \$12,000 campaign finance late fees assessed against The Voice of the People, LLC, a political action committee, its committee's chairperson, Sidney D. Torres, IV, and treasurer, Lisa Schehr, whose 2020ANN and 2022ANN, 10-P and 10-G campaign finance disclosure reports were filed inaccurately. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board deferred the matter to a future meeting.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a request in Docket No. 25-418 that the Board waive three late fees assessed against Desiree Odell Collins, a successful candidate for Council Member, District 3, City of Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish, in the March 23, 2024 election, regarding a \$1,000 late fee assessed for an inaccurate 30-P report; and, a \$1,000 late fee assessed for an inaccurate 10-G report; and a \$500

late fee assessed for an unfiled 2024 Supplemental report. 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 G9-G15 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 G9-G15, taking the following action:

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-296 from Michele Steib, an employee of the Port of New Orleans (the “Port”), regarding her outside employment and post-employment restrictions. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Ms. Steib and her company, MSITT, LLC., from providing compensated IT services through a private contract with Spears Global since it has a contractual relationship with her agency the Port. The post-employment restrictions contained in the Code of Governmental Ethics apply to Ms. Steib and her company for two years following the date she retires from her public employment with the Port.

The Board approved the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-398 from the Cameron Parish Coroner, Dr. Kevin Dupke, regarding the Coroner's Office entering into transactions with a contracted staff member's business and instructed staff to send Dr. Dupke the Board's prohibited contract information sheet.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-413 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Pointe Coupee Parish School Board employee Tabitha Ransom's son from being employed in the 21st Century Community Learning Center. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that Section

1119A of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Trey Nelson from being employed in his mother's agency, the 21st Century Community Learning Center while his mother serves as the Supervisor for the program.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-429 regarding whether the Lincoln Parish Assessor can hire Sadie Brown, his daughter-in-law's sister, to work in the Assessor's Office. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit Sadie Brown from being employed in the Lincoln Parish Assessor's Office since Sadie Brown is not a member of Mr. McBride's immediate family.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-430 from Hamid Belfassi, employee of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development ("DOTD"), regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit him from contracting with state agencies. On motion made, seconded and passed the Board concluded that based on the facts presented, no provision of the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits him and any company in which he owns more than twenty-five percent from contracting with the state during his employment. The Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit him or the Proposed Business from contracting with other DOTD districts, other agencies within the State of Louisiana, or agencies in other states

The Board approved the withdrawal of an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-438 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Marian Mergist, former DEQ Private Secretary to the Secretary of DEQ, from being reclassified from unclassified to DEQ Administrative Assistant 6 since Ms. Mergist retired effective August 18, 2025 and the point is now moot.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-449 regarding as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Misty Wallace Saunders from selling snowballs to the public at Northwood High School while her mother serves as a bookkeeper for Northwood High School. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit Ms. Saunders or her business from selling ice cream or snow cones to the public at Northwood High School.

The Board considered the following general business agenda items:

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of the August 7th and August 8th, 2025 meetings.

The Board considered Administrator's Notes Mr. Bordelon in Docket No. 3125-01:

1. The School Board Disclosure is due Sept. 15th. Staff sent reminders to the Dept. of Education, BESE, La. Charter School Association, and the La. School Board Association.
2. The number of Subpoenas issued by the Board in August was 21. This information will be provided at meetings pursuant to R.S. 42:1141(C)(1)(b)(ii). (Act 301 of 2025 Regular Session)

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously agreed to take action on the requests for "good cause" waivers of late fees assessed against candidates and committees included in item 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 the items in G18, excluding Docket No. 25-417, taking the following action:

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 25-415 from Terecita Pollard-Pattan, 2024 SUPP of a \$500 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board unanimously reduced to \$100 based on future compliance and declined to waive the campaign finance late fees assessed against the following:

Docket 25-416 from Adaline Villneuve Rutherford, 2024SUPP of a \$400 late fee.

In its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, the Board considered a waiver request in Docket No. 25-417 regarding a \$180 campaign finance late fee assessed against Brian L. Glorioso, a successful candidate for State Representative, 90th Representative District in the October 14, 2023 election, whose 2023 supplemental campaign finance disclosure report was filed 3 days late. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board suspended all of the late fee based on future compliance.

The Board considered the following items on the General Supplemental Agenda.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 25-464 regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits an employee of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (“CPRA”) from accepting a door prize. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that the Code of Governmental Ethics does not prohibit a CPRA employee from accepting any type of door prize awarded via a random drawing at a Conference, provided that the person donating the prize is not a prohibited source pursuant to La. R.S.42:1115. Additionally, CPRA employees are not prohibited from accepting promotional items such as cups, pens, and other items of no substantial resale value with imprinted company logos, even if the items were donated by a prohibited source, because these items have no substantial resale value pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1102(22)(a).

The Board considered a consent opinion in Docket Nos. 22-455 and 2023-644 regarding Jeff Landry, in his capacity as Attorney General. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board voted to adopt and publish the consent opinion regarding violation of La. R. S.

42:1115.2 with a civil penalty of \$900 executed by Governor Jeff Landry, dismiss the charges before the Ethics Adjudicatory Board and close both files.

The Board considered an advisory opinion request in Docket No. 24-469 on behalf of Governor Jeffrey M. Landry, relating to the use of Form 413 and compliance with Section 1115.2 of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board concluded that to qualify for the exception contained in Section 1115.2 of the Code of Governmental Ethics, Governor Landry is required to file Form 413 with the Board within sixty days of his receipt of complimentary admission lodging and transportation received in connection with his duties as Governor of the State of Louisiana. Form 413 requires his signatures as both the public servant accepting the benefit and in his capacity as the agency head certifying the approval meets the requirements of La. R. S. 42:1115.2.

The Board considered the assessment of the enhanced penalty in Docket No. 25-403 pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(a) and La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(b) for Brian J. Bennett, candidate for Councilman at Large, City of Alexandria, Rapides Parish, in the November 8, 2022 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 Mr. Bennett a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each of the three unfiled campaign finance disclosure reports (30-P, 10-P and 10-G) for a total of \$30,000.

The Board considered the assessment of the enhanced penalty in Docket No. 25-404 pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(a) and La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(4)(b) for Keitron Gagnon, candidate for Governor, in the October 14, 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 Mr. Gagnon a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each of the three unfiled campaign finance disclosure reports (30-P, 10-P and 10-G) for a total of \$30,000.

The Board considered Campaign Finance Disclosure forms and Personal Financial Disclosure forms in Docket No. 3125-011. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board approved the forms for submission to the Legislative oversight committees.

The Board considered charges pending in Docket No. 19-1149 against Damion Coleman, a former City of Shreveport Water and Sewerage Department employee, for violations of La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a). On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges and closed the file.

The Board considered a request to dismiss charges in Docket No. 23-491 against Dr. John King, Coroner of Lafourche Parish, for allegedly receiving fees he was not duly entitled to receive for the performance of his job duties. On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board dismissed the charges and closed the file.

On motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman