



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P.O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

TO: "District Office" Candidates
FROM: Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure
RE: Primary election – November 3, 2026

You are considered a **"District office"** candidate for purposes of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA). This designation means:

- **Your contribution limit is \$6,000 for the primary election. This limit applies to any combination of contributions, in-kind contributions, and loans received from individuals and endorsements on bank loans.** This limit does not apply to the use of your personal funds, which must be reported as contributions or loans.
- You should read the enclosed Summary of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act that provides an outline of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA).

If you are a candidate for the office of state representative or state senator, you are required to obtain one hour of ethics training and file the enclosed Form 105 within 3 business days after the close of qualifying.

You are required to file the appropriate Tier level Personal Financial Disclosure statement within 3 business days after the close of qualifying. This form was provided to you in a separate packet at qualifying.

You **MUST** file campaign finance reports and they **MUST** be filed electronically. Information is available on our website at www.ethics.la.gov to assist you with electronic filing. Deadlines for filing reports are as follows:

<u>Report</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>Period report covers</u>	<u>Due date</u>
30-P	Candidate's Report	Jan. 1, 2026 thru Sept. 24, 2026	October 5, 2026
10-P	Candidate's Report	Sept. 25, 2026 thru Oct. 14, 2026	October 26, 2026
10-G	Candidate's Report	Oct. 15, 2026 thru Nov. 22, 2026	December 2, 2026

Important note: Special reports may also be required from **October 15, 2026 through November 3, 2026** (See report instructions on backside of Schedule of Reporting and Filing dates.)

If you participate in the general election, additional reports will be required to be filed.

- You **must** file reports timely in order to avoid **automatic late fees of \$60** for each day a required report is not timely filed. Reports are considered filed on the day they are filed electronically with this office.
- If you **withdraw** from the race or become **unopposed**, you must file the next Candidate's report due after the date you withdraw with the Secretary of State's Office or become unopposed. **YOU MUST FILE AT LEAST ONE REPORT.**

Questions about these materials should not be addressed to the official with whom you qualified. If you have campaign finance questions, please **call 225-219-5600** or visit the website www.ethics.la.gov. Questions related to the booklets on Dual Office Holding and Election Offenses should be addressed to the Attorney General's Office (225) 326-6000 or visit their website www.ag.state.la.us.

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Post Office Box 4368
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

CERTIFICATION OF REQUIRED ETHICS TRAINING FOR CANDIDATES

(Pursuant to La. R.S. 18:461.1)

R.S. 18:461.1 provides that each person who has qualified for a statewide elective office or the office of state representative or state senator shall certify that he has obtained at least one hour of ethics education and training. Such certification shall be filed with the Board of Ethics no later than three business days after the close of the qualifying period for such office.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT: I have qualified as a candidate in the Primary Election to be held on _____ for election to the office of _____.

I have obtained at least one hour of ethics training referenced in La. R.S. 42:1170 and required by La. R.S.18:461.1 .

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I hereby certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief; as required by law.

Name (Print)

Signature

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

SCHEDULE OF REPORTING AND FILING DATES FOR CANDIDATES & COMMITTEES SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING CANDIDATES

PRIMARY ELECTION – November 3, 2026

GENERAL ELECTION – December 12, 2026

NO.	REPORT TYPE	REPORT COVERS PERIOD FROM:	REPORT COVERS PERIOD THROUGH:	REPORT DUE BY:*	FILED BY:
1.	180 th day prior to primary (180-P)	- if 2025 annual report filed † – January 1, 2026 - if first report - date of first contribution/expenditure	April 27, 2026	May 7, 2026	major office candidates & committees supporting or opposing only
2.	90 th day prior to primary (90-P)	- if 2025 annual report filed † – January 1, 2026 - if first report - date of first contribution/expenditure - if 180-P filed – April 28, 2026	July 26, 2026	August 5, 2026	major office candidates & committees supporting or opposing only
3.	30 th day prior to primary (30-P)	- if 2025 annual report filed † – January 1, 2026 - if first report - date of first contribution/expenditure - if 90-P filed – July 27, 2026	September 24, 2026	October 5, 2026	all candidates & committees supporting or opposing in the primary election
4.	10 th day prior to primary (10-P)	September 25, 2026	October 14, 2026	October 26, 2026	all candidates & committees supporting or opposing in the primary election
	• Special report (s)	October 15, 2026	November 3, 2026	within 2 business days of the transaction	candidates & committees supporting or opposing having certain transactions (see over)
5.	10 th day prior to general (10-G)	October 15, 2026	November 22, 2026	December 2, 2026	MUST BE FILED BY ALL CANDIDATES & COMMITTEES SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING IN PRIMARY ELECTION
	• Special report (s)	November 23, 2026	December 12, 2026	Within 2 business days of the transaction	candidates & committees supporting or opposing having certain transactions (see over)
6.	40 th day after general (40-G)	November 23, 2026	January 11, 2027	January 21, 2027	all candidates & committees supporting or opposing in the general election
7.	Supplemental & Annual	November 22, 2026, if not in general January 12, 2027, in general	December 31, 2026	See schedule back for due dates	candidates & committees supporting or opposing with outstanding debts or loans or having additional contributions or expenditures

* Date received either physically or electronically, by facsimile or e-mail, in the office of the supervisory committee or date of postmark or date receipted on a return receipt requested form from the United States Post Office or receipt or invoice from commercial delivery service. **Law requires that candidates for “major offices” and “district offices” file campaign finance reports electronically.**

† An annual report is due by March 2, 2026 if contributions received or expenditures made in 2025.

This schedule of reporting and filing dates should be followed by all candidates in this election and by all committees supporting or opposing candidates in this election. Leadership committees must file reports on a monthly basis; however, all other committees may elect to report on a monthly basis.

Candidates for “major offices” and “district offices” must electronically file these reports.

Candidates for “any other offices” must file reports only if they receive contributions in excess of \$5,000 in the aggregate during the aggregating period, excluding the candidate’s personal funds, or make expenditures in excess of \$5,000.

“**Major offices**” include each statewide elected office (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance), **Public Service Commissioner, Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeal Judge, BESE**, District Court Judges elected parish-wide in Orleans, any other office with an election district containing a population in excess of 250,000.

*Includes offices elected parish-wide in East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany; District Attorneys in the 1st, 15th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 24th Judicial Districts; District Court Judges in the 21st and 22nd Judicial Districts

“**District offices**” include office of a member of the Louisiana Legislature, all offices elected parish-wide (except in East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany), all offices elected in more than one parish (unless the population exceeds 250,000), all offices elected in a district with a population in excess of 35,000 (but less than 250,000), district court judgeships (except those in Orleans Parish or in districts over 250,000); family court, juvenile, and city court judgeships; city court marshals and city court constables, offices elected in a city or parish election in a parish with a municipality with a population of 300,000 or more (Orleans Parish), offices to a board or governing authority which has within its jurisdiction a municipality with a population of 225,000 or more (East Baton Rouge Parish).

*Includes offices elected citywide in the cities of Alexandria, Bossier City, Kenner, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, and Shreveport, and offices elected in East Baton Rouge that are not parish-wide.

“**Any other offices**” are those offices that do not fall within the definitions of major or district offices who makes expenditures in excess of \$5,000 or receives contributions, not including the candidate’s own funds, in totaling in excess of \$5,000.

There are limits on the amount of funds which may be received by candidates from one source, excluding their personal funds and funds from political parties. Those limits, which apply separately to the primary and the general elections, are as follows:

\$12,000 - major office candidates
\$6,000 - district office candidates
\$2,000 - any other office candidates

If the person making the contribution is a committee with over 250 members who contributed at least \$50 to the committee in the preceding calendar year, then the contribution limits may be doubled.

Special Reports: Certain transactions that occur during the 20 days preceding an election must be reported within 2 business days of the transaction. Those transactions are (1) the receipt of over \$2,000 by major office candidates or committees, over \$1000 by district office candidates or committees, over \$500 for any other office candidates or committees, or (2) the expenditure of over \$500 to any person who makes endorsements and who must file campaign finance disclosure reports.

Annual & Supplemental Reports:

Candidates: Annual reports detailing activity for a future election are due by February 15th for financial activity in a calendar year prior to the year of the election. (R.S. 18:1495.4E)

Supplemental reports are due February 28th to be filed by all elected officials regardless of amount of activity, as well as by unsuccessful candidates who had a deficit or surplus of \$5,000 or more from a previous election (See R.S. 18:1495.4D for further reporting requirements pertaining to prior election cycles).

Other Persons: An annual report detailing activity made in the prior calendar year is due by February 28th.

Political Committees and Independent Expenditure Only Committees not filing monthly: An annual report is due by February 28th.

Withdrawn & Unopposed Candidates: The final report required will be the next Candidate’s Report due as of the date the candidate withdraws or learns that he is unopposed.

Late Filing Penalties: Penalties for late reports for candidates will be automatically imposed at \$40 (any other), \$60 (district), or \$100 (major) per day based on the office sought.

Committees will be assessed \$200 per day for late reports.

Proposition Elections & Recall Petitions: Persons supporting or opposing propositions or filing recall petitions should request a special schedule of reporting and filing dates.

Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure
Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821
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FAX (225) 381-7271
www.ethics.la.gov

**The LAW REQUIRES
you to file your campaign
finance
reports electronically.**

If you are a first time electronic filer, an affidavit and contact page must be filed ASAP, but no later than 5 days prior to the due date of your first report.

The electronic filing affidavit may be downloaded at www.ethics.la.gov – under Campaign Finance.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE SEMINAR

A free, live online training session will be conducted by staff of the Louisiana Board of Ethics (“BOE”) to provide information on the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

The training will include instruction as to the proper completion of reporting forms and the proper use of the electronic filing system known as LEADERS (electronic filing is mandatory for district and major office level candidates). BOE staff will be available to answer any questions you may have about campaign finance reporting as a candidate.

To register for the live online training:

1. Go to www.ethics.la.gov
2. Under the Training Menu, click on Live Training Seminars
3. Register for the Campaign Finance Seminar:
Wednesday September 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
4. Once you select the training date, you will be redirected to the Zoom website to complete the registration process. Once registration is complete, you will be sent a link via email to access the training.
5. You will need a computer/tablet/mobile device with a speaker to hear the presentation.
6. If you are not able to join the live online training seminar, you will have an opportunity to view a recorded version of the training after **September 30, 2026** on the website at www.ethics.la.gov

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

EMAIL ethics.training@la.gov

or

CALL (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600

CAMPAIGN FINANCE EXPENDITURES

Contributions received by a candidate or a committee may be expended for any lawful purpose, but shall not be used for any personal use of the candidate, or a member of his immediate family, unrelated to a political campaign or the holding of public office or party position. (R.S. 18:1505.2(I))



The following summary of prior opinions of the Board provide an illustrative list of expenditures deemed as an appropriate use of campaign funds:



Donations to Charitable Type Fundraising Events

Candidates and elected officials, who are invited to make donations to or buy raffle tickets for church fairs, school auctions, and civic organization fund-raising events, can use campaign funds provided the expenditures are reasonable and customary.

Purchase/Lease of Telephone Equipment

Candidates and elected officials can use campaign funds to purchase or lease answering machines, cell phones, or other types of telephone equipment provided the primary purpose of the equipment is to facilitate the campaign or the holding of public office.

Payment of Membership Dues in Organizations

Elected officials can use campaign funds to pay membership dues in groups or organizations necessary to stay in touch with their constituency and/or enhance their professional standing. Such organizations could include the National Conference of State Legislatures, Common Cause, Public Affairs Research Council, etc.

Expenses of Operating a District Office

Elected officials can use campaign funds for rental and operating expenses associated with the operation of a district office. However, campaign funds should not be used to compensate persons who would be considered "public employees."

Expenses for Attendance of Legislative Session

Legislators can use campaign funds for transportation, meal and lodging expenses associated with attending session or committee meetings, to the extent the expenses are not otherwise reimbursed through the Legislature. Also, legislators can use campaign funds to pay for meals with constituents to discuss district business.

Clothing

Clothing expenses, except for items of de minimis value that are used in a campaign, or specialized apparel necessary to attend a specific fundraising event or event related to holding of office, are presumed to be personal use of the candidate and shall be prohibited, unless the candidate shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the expenditure was not for personal use.

Flowers and Gifts to Constituents and Campaign Workers

Elected officials who feel obligated because of their position to extend courtesies of providing flowers for funerals of deceased constituents, graduation gifts to young people in their district, or gifts for campaign workers can use campaign funds for such items provided they are reasonable and customary.

Mileage

Elected officials and candidates can use campaign funds to pay for gas expenses for the use of a personal vehicle during the campaign or reimbursement for mileage. Elected officials and candidates should keep adequate records to support the reimbursement payments as related to the campaign or holding of public office.

Auction Items

Candidate could use campaign funds to purchase items at church and school fair auctions, if they are reasonable and customary. However, the items purchased could not be used for a personal use (for example, a candidate who wins a computer at an auction cannot give it to his daughter). Any items purchased with campaign funds belong to the campaign and would have to be disposed of subject to the restrictions on the use of funds. For example, an item purchased could be donated back to the entity having the auction or to another charity, or used by the candidate's campaign or his holding of public office.

Meals

Elected officials and candidates can use campaign funds to pay for meals at which campaign matters are discussed or at which governmental matters are discussed or to meet with constituents, which are not otherwise reimbursed by the governmental entity. Elected officials and candidates should keep adequate records to support the payment of the meal as related to the campaign or holding of public office.

Effective August 1, 2014, R.S. 18:1505.2(I) prohibits the use of campaign funds to purchase immovable property or a motor vehicle. **Motor vehicle does not include "trailer."**

Surplus funds may be maintained in a segregated fund for use in future political campaigns or for any lawful purpose related to the following: supporting or opposing a proposition; supporting or opposing a recall petition; contributing to a gubernatorial transition and inauguration; contributing to an independent expenditure only committee; donations to a nonprofit organization; lobbying; social and issue advocacy.

Credit card expenditures should be itemized to disclose the name of the business at which the credit card was used and the date of that transaction, not the name of the credit card company and the date of payment to the credit card company.

Expenditures equal to or greater than \$5,000 made on your behalf as a candidate by a public relations or advertising firm, or other agent, those expenditures should be itemized to disclose to whom payments were made, the amount of the expenditure, and the date of the expenditure. For example, if a firm purchases time to run an ad or pays a third party to develop a campaign flyer, that information should be provided to the candidate, so that the expenditure can specifically be reported by the candidate.

**The following are examples of
incomplete and complete reported expenditures:**

	Example Type	Expenditure To	Date	Description	Amount
	Incomplete:	Dillard's Baton Rouge, LA	1/1/2013	Gift	\$143.00
	Complete:	<i>Dillard's 222 First Street Baton Rouge, LA</i>	<i>1/1/2013</i>	<i>Wedding gift for constituent</i>	<i>\$143.00</i>
	Incomplete:	Jane Sneaux 333 Second Street Baton Rouge, LA	1/2/2013	Reimbursement	\$45.65
	Complete:	<i>Office Depot 123 Third Street Baton Rouge, LA</i>	<i>1/2/2013</i>	<i>Copy supplies for campaign office</i>	<i>\$45.65</i>
	Incomplete:	Ruth's Chris 345 Second Street Baton Rouge, LA	11/24/2013	Meals	\$206.95
	Complete:	<i>Ruth's Chris 345 Second Street Baton Rouge, LA</i>	<i>11/24/2013</i>	<i>Meeting with campaign manager</i>	<i>\$206.95</i>
	Incomplete:	John Doe 555 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA	6/12/2013	Raffle Ticket	\$40.00
	Complete:	<i>John Doe 555 Main Street Baton Rouge, LA</i>	<i>6/12/2013</i>	<i>Raffle Ticket for cancer patient fundraiser benefit</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>



LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF THE LOUISIANA CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE ACT (UPDATED THROUGH THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION)

CANDIDATES AND OTHER PERSONS

Note: This outline was produced by the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; 225-219-5600; www.ethics.la.gov. It is intended as a summary of reporting requirements. It does not purport to fully state the law. For further information, reporting forms, and schedules of reporting and filing dates for particular elections, please refer to the CFDA at LSA-R.S. 18:1481 et seq. (Revised 07/2026)

I. Introduction to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA)

Purpose:

1. Prevent the appearance of political corruption and promote transparency in elections
2. Ensure a knowledgeable electorate and promote confidence in elected officials
3. Provide public disclosure of the financing of election campaigns
4. Regulate certain campaign practices¹

Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure:

1. Prepares and distributes forms for use by candidates, committees, and other persons
2. Makes reports available to the public through the Board's website at ethics.la.gov
3. Enforces CFDA filing requirements and prohibitions
4. Issues advisory opinions interpreting the CFDA

II. Persons Required to File Disclosure Reports

A "candidate" is any person who seeks nomination or election to public office, except for federal offices or political party offices. An individual shall be deemed to seek nomination or election to such office if he:

1. Received a contribution or made an expenditure.
2. Qualified for election to public office.
3. Was selected as party nominee pursuant to R.S. 18:410.6.²

Who is Required to File CFDA Reports?

1. Each **Candidate** for a **Major**³ office, which includes:
 - a. Each statewide elected office:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance
 - b. Public Service Commissioner, Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeal Judge, BESE

¹ R.S. 18:1482

² R.S. 18:1483(3)

³ R.S. 18:1483(18)

- c. District Court Judges elected parish-wide in Orleans;
 - d. Any other office with an election district containing a population in excess of 250,000.
*Includes offices elected parish-wide in East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany; District Attorneys in the 15th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 24th Judicial Districts; District Court Judges in the 21st and 22nd Judicial Districts;
2. Each Candidate for a **District**⁴ office:
- a. Office of a member of the Louisiana Legislature
 - b. All offices elected parish-wide (except in East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany)
 - c. All offices elected in more than one parish (unless the population exceeds 250,000)
 - d. All offices elected in a district with a population in excess of 35,000 (but less than 250,000),
*Includes offices elected citywide in the cities of Alexandria, Bossier City, Kenner, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, and Shreveport, and offices elected in East Baton Rouge that are not parish-wide.
 - e. District court judgeships (except those in Orleans Parish or in districts over 250,000); family court, juvenile, and city court judgeships; city court marshals and city court constables.
 - f. Offices elected in a city or parish election in a parish with a municipality with a population of 300,000 or more (Orleans Parish).
 - g. Offices to a board or governing authority which has within its jurisdiction a municipality with a population of 225,000 or more (East Baton Rouge Parish).
3. Each Candidate for "**Any Other**" office (i.e., any office not considered a Major or District office) who makes **expenditures**⁵ in excess of \$5,000; **or** receives **contributions**⁶, other than from the candidate's personal funds, totaling in excess of \$5,000⁷.
4. Each **Committee**⁸ which knows or anticipates that it will receive contributions or loans, make expenditures, or transfer funds to or receive funds from another committee during a calendar year in excess of \$1,000.

*For further details regarding committees, including the various types of committees, see the Summary of Acts for Committees on the Board's website at ethics.la.gov.

5. Any **Person**,⁹ other than a candidate or committee, who makes expenditures in excess of \$1,000.¹⁰
6. Any **Person**, including a committee, who solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure in support of or opposition to a **proposition** or question submitted to the voters if the aggregate amount of contributions or expenditures equals or exceeds \$5,000.¹¹

4 R.S. 18:1483(9)

5 R.S. 18:1483(11)

6 R.S. 18:1483(7)

7 R.S. 18:1484

8 R.S. 18:1483(7)

9 R.S. 18:1483(22)

10 R.S. 18:1501.1

11 R.S. 18:1486

7. Any **Person**, including a committee, who solicits or receives any contribution or makes any expenditure in support of or opposition to the **recall of a public officer**, if the aggregate amount of contributions or expenditures equals or exceeds \$5,000.¹²

Note: The use of public funds to urge a voter to vote for or against a candidate or proposition is prohibited. Public funds may be used to disseminate factual information relative to a proposition. (See R.S. 18:1465)

III. Recordkeeping Requirements

The candidate or his campaign treasurer must keep records of receipts and disbursements for two years after the final report is filed.¹³

Records of committees or other persons supporting propositions must be maintained for six years.¹⁴

Candidates must designate a bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or money market mutual fund as a campaign depository. All receipts must be deposited into an account maintained at the depository, and all expenditures (except for petty cash) should be made by check drawn on the account or by electronic funds transfer. The memo line of the check should indicate the objects or services for which it is drawn.¹⁵

Petty Cash Exception: A petty cash fund may be maintained. No expenditure in excess of \$200 may be made from the fund, and no expenditure shall be made from the petty cash fund for any personal services, except tips for the serving of food and drink. A complete record shall be kept of all expenditures made from a petty cash fund, and a receipt shall be kept in any case in which a receipt would be provided in the usual course of business. Petty cash expenditures must be itemized as all other expenditures on the disclosure forms.¹⁶

Records are required to be kept of every contribution, including the sale of tickets to testimonials or other fundraising events. The date, amount, and name and address of the contributor must be recorded and reported.¹⁷ Candidates have 10 days after the receipt of a contribution to decide whether that contribution will be accepted and deposited.¹⁸ This 10-day period does not apply during the 20-day period immediately preceding the election day when special reports are due.

Exception: Records are not required to be kept of the name and address of individual purchasers of campaign paraphernalia and raffle tickets for \$50 or less. The total amount received and deposited from campaign paraphernalia and raffle ticket sales must be reported. Paraphernalia and raffle ticket sales are still contributions; successive single sales may not be used to avoid the recordkeeping requirements.¹⁹

Cash contributions are subject to a \$200 per person limit during the calendar year. The cash contributor must be given a receipt containing the name, address, and signature of the contributor. The candidate must keep a copy of the receipt.²⁰

¹² R.S. 18:1486

¹³ R.S. 18:1495.3(I)

¹⁴ R.S. 18:1501.1(A)

¹⁵ R.S. 18:1495.2(C)(1)

¹⁶ R.S. 18:1495.2(D)

¹⁷ R.S. 18:1495.3(B)

¹⁸ LAC 52:I.1617.

¹⁹ R.S. 18:1495.3(B)(2)

²⁰ R.S. 18:1505.2(C)

Records are required to be kept of every expenditure, including those made by a public relations firm, advertising agency, or agent. The date, amount, name, and address of the recipient must be recorded and reported. The public relations firm, advertising agency, or agent must collect the information required to complete the candidate's report and furnish it on a timely basis.²¹ The public relations firm, advertising agency, or agent is prohibited from accepting payment from a third party to place an advertisement that purports to be paid for by a candidate or his committee.²²

Each person who makes an expenditure for the purpose of canvassing shall submit in writing to the candidate or political committee on whose behalf the expenditure was made the name, address, and last four digits of the social security number of the canvasser.²³

Every transaction involving receipts or disbursements must be reported, regardless of amount.²⁴

A political committee is required to clearly indicate that its contribution to a candidate or a candidate's committee is from a political committee either by a designation on the check or by a separate notification attached to the contribution.²⁵

IV. Report Filing Requirements

A specific reporting schedule is available for each election at the [Louisiana Ethics Administration Program: Campaign Finance Portal](http://ethics.la.gov). (ethics.la.gov)

*Candidates for the Offices of Public Service Commission, Supreme Court Justice, BESE will follow a separate party-primary filing schedule. See website for details.

All candidates for a major or district-level office are required to electronically file campaign finance disclosure reports through the Board's LEADERS program, which can be accessed at ethics.la.gov. To begin filing electronically, a password and identification number must be applied for at least five business days prior to a reporting deadline.²⁶

For **Any Other** candidates, reports are filed when received electronically through the LEADERS program, by fax or upload to the Ethics website, when postmarked or receipted on a return receipt request if sent by United States Mail, when received, or when deposited for delivery with a commercial delivery service as indicated on a receipt. Electronic filing for all other candidates is encouraged.²⁷

21 R.S. 18:1495.3(H)

22 R.S. 18:1505.3(D)

23 R.S. 18:1501.1(A)(2)

24 R.S. 18:1495.5

25 R.S. 18:1491.4(D)(3)

26 R.S. 18:1485(C)

27 R.S. 18:1485(A)

V. Types of Reports

See Candidate's Filing Schedule at [Louisiana Ethics Administration Program: Campaign Finance Portal](#) for filing deadline dates for each election.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Filed for each candidate no later than February 15th of each year, and are complete as of the preceding December 31st. The reports are used when a candidate begins participating in an election set for a future calendar year.²⁸

Exceptions: An annual report is not due (1) if another required report was filed any time after the preceding December 10 and prior to the February 15th due date, or (2) if the candidate/committee has received no contributions, made no expenditures, and received or made no loans during the reporting period.²⁹

180TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (180-P): Filed only by **major** office candidates and their committees.³⁰

90TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (90-P): Filed only by **major** office candidates and their committees.³¹

Exceptions: Candidates for the party-primary Offices of Public Service Commission, Supreme Court Justice, and BESE do **NOT** file 180-P or 90-P reports

30TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (30-P): Filed by **ALL** candidates.³²

10TH DAY PRIOR TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION (10-P): Filed by **ALL** candidates.³³

10TH DAY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION (10-G): Filed by **ALL** candidates.³⁴

*Final report required for candidates with no outstanding debts or loans or surplus funds, and not participating in the general election.

40TH DAY AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION (40-G): Filed only by candidates participating in the general election.³⁵

* Final report required if there are no outstanding debts or loans or surplus funds.

28 R.S. 18:1495.4(E)

29 R.S. 18:1495.4(E)

30 R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(1)

31 R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(2)

32 R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(3)

33 R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(4)

34 R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(5)

35 R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(6)

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Special Reports must be filed within 2 business days of the transaction; required during the 20-day period immediately preceding an election **IF**:

1. A contribution or loan in excess of \$2,000 for major office candidates, or \$1,000 for district office candidates, or \$500 for any other office candidates is received and accepted during the 20-day period. **OR**
2. An expenditure in excess of \$500 is made during the 20-day period to a candidate, committee, or other person required to file disclosure reports who makes endorsements.³⁶

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS:

Required to be filed annually by February 28th, complete through the preceding December 31, if the last report of a candidate for an election shows outstanding debts or loans or surplus funds.³⁷

Exception: A supplemental report need not be filed if the candidate is not elected to any office and shows outstanding debts and loans or a surplus totaling less than \$5,000.³⁸

WITHDRAWN AND UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES:

The final report of a candidate who withdraws or is unopposed is the next report due after the date that the candidate officially withdraws from the election, through the Secretary of State, or becomes unopposed.³⁹

PROPOSITION ELECTIONS:

Any person, including a committee, who receives contributions or makes expenditures in an aggregate amount of \$5,000 or more in support of or in opposition to a proposition or question submitted to the voters. Reports are required 30 days prior to the election, 10 days prior to the election, and 40 days after the election. Special reports are required for any contribution or expenditure in excess of \$5,000 during the 20-day period immediately preceding the election.⁴⁰

RECALL ELECTIONS:

Any person, including a committee, who receives contributions or makes expenditures in an aggregate amount of \$5,000 in support of or in opposition to the recall of a public officer. A recall committee may be required to register and file statement of organization pursuant to R.S. 18:1491.1. (See Committee Summary for more details.) Reports are due 45 days, 135 days, and 200 days after the filing of the recall petition. If the recall effort is successful, the rules for proposition elections then apply.⁴¹

AFFIDAVITS IN LIEU OF REPORTS:

Candidates for major or district offices, and committees supporting such candidates, may file an affidavit in lieu of each report required above, if: they do not spend over \$10,000 and do not receive contributions from one source, including the use of the candidate's personal funds, totaling in excess of \$500.⁴²

A separate affidavit is required for each report. Once a candidate exceeds either of the threshold amounts, he may not return to filing affidavits for that election. Candidates for "any other offices" may never file an affidavit in lieu of reports.

36 R.S. 18:1495.4(C)

37 R.S. 18:1495.4(D)

38 R.S. 18:1495.4(D)(3)

39 R.S. 18:1495.4(B)(7)

40 R.S. 18:1486(A)(1) & (C)(1)

41 R.S. 18:1486(A)(2) & (C)(2)

42 R.S. 18:1495.6

VI. Contribution Limits (R.S. 18:1505.2 H, K)

Contributions, in-kind contributions, loans, endorsements or guarantees on loans, and transfers of funds are all counted towards the contribution limits.

Exceptions:

1. A candidate's personal funds are not subject to the limits.
2. Loans obtained by the candidate made in the ordinary course of business, on a basis which assures repayment, at the usual and customary interest rate from a state bank, a federally chartered depository institution, a depository institution with insured accounts, a licensed lender or an insurance company do not count towards the limits. However, a loan from such an institution shall be considered a "loan" by each endorser or guarantor in the proportion of their liability, and the endorsement or guarantee is subject to the contribution limit.

	To a major office candidate or candidate committee per election ¹	To a district office candidate or candidate committee per election ¹	To an any other office candidate or candidate committee per election ¹	To a committee between 1/1/23 and 12/31/26
An individual may give ²	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$100,000/calendar year \$250,000/four-year period
A Family Member of Candidate may give	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$100,000/calendar year \$250,000/four-year period
A Legal Entity may give ³	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$100,000/calendar year \$250,000/four-year period
Committees may give	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$12,000/6,000/2,000 ⁵ Party Committees ⁶ may receive: \$250,000/calendar year \$400,000/four-year period Leadership committees may receive \$25,000/calendar year
Big Committee ⁴ may give	\$24,000	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$24,000/12,000/4,000 ⁵ Party Committees ⁶ may receive: \$250,000/calendar year \$400,000/four year period Leadership committees may receive \$25,000/calendar year
Democratic or Republican Party or committees may give	no limits	no limits	no limits	no limits

¹ The open or party-primary, second party-primary, general, and tie-breaker elections are each considered separate elections.

² A husband and wife may each make contributions to the same candidate up to the limit. However, separate checks should be used. If a single check is signed by one spouse, the other must provide an affidavit as to their intent to share in the contribution.

³ Includes legal entities owned wholly or partially by candidates, except Internal Revenue Code Subchapter S corporations and limited liability companies wholly owned by the candidate. Parent corporations and their subsidiaries are subject to a single limit. A corporation is a parent if it owns 50% of another corporation.

⁴ A committee with over 250 members who contributed over \$50 to the committee during the preceding calendar year and has been certified by the Ethics Administration as meeting that membership requirement.

⁵ The applicable limit is determined by the level of office sought by the candidates supported/opposed by the recipient committee

VII. Prohibited Practices (R.S. 18:1505.2)

1. The failure to file or the failure to timely file a required report results in penalties of:

Major Office = \$100 per day/maximum of \$2,500

District Office = \$60 per day/maximum of \$1,000

Any Other Office = \$40 per day/maximum of \$500⁴³

NOTE: Unpaid campaign finance fines, fees, or penalties may have an adverse effect on a candidate's ability to run for public office in the future, as the Board is required to object to the candidacy of a person who has an outstanding fine, fee, or penalty equal to or in excess of \$250 assessed for a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act for which all appeals have been exhausted.⁴⁴

2. No candidate shall make an expenditure from contributions for any purposes if the candidate owes a fine, fee, or penalty pursuant to the CFDA.⁴⁵
3. Making contributions or loans through or in the **name of another**.⁴⁶
4. Using funds from an **anonymous** source. Anonymous contributions must be transmitted to the State.⁴⁷
5. Making or receiving **cash** contributions in excess of \$200 in a calendar year from a single source. Any cash contribution must be evidenced by a receipt containing the name, address, and signature or mark of the contributor.⁴⁸
6. Making or receiving payments, including reimbursements of costs, for the **transportation** of any voter to a polling place or for absentee voting, unless the payment is to a licensed bus, taxi, or transportation service. Medical transportation services do not qualify to receive payments for transporting voters.⁴⁹
7. Making expenditures in excess of \$200 from a petty cash fund or making cash payments for personal services, except for tips for serving food or drink.⁵⁰
8. Contributions or expenditures made by a **corporation**, labor organization, or trade, business, or professional association unless specifically authorized by either (1) a vote of the board of directors or executive board, or (2) any person whom the board has specifically empowered to authorize such contributions or expenditures, or (3) a vote of the membership of the labor organization. Cash contributions in any amount by a corporation, labor organization, or trade, business or professional organization are prohibited.⁵¹

43 R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)

44 R.S. 18:491

45 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(3)

46 R.S. 18:1505.2(A)

47 R.S. 18:1505.2(B)

48 R.S. 18:1505.2(C)

49 R.S. 18:1531

50 R.S. 18:1505.2(E)

51 R.S. 18:1505.2(F)

9. No candidate shall make a contribution to any committee which was required to file a statement of organization but failed to do so.⁵²
10. Campaign funds may not be used by any person for any personal use of the candidate or a member of his immediate family.⁵³

The following expenses shall be presumed to be made for the personal use of the candidate and shall be prohibited, unless the candidate shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the expenditure was not for personal use:

1. Household food items or supplies,
2. Funeral, cremation, or burial expenses of the candidate or his immediate family,
3. Clothing expenses, except for items of de minimis value that are used in a campaign, or specialized apparel necessary to attend a specific fundraising event or event related to the holding of office.
4. Tuition payments
5. Dues, fees, or gratuities at a private club, social organization, recreational facility, or other nonpolitical organization, unless certain restrictions apply.⁵⁴

11. Campaign funds may not be used to purchase immovable property or a motor vehicle.⁵⁵
12. Contributions received in excess of the limits provided above shall be returned by the candidate to the contributor by check drawn on the campaign account.⁵⁶
13. **Excess Funds** may be maintained in a segregated fund for use in future political campaigns or for any lawful purpose related to the following: supporting or opposing a proposition; supporting or opposing a recall petition; contributing to a gubernatorial transition and inauguration; contributing to an independent expenditure only committee; donations to a nonprofit organization; lobbying; social and issue advocacy.⁵⁷
14. Only the candidate assessed a campaign finance fine can pay the fine using personal funds, contributions made to the candidate, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or an elected official's leadership committee. (Third parties cannot pay campaign finance fines or penalties.) The Supervisory Committee may prohibit the use of campaign funds to pay fines or penalties for intentional or egregious violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.⁵⁸
15. Campaign funds cannot be used to pay for fines or penalties assessed pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics.⁵⁹

52 R.S. 18:1505.2(F)

53 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(b)(ii)

54 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(2)(b)

55 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(6)

56 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(7)

57 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(1)(a) & (b)(iii)

58 R.S. 18:1505.2(O)

59 R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(4)

16. No person shall coerce or attempt to coerce another person to give or withhold a contribution, or directly or indirectly affect an individual's employment based on a contribution or the failure to make a contribution.⁶⁰
17. A candidate's immediate family member may not be paid for services provided to the candidate's campaign, unless it is to a business in which an immediate family member has any ownership interest, and provided that all of the following apply:
- (1) The business is a bona fide business that has been doing business regularly in the state for at least 12 months, providing goods/services related to the payment/expenditure, and, at the time payment/expenditure is made, and the business either:
 - (a) has been registered and in good standing with the secretary of state for at least 12 months and provides goods or services related to the payment or expenditure, or
 - (b) held an occupational license for at least 12 months that was duly issued by the appropriate local governmental subdivision;
 - (2) the payment or expenditure is made solely for campaign purposes; and,
 - (3) the payment or expenditure is made through an arm's length transaction in which the value of the goods or services furnished is commensurate with the consideration provided. An "immediate family member" is a candidate's children, his brothers and their spouses, his sisters and their spouses, his parents, his spouse, and the parents of his spouse.⁶¹
18. Persons substantially interested in the **gaming industry** are prohibited from making contributions and loans to candidates and political committees that support or oppose candidates.⁶² Any contribution received in violation of this prohibition shall be turned over by the candidate to the state within 10 days of receipt. The contributor is subject to civil penalties up to \$10,000, criminal penalties, and forfeiture of any gaming license. For a list of prohibited contributors, see R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3).

VIII. Advisory Opinions

Any person requiring clarification of the CFDA's application to any activity that they plan to undertake may request an advisory opinion from the Board. The requesting party must have a demonstrable interest in the application of the CFDA and must include his name, address, and signature on the request. The Board will not issue advisory opinions as to past conduct.

For instructions on requesting an advisory opinion, see ethics.la.gov.

⁶⁰ R.S. 18:1505.2(D)

⁶¹ R.S. 18:1505.2(I)(5)

⁶² R.S. 18:1505.2(L)



LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF THE LOUISIANA CODE OF GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS (UPDATED THROUGH THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION)

Note: This outline was produced by the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821; 225-219-5600; www.ethics.la.gov. It is intended as a summary of the various ethics provisions and does not purport to be a comprehensive statement of the law. If interpretations of this outline conflict with the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics (R.S. 42:1101, *et seq.*), the Code will control. (Revised 11/2025)

Recently enacted changes to the law are denoted by ***

I. Introduction to the Code of Governmental Ethics (“Code”)

Policy Goals:

1. To ensure the public confidence in the integrity of government.
2. To ensure the independence and impartiality of elected officials and public employees.
3. To ensure that governmental decisions and policy are made in the proper channel of the government structure.
4. To ensure that public office and employment are not used for private gain.¹

The Board of Ethics is composed of 15 members. Their terms are for 5 years, with a 2-term limit on Board membership:

9 members appointed by the Governor
3 members elected by the Senate
3 members elected by the House of Representatives²

Duties of the Board:

- Administer the Code as to all state, parish, and local public employees, appointed members of boards and commissions, and elected officials (other than judges).
- Issue advisory opinions interpreting the Code pertaining to prospective behavior.³
- Conduct private investigations of alleged violations of the Code.⁴
- Establish a computerized data management system.⁵
- Conduct educational activities and seminars; publish appropriate materials to provide instruction.⁶

1 R.S. 42:1101

2 R.S. 42:1132

3 R.S. 42:1134E

4 R.S. 42:1134C & 1141

5 R.S. 42:1134M

6 R.S. 42:1134N

II. Key Definitions (R.S. 42:1102)

Agency: A department, office, division, agency, commission, board, committee, or other organizational unit of a governmental entity.⁷

Agency Head: The chief executive or administrative officer of an agency or any member of a board or commission who exercises supervision over the agency.⁸

Controlling Interest: Any ownership interest in any legal entity or beneficial interest in a trust, held by or on behalf of an individual or a member of his immediate family, either individually or collectively, which exceeds 25 percent of that legal entity.⁹

Elected Official: Any person holding an office in a governmental entity which is filled by the vote of the appropriate electorate.¹⁰

Governing Authority: The body which exercises the legislative functions of a political subdivision.¹¹

Governmental Entity: The state or any political subdivision which employs the public employee or to which the elected official is elected.¹²

Immediate Family Member: As the term relates to a public servant, it means his children, the spouses of his children, his brothers, his sisters, the spouses of his brothers and sisters, his parents, his spouse, and the parents of his spouse.¹³

Legislator: Any person holding office in the Senate or the House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature.¹⁴

Participate: To take part in or to **have or share responsibility** for an action of the governmental entity through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or the failure to act or perform a duty.¹⁵

Person: An individual or legal entity other than a governmental entity, or an agency thereof.¹⁶

Public Employee: Anyone, whether compensated or not, who is:

- (a) An officer or official of a governmental entity who is not filling an elective office;
- (b) Appointed by an elected official to a position to serve the governmental entity or an agency thereof, when the elected official was acting in his official capacity;

⁷ R.S. 42:1102(2)

⁸ R.S. 42:1102(3)

⁹ R.S. 42:1102(7)

¹⁰ R.S. 42:1102(8)

¹¹ R.S. 42:1102(10)

¹² R.S. 42:1102(11)

¹³ R.S. 42:1102(12)

¹⁴ R.S. 42:1102(13)

¹⁵ R.S. 42:1102(14)

¹⁶ R.S. 42:1102(15)

(c) Engaged in the performance of a governmental function; or

(d) Under the supervision or authority of an elected official or another governmental employee.¹⁷

Public Servant: A public employee or an elected official.¹⁸

Service: The performance of work, duties, or responsibilities, or the leasing, rental, or sale of movable or immovable property.¹⁹

Substantial Economic Interest: An economic interest which is of greater benefit to the public servant or other person than to a general class or group of persons, except the interest the public servant has in his public employment or the interest a person has as a member of the general public.²⁰

Thing of Economic Value: Money or any other thing having economic value, except:

- (a) Promotional items having no substantial resale value;
- (b) Food, drink, or refreshments, including reasonable transportation and entertainment incident thereto, consumed while the personal guest of some person;
- (c) With reference to legislators and legislative employees only, reasonable transportation when organized primarily for educational or informational purposes, including food and drink incidental thereto; and,
- (d) Salary and related benefits due to public employment.²¹

Transaction Involving the Governmental Entity: Any proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, case, or other such particular matter which the public servant or former public servant of the governmental entity in question knows or should know:

- (a) Is, or will be, the subject of action by the governmental entity;
- (b) Is one to which the governmental entity is or will be a party; and,
- (c) Is one in which the governmental entity has a direct interest. A transaction involving the agency of a governmental entity shall have the same meaning with respect to the agency.²²

17 R.S. 42:1102(17)

18 R.S. 42:1102(18)

19 R.S. 42:1102(23)

20 R.S. 42:1102(24)

21 R.S. 42:1102(25)

22 R.S. 42:1102(26)

III. General Prohibitions

NOTE: The following is a synopsis of the key provisions of the Code. For the official text of the provisions described below and for the text of other provisions of the Code, including information relative to exceptions to these general restrictions, refer to the Code at R.S. 42:1101, *et seq.*

A. Prohibited Payments of Compensation or other Things of Economic Value

Section 1111A(1)(a) - Prohibited Compensation for Public Duties

No public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

Example: An administrative assistant of a state board or commission was prohibited by Section 1111A(1)(a) from receiving bonus payments for the performance of the duties as an administrative assistant. (Consent Opinion No. 2022-054)

Example: A City Marshal was prohibited by Section 1111A(1)(a) from receiving supplemental compensation when such supplemental compensation was not authorized by statute. (Consent Opinion No. 2017-1404)

Section 1111B – Finders Fees

No public servant shall receive anything of economic value from a person to whom the public servant has directed the business of the governmental entity.

Example: Personnel Manager for a parish government was prohibited by Section 1111B from receiving compensation for services rendered to a payroll company when the Personnel Manager directed the parish's business to the payroll company. (Consent Opinion No. 2021-081)

Section 1111C(1)(a) - Prohibited Compensation for Substantially Similar Services

No public servant shall receive anything of economic value for any service, the subject matter of which: (a) is devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs, or operations of the agency of the public servant in which the public servant has participated.

Example: An employee of Louisiana Public Broadcasting was prohibited by Section 1111C(1)(a) from receiving compensation for the publication of a news article, when the article was substantially related to the subject matter of the employee's work with Louisiana Public Broadcasting. (Advisory Opinion No. 2022-378)

Section 1111C(2)(d) – Compensation from Prohibited Sources

No public servant and no legal entity in which the public servant exercises control or owns an interest in excess of twenty-five percent, shall receive anything of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered, or to be rendered, to or for any person during his public service unless such services are neither performed for, nor compensated, by any person:

- (1) Who has or is seeking to obtain a contractual or other business or financial relationship with the public servant's agency;
- (2) Who is regulated by the public employee's agency;
- (3) Who has substantial economic interests which may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the public employee's official duties.

NOTE: These same restrictions apply to the public servant's spouse and to any legal entity in which the public servant, their spouse, or their immediate family members exercises control or owns an interest in excess of 25%.

Example: Parish Councilman was prohibited by Section 1111C(2)(d) from rendering compensated employment services to a plumbing business, while the plumbing business was a vendor of the parish. (Consent Opinion No. 2023-326)

Example: An appointed member of a parish tourist commission was prohibited by Section 1111C(2)(d) from providing compensated services to a local nonprofit organization, while the nonprofit organization received funding from the parish tourist commission. (Consent Opinion No. 2023-954)

NOTE: Limited exceptions to Section 1111C(2)(d) are provided for spouses and for elected members of a school board and a parish or municipal governing authority, provided they meet certain requirements and file disclosure statements. See R.S. 42:1111C(5) & (6).

*****NEW: Section 1111C(7): Prohibited Compensation for Statewide Elected Officials.**

Act 787 of the 2026 Regular Session: A statewide elected official shall not be compensated for lobbying, consulting, or advising. Effective June 8, 2026.

Section 1111E(1) – Prohibited Assistance by Public Servants

No public servant, and no legal entity of which such public servant is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee, or in which such public servant has a substantial economic interest, shall receive or agree to receive anything of economic value for assisting a person in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction, with the agency of such public servant.

Example: An employee of the Office of State Civil Service is prohibited by Section 1111E(1) from receiving compensation for professional career coaching services from any person to assist them in transactions involving the Talent Development Department of the State Civil Service. (Advisory Opinion No. 2020-706).

Section 1111E(2) – Prohibited Assistance by Elected Officials

No elected official of a governmental entity shall receive or agree to receive anything of economic value for assisting a person in a transaction or in an appearance in connection with a transaction with the governmental entity or its officials or agencies, unless he files a written statement with the board prior to or within ten days after initial assistance is rendered. See Form 414 at ethics.la.gov/disclosures.

Example: An elected member of the House of Representatives was prohibited by Section 1111E(2) from assisting a nonprofit organization for compensation in a transaction involving an agency of the State of Louisiana unless the proper disclosure form was filed prior to or at least 10 days after initial assistance was rendered. (Advisory Opinion No. 2015-099)

NOTE: For exceptions to the various compensation prohibitions, see R.S. 42:1111 and 1123.

B. Prohibited Participation

Section 1112A: No public servant shall participate in a transaction in which he has a personal substantial economic interest of which he may be reasonably expected to know involving the governmental entity.

Section 1112B: No public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any of the following persons has a substantial economic interest:

- (1) Any member of his immediate family;
- (2) Any person in which he has an ownership interest that is greater than the interest of a general class;
- (3) Any person of which he is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee;
- (4) Any person with whom he is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning prospective employment;
- (5) Any person who is indebted to him or is a party to an existing contract with him and by reason thereof is in a position to affect directly his economic interests.

Recusal by Elected Officials: An elected official may participate in the debate and discussion of a matter which would violate Section 1112, but only if he discloses the nature of the conflict on the record of his agency prior to his participation in the debate and discussion, and prior to any vote taken on the matter. The elected official is not allowed to vote on the matter.²³

Recusal by Appointed Members of Boards and Commissions: Appointed members of boards or commissions must recuse themselves to avoid a violation of Section 1112. **Unlike elected officials, such appointed members may not participate in the debate, discussion, or vote on the matter.**²⁴

²³ R.S. 42:1120

²⁴ R.S. 42:1120.4

Disqualification Plans: Public employees who are not sole decision makers can be disqualified from transactions that would violate this prohibition. A mechanism for disqualification is found in the rules promulgated by the Board.²⁵

C. Prohibited Contracts and Transactions

Section 1113A: No public servant, excluding any legislator and any appointed member of any board or commission and any member of a governing authority of a parish with a population of ten thousand or less, ... shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

NOTE: This restriction also applies to the immediate family members of the public servant and to legal entities in which the public servant and/or his family members own an interest in excess of 25%.

Exception: The prohibition does not apply to prohibit a public servant or their immediate family member from entering into transactions to obtain basic governmental services (such as water, sewer, waste disposal, etc.) and in connection with basic governmental regulations (such as taxation, permitting, licensing, inspections, code enforcement, etc.), provided the services are available to the general public. See R.S.42:1113A(1)(c)(i-iii).

Example: An Alderman's husband is prohibited from being appointed to the position of Chief of Police for the Municipality. (Advisory Opinion No. 2025-337)

Example: The daughter of an elected member of a parish school board is prohibited from rendering contractual services to any schools in the parish while her mother is in office. (Advisory Opinion No. 2025-208)

Example: A teacher employed at a high school is prohibited from entering into transactions with the school to provide photography services. (Consent Opinion No. 2023-201)

Exception: This provision does not prohibit a municipal or parish governing authority to appoint one of its members: (1) to fill a vacancy in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code; however, any such appointee is ineligible to qualify for the position in the next election; and (2) to a board or commission as the appointing authority, provided the person receives no salary or per diem, or if a member of the governing authority is required to be appointed by ordinance or statute. See R.S. 42:1113A(1)(b)(i-ii).

²⁵ R.S. 42:1112C & LAC 52:I.1401, et seq.

Section 1113B – Prohibited Contracts for Appointed Members of Boards and Commissions:

No appointed member of any board or commission, member of his immediate family, or legal entity in which the appointed member has a substantial economic interest shall bid on, enter into, or have a substantial economic interest in any contract, subcontract, or other transaction which is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such appointed member.

Example: An appointed member of a parish sewerage district was prohibited from entering into transactions with the sewerage district for grass-cutting services.

(Consent Opinion No. 2023-389)

Section 1113C – Prohibited Contracts for Legislators:

Legislators are prohibited from bidding on, entering into, or having a substantial economic interest in contracts, subcontracts, or other transactions that are under the supervision or jurisdiction of the legislative branch of state government. This restriction also applies to the immediate family members of the legislator and to legal entities in which the legislator and/or his family members own an interest in excess of 25%.

Section 1113D – Prohibited Contracts for Legislators and Certain Executive Branch Officials:

The Ethics Code provides an additional prohibition applicable to legislators, certain executive branch officials, their spouses, or legal entities in which either owns an interest in excess of 5% from entering into a contract with any branch, agency, department, or institution of state government, with a few specific exceptions.

Example: A Louisiana Senator and his business were prohibited by Section 1113D from bidding on or entering into a contract with the Louisiana Recovery School District, provided the Senator owned an interest greater than 5% in the business. (Advisory Opinion No. 2010-988)

D. Prohibited Gifts

Section 1115A: Elected officials and public employees are prohibited from soliciting or accepting a gift from the following:

- (1) Persons who have or are seeking to obtain a contractual or other business or financial relationship with the public servant's agency; or,
- (2) Persons who are seeking, for compensation, to influence the passage or defeat of legislation by the public servant's agency.

Example: An employee of a local housing authority violated Section 1115A(1) by accepting a cash gift from a vendor while the vendor was seeking to obtain a business or financial relationship with the local housing authority. (Consent Opinion No. 2022-677)

Section 1115B: Public employees, not elected officials, are also prohibited from soliciting or accepting a gift from the following:

- (1) Persons who conduct operations or activities regulated by the public employee's agency; or

- (2) Persons who have substantial economic interests which may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the public employee's official duties.

The prohibition against soliciting or accepting a gift from certain persons extends to officers, directors, agents, or employees of such persons.

NOTE: The gift prohibition does not prohibit the receipt of promotional items having no substantial resale value (i.e.: cups, hats, or pens with a company's logo).

Exception: R.S. 42:1123(26)(b) allows teachers and other school employees to accept gifts valued at \$25 or less per gift from or on behalf of students or former students, with a maximum amount of \$75 per calendar year from each student.

Food and Drink Exception: \$81 per event (effective July 1, 2025)

A public servant is allowed to accept food or drink consumed as the personal guest of the person providing the food or drink, including reasonable transportation and entertainment incidental thereto. The person providing the food and drink may not provide a public servant more than **\$81** of food and drink per single event.²⁶

Complimentary Admission, Lodging, and Travel Exception

A public servant is allowed to accept complimentary admission, lodging, and reasonable transportation, or reimbursement of such expenses, if the agency head of the public servant certifies each of the following:

- (1) The acceptance is either of direct benefit to the agency or will enhance the knowledge of the public servant as it relates to his public service.
- (2) The agency head approved the public servant's acceptance prior to such acceptance.

The public servant who accepts the complimentary admission, lodging, or transportation must file a disclosure statement with the Board of Ethics within 60 days of acceptance. See Form 413 at ethics.la.gov/disclosure.

NOTE: A public servant who is also the agency head may approve his own acceptance of complimentary admission, lodging, or travel.

²⁶ R.S. 42:1115.1C; The limitation on food, drink and refreshment shall be adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). LAC 52:I.1703.

E. Abuse of Office

Section 1116A: No public servant shall use the authority of his office or position, directly or indirectly, in a manner intended to compel or coerce any person or other public servant to provide himself, any other public servant, or other person with anything of economic value.

Example: A city employee violated Section 1116A when he used his position with the City to coerce or compel city police officers to overlook his alleged violations of criminal and traffic laws. (Consent Opinion No. 2021-1054)

Section 1116B: No public servant shall use the authority of his office or position, directly or indirectly, in a manner intended to compel or coerce any person or other public servant to engage in political activity. For the purposes of this Subsection, "political activity" means an effort to support or oppose the election of a candidate for political office in an election.

Example: Elected Sheriff violated Section 1116B when he used his position to compel or coerce sheriff's office employees to support his re-election campaign. (Consent Opinion No. 2015-1449)

Section 1116: No regulatory employee shall participate in any way in the sale of goods or services to a person regulated by his public agency, or to any officer, director, agent, or employee of such person, if a member of the immediate family of the regulatory employee, or any business enterprise in which such regulatory employee or member of his immediate family owns at least twenty-five percent, receives or will receive a thing of economic value by virtue of the sale.

Example: A regulatory employee of the Department of Transportation and Development is prohibited from participating in the sale of goods or services to a DOTD vendor by his son's business. (Advisory Opinion No. 2024-667)

F. Illegal Payments

Section 1117: No public servant or other person shall give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver or offer to give, pay, loan, transfer, or deliver, directly or indirectly, to any public servant or other person anything of economic value which such public servant or other person would be prohibited from receiving by any provision of the Code.

Example: A payroll company violated Section 1117 by making payments to a parish employee when the parish employee was prohibited from receiving payments from the payroll company, while the payroll company had a business or financial relationship with the parish. (Consent Opinion No. 2021-081(2))

G. Nepotism

Section 1119A: No member of the immediate family of an agency head shall be employed in his agency.

Example: The son of the Director of Technology for a parish school board violated Section 1119A by being employed by the school board in the Technology Department, over which his father was the agency head. (Consent Opinion No 2023-398)

Section 1119B: No member of the immediate family of a member of a governing authority or the chief executive of a governmental entity shall be employed by the governmental entity.

Example: The spouse of an appointed board member of a hospital service district violated Section 1119B by being employed by the hospital service district while her spouse served as an appointed board member. (Consent Opinion No. 2023-327)

Section 1119D: A willful violation of this Section shall subject the agency head, member of the governing authority, the public employee having authority to hire and fire the employee, the immediate supervisor of the employee, whether or not such persons are immediate family members of the employee, and such employee, to disciplinary action and penalties provided by the Code.

NOTE: The application of these restrictions is not affected by whether the agency head, chief executive, or governing authority member has authority over or actually participates in the hiring decision

Some Exceptions to the Nepotism Prohibitions:

- (1) A person employed for one year prior to their family member becoming an agency head. This provision also allows normal promotional advancements.²⁷
- (2) Employment of a classroom school teacher who is a member of the immediate family of the superintendent or a school board member, as long as the family member is certified to teach or is temporarily authorized to teach while pursuing certification. Annual disclosure is required by September 15th. If the required disclosure is not timely filed, a late fee assessment of \$50 per day, with a maximum penalty of \$1,500, may be imposed.²⁸ See Form 403 at ethics.la.gov/disclosure.

***NEW: Effective August 1, 2026, an immediate family member who qualifies for the exception as a classroom teacher may NOT be promoted to an administrative position while the public servant serves as agency head. Act 169 of the 2026 Regular Session.
- (3) Employment as a health care provider, of an immediate family member of a hospital service district board member, or of a public trust authority board member, as long as the family member is a licensed physician, allied health professional, or a registered nurse. Annual disclosure is required. If the required disclosure is not timely filed, a late fee assessment of \$50 per day, with a maximum penalty of \$1,500, may be imposed.²⁹ See Form 404 at ethics.la.gov/disclosure.

²⁷ R.S. 42:1119C(2)

²⁸ R.S. 42:1119B(2)(a)

²⁹ R.S. 42:1119B(2)(b)

- (4) Persons employed as volunteer firefighters.³⁰
- (5) Employment of the immediate family member of an athletic director of a school as a coach.³¹

H. Post Employment Restrictions

Section 1121A(1): During the two-year period following the termination of public service as an **agency head** or **elected official**, a former agency head or elected official may not assist another person for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with any transaction involving their former agency.

Additionally, a former agency head or elected official may not render any service on a contractual basis to or for their former agency.

Example: The former director of a parish public works department was prohibited by Section 1121A(1) from assisting his new employer in transactions involving the parish public works department for a period of two years following the end of his employment as public works director. (Advisory Opinion No. 2024-382)

Example: The former elected Clerk of Court was prohibited by Section 1121A(1) from assisting her new employer in transactions involving the clerk of court's office or from rendering any services to the clerk of court's office on a contractual basis for a period of two years following the end of her service as clerk of court. (Advisory Opinion No. 2024-265)

Section 1121A(2): During the two-year period following the termination of public service as a **board or commission member**, former members of boards or commissions may not contract with, be employed in any capacity by, or be appointed to any position by that board or commission.

Example: A former member of a parish fire district board is prohibited by Section 1121A(2) for two years following the termination of his service as a board member from being hired as an employee of the fire district. (Advisory Opinion No. 2025-517)

The Board has interpreted "board or commission" to include a collective body that shares responsibility for its actions. This includes school boards, police juries, boards of aldermen, a group of selectmen, a council, etc.

Example: A former member of a parish school board violated Section 1121A(2) by virtue of his appointment by the school board to fill a vacant position on the school board within two years of the end of his term as an elected member of the school board. (Consent Opinion No. 2023-688)

30 R.S. 42:1119B(6)

31 R.S. 42:1119E

Section 1121B: During the two-year period following the termination of public service as a **public employee**, a former public employee may not assist another for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction involving the agency in which the former public employee participated while employed by the agency.

Additionally, the former public employee may not provide, on a contractual basis, any service he provided while employed by his former public employer.

Example: The former assistant director of the Office of Facility Planning was prohibited by Section 1121B from assisting his new employer in any transactions involving the Office of Facility Planning if he participated in those transactions while employed with the State of Louisiana. (Advisory Opinion No. 2025-458)

*****NEW EXCEPTION:** Act 532 of the 2026 Regular Session created an exception to 1121B to allow court reporters to contract with their former agency within the two-year post-employment period. Effective Aug. 1, 2026.

Section 1121C: No legal entity in which a former public servant is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public service, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction in which such public servant at any time participated during his public service and involving the agency by which he was formerly employed or in which he formerly held office.

Example: The employer of a former member of the Louisiana Housing Corporation was prohibited for two years following the termination of the former board member's public service from assisting third parties in transactions involving the Louisiana Housing Corporation if the board member participated in the transactions. The employer was not prohibited from assisting third parties in new transactions involving the Louisiana Housing Corporation. (Advisory Opinion No. 2025-256)

I. Retaliation

Section 1169: It is a violation of the Code for any public employee to be disciplined or otherwise subjected to acts of reprisal for reporting to his agency head, the Board, or any person of competent authority or jurisdiction, information which he reasonably believes is a violation of any law, order, rule, or regulation or any other alleged acts of impropriety within any governmental entity.

Each agency head is required to post notice of the employee's rights against retaliation at a convenient and conspicuous location in each agency where at least 10 public employees are employed.

IV. Ethics Procedures

Advisory Opinions:

Advisory opinion requests must be received in writing and signed by the requestor; the request must indicate the requestor's interest in the advisory opinion and provide sufficient information for the Board to make a determination. The Board may decline to render an opinion with regard to any such request.

For additional information regarding advisory opinions: [Advisory Opinions](#)

NOTE: The Board does **not** issue advisory opinions as to past conduct.

Complaints:

An ethics complaint must be submitted in writing. Complaints are confidential and privileged. A complaint may be sworn or non-sworn. The Board is required to consider any signed sworn complaint. Additionally, the Board may consider any other matter by a 2/3 vote of its membership.

For additional information regarding complaints: [Ethics Complaints](#)

Investigations:

The Board may initiate an investigation into any complaint or other matter which it has probable cause to believe may be a violation of the Code by a 2/3 vote of its membership (10 votes). A certified copy of the vote and a detailed explanation of the matter, along with a redacted copy of the complaint, are sent to the respondent.

Upon completion of an investigation, the respondent will receive a copy of the investigation report, along with all documents obtained during the investigation. The respondent may choose to address the Board during either an executive or general session to present any defenses to the allegations.

After considering the investigation report and any defenses presented by the respondent, the Board may:

- (1) Order further investigation, if necessary
- (2) File Charges alleging a violation of the Code
- (2) Offer a consent opinion for an alleged violation of the Code
- (4) Close the file

Penalties:

Penalties that may be imposed upon a finding of a violation of the laws under the Board's jurisdiction:

- (1) Censure of an elected official or other person within its jurisdiction and imposition of a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation.³²
- (2) Removal, suspension, or reduction of the pay or demotion of a public employee or other person and imposition of a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation.³³

³² R.S. 42:1153A

³³ R.S. 42:1153B

- (3) Imposition of restrictions on a former public servant and other persons to prevent appearances before the agency and prohibitions from negotiating for or entering into business relationships with the agency.³⁴
- (4) Rescission of contracts, permits, and licenses, without contractual liability to the public, whenever the Board finds that a violation has influenced the making of such contract, permit or license, and that such rescission is in the best interest of the public.³⁵
- (5) Order the payment of civil penalties if an investigation reveals that any public servant or other person has violated the Code to his economic advantage; the penalties can include an amount up to one and a half times the amount of such economic advantage.³⁶
- (6) Order the forfeiture of any gifts or payments made in violation of the Code.³⁷
- (7) Imposition of late fees for reports that are not timely filed.³⁸
- (8) Object to the candidacy of a person who has an outstanding fine, fee, or penalty equal to or greater than \$250 pursuant to the Code of Governmental Ethics for which all appeals have been exhausted.³⁹

V. Personal Financial Disclosures

Personal Financial Disclosures must be filed annually by May 15th. The report must be filed each year the office or position is held, as well as the year following the termination of the office or position. The report filed by May 15th covers activity in the prior calendar year.

If a public servant's term of office ends in January, he may file a "final" personal financial disclosure statement for the days served in January, if the disclosure statement is filed on or before May 15 of the year in which his service ends. By filing this "final" personal financial disclosure statement, he is not required to file the year following the termination of the holding of such office.

Tier 1 Personal Financial Disclosures:

Filed by persons holding statewide elected office, the secretaries of certain departments of state government, the superintendent of education, the commissioner of higher education, the president of each public postsecondary education system, and persons holding certain positions in the office of the governor.⁴⁰ The penalty for late filing is \$500 per day, with a maximum penalty of \$12,500.⁴¹

Tier 1 Personal Financial Disclosures must be filed electronically through the Board's E-File system.

³⁴ R.S. 42:1151B

³⁵ R.S. 42:1152

³⁶ R.S. 42:1155

³⁷ R.S. 42:1155

³⁸ R.S. 42:1157

³⁹ R.S. 18:463A(2)(a)(vii) & 492(b)

⁴⁰ R.S. 42:1124

⁴¹ R.S. 42:1124.4C(1) & 1157A(4)(g)

Tier 2 Personal Financial Disclosures:

Filed by state legislators, elected officials holding a public office representing a voting district with a population of 5,000 or greater, members of the Board of Ethics, the ethics administrator, and members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the superintendent of the Recovery School District, the executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, and the members of the Board of Pardons.⁴² The penalty for late filing is \$100 per day, with a maximum penalty of \$2,500.⁴³

Tier 2 Personal Financial Disclosures must be filed electronically through the Board's E-File system beginning in 2026.

Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosures:

Filed by members and designees of boards and commissions that have the authority to expend, disburse, or invest \$10,000 or more in funds in a fiscal year, members of the State Civil Service Commission, and members of the Board of Commissioners of the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District.⁴⁴ The penalty for late filing is \$50 per day, with a maximum penalty of \$1,500.⁴⁵

NOTE: Boards or commissions that do not have the authority to expend, disburse or invest more than \$50,000 in a fiscal year **and** whose members are not eligible to receive any compensation, per diem, or reimbursement of expenses for service on the board of commission are excluded from the reporting requirement.⁴⁶

Tier 3 Personal Financial Disclosures:

Filed by elected officials holding a public office representing a voting district with a population of less than 5,000 and members of the governing authority or management board of a charter school.⁴⁷ The penalty for late filing is \$25 per day, with a maximum penalty of \$500.⁴⁸

VI. Ethics Training

Each **public servant** shall receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on the Code of Ethics during each year of his public employment or term of office. Each political subdivision shall designate at least one person who shall provide information, notices, and updates to employees and officials of the political subdivision and assist the board in any way necessary to fulfill the education requirements. Newly elected officials must receive training within 90 days of taking the oath of office.⁴⁹

⁴² R.S. 42:1124.2

⁴³ R.S. 42:1124.4C(2) & 1157A(4)(e)

⁴⁴ R.S. 42:1124.2.1

⁴⁵ R.S. 42:1124.4C(3) & 1157A(4)(c)

⁴⁶ R.S. 42:1124.2.1D(1)(b)(vi)

⁴⁷ R.S. 42:1124.3

⁴⁸ R.S. 42:1124.4C(4) & 1157A(4)(a)

⁴⁹ R.S. 42:1170

The following individuals are exempt from the annual training requirements:

- (1) Persons who are public servants solely because they are an uncompensated, volunteer fireman or an uncompensated, auxiliary or reserve law enforcement officer.
- (2) Non-salaried employees of hospitals operated by a hospital service district are exempt unless the employee is authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the hospital for goods or services or the duties of the employee include the supervision of another public employee.
- (3) A former public servant whose public service in a calendar year lasted less than 90 days.

NOTE: An **elected official** must receive at least one hour of Campaign Finance training during his term of office. See R.S. 42:1170A(1).

VII. Miscellaneous Provisions

It is a violation of the Code to have one or more employees on the payroll who are not rendering services for which they are being paid or having one or more employees on the payroll whose employment is prohibited by the nepotism section of the Code.⁵⁰

No action to enforce a violation of the Code may be commenced more than 2 years after the discovery of the occurrence of the violation, or more than 4 years after the occurrence of the violation, whichever is shorter.⁵¹

Judges, as defined in the Code of Judicial Conduct, are exempt from the provisions of the Code, although employees of the judge are subject to the Code.⁵²

Attorneys who are also public servants are subject to the provisions of the Code in that capacity, notwithstanding any conflicting provisions in the Code of Professional Responsibility that might otherwise allow an attorney to engage in conduct which is prohibited by the Code.

For additional information, contact the Ethics Administration Program at 225-219-5600 or visit our web site at ethics.la.gov.

⁵⁰ R.S. 42:1161F

⁵¹ R.S. 42:1163

⁵² R.S. 42:1167



DUAL OFFICE HOLDERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL LIZ MURRILL

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Attorney General
Liz Murrill

Liz Murrill

Protecting Our Democracy

As your Attorney General, I am dedicated to upholding the law and supporting public officials in fulfilling their duties. In line with this commitment, our office has assembled valuable resources to aid you in your role as a public servant.

Please review the enclosed materials carefully, which outline Louisiana's regulations regarding public officials or employees holding multiple public offices or positions. It is crucial to adhere to these laws to maintain the integrity of our governmental institutions.

I take my oath to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law seriously, and I am here to collaborate with you in ensuring compliance with dual officeholding laws. Together, let's continue to make Louisiana a better place to live, work, and thrive.

DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that public officials and employees perform the public business in a manner which serves to promote and maintain in the general citizenry a high level of confidence and trust in public officials, public employees, and governmental decisions. The attainment of this end is impaired when a public official or employee holds two or more public offices or public jobs which by their particular nature conflict with the duties and interest of each other. The attainment of a high level of confidence and trust by the general citizenry in public officials, employees, and governmental decisions is further impaired by the excessive accumulation of governmental power which may result from public officials or employees holding two or more public offices or public jobs. La. R.S. 42:61(A).

THE BASICS

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law is to maintain a high level of trust and confidence by the citizens of this state in our public officials, employees, and their decisions by defining and regulating dual officeholding and dual employment. La. R.S. 42:61(B).

DEFINITIONS

The Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law sets forth certain prohibitions relevant to a person holding particular combinations of public employment and/or public office. In a dual officeholding analysis, the positions proposed to be held must first be categorized pursuant to La. R.S. 42:62, which provide the dual officeholding definitions as follows:

DEFINITIONS

ELECTIVE OFFICE

Any position established or authorized by the constitution, state law, local charter or ordinance, filled by a vote of the citizens of the state or a political subdivision. It is not a political party office.

APPOINTIVE OFFICE

Any office established or authorized by the constitution, state law, local charter or ordinance, filled by appointment or election by an elected or appointed public official or governmental body.

EMPLOYMENT

Any paid job, compensated on a salary or per diem basis, with the state government or a political subdivision that is not an elective or appointive office.

FULL TIME

At least seven hours per day and at least thirty-five hours per week of work in an appointive office or employment.

PART TIME

Anything less than full time.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

A parish, municipality, and any other unit of local government, including a school board and a special district, authorized by law to perform governmental functions. Mayor's courts, justice of the peace courts, district attorneys, sheriffs, clerks of court, coroners, tax assessors, registrars of voters, and all other elected parochial officials are separate political subdivisions.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Includes the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of insurance, superintendent of education, members of the State Civil Service Commission, the Public Service Commission, the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities, and the State Bond Commission. It includes officers, members, agents, employees, of any department, office, agency, instrumentality, board, commission or other entity created by constitution or by law whose functions are not primarily legislative, judicial, or local in nature or operation.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Includes the members of the State Legislature, officers, agents, and employees of the State Legislature, the legislative auditor, the legislative fiscal officer, or any other agency created by law which is primarily legislative in nature, and any other legislative officer, office, or instrumentality of the state.

DEFINITIONS

JUDICIAL BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Includes all judges, employees, and agents of the supreme court, the judicial administrator, courts of appeal, district courts, including the civil and criminal district courts of Orleans Parish, city courts, juvenile courts, family courts, and any other judicial offices and instrumentalities of the state. It does not include judges or employees of courts not enumerated in the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law.

PROHIBITIONS

The legislature has set forth specific prohibitions, including provisions governing incompatible offices, in the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law. La. R.S. 42:63. In general, no individual may hold two full time positions. A person cannot hold positions in two separate branches of state government. A part time position and a full time position will generally not constitute a dual officeholding violation, nor will the holding of two part time positions. General questions regarding the holding of two public positions may be answered by the charts included herein. If you have specific questions, please contact our office or request an attorney general opinion.

ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

The attorney general, district attorney, or any citizen of the state may file suit for a declaratory judgment against a person alleged to hold a combination of positions prohibited by the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law. La. R.S. 42:65. Before filing suit, the attorney general or district attorney must send written notice by

certified mail to the person explaining the alleged violation.

If the person is found in violation of the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law, the court can declare the office with the term first to expire or one of the employments vacant and enjoin the person from carrying out the duties of that office or employment. A person holding elective office, however, is required to continue to serve and perform the duties of his office until his successor has qualified.

If a court determines that a person has violated the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law, it may order that the person pay back all compensation received from the vacated position (up to six months before the court filing). However, if the person obtained an opinion of the attorney general that was issued before the filing of the suit stating the positions are not in violation of the dual officeholding laws, no reimbursement may be ordered.

Additionally, if the person leaves the office or position within 14 days after written notice of the violation sent, he will not be required to pay back his compensation.

AG OPINION REQUESTS

If a person would like an opinion from the attorney general concerning Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law, he should provide the following information:

- 1.Name, address and phone number of the requestor;
- 2.A description of each of the positions;
- 3.The number of hours worked per week;
- 4.What branch of government the positions are within; and
- 5.Any other information the attorney general deems necessary.

Requests for an opinion may be submitted to the Attorney General's Office, as follows:

Attorney General Liz Murrill
Louisiana Department of Justice
Post Office Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Facsimile: 225-326-6098

Questions raising ethical concerns under the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, La. R.S. 42:1111, et seq., should be submitted to the Louisiana State Board of Ethics (www.ethics.state.la.us).

EXEMPTIONS

There are several specific exemptions to the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law which allow a person to simultaneously hold a combination of positions that are otherwise prohibited under the general provisions.

Below is a list of the most common exemptions:

- 1.A teacher or person employed in a professional educational capacity may simultaneously hold an elective or appointive office.
- 2.Any official who holds another office by virtue of the office to which he is elected or appointed.
- 3.A municipal officer may hold another municipal office if authorized under La. R.S. 33:381(C).
- 4.A deputy sheriff can serve as the mayor or alderman in a municipality of 2,500 or less.
- 5.A chief of police of a municipality with a population of less than 5,000 can also be a deputy sheriff.
- 6.A coroner can hold another physician position in a governmental entity.
- 7.A state employee can hold elective office in a municipality of less than 6,500, unless incompatible or against public policy.
- 8.A municipal and/or parochial officer or employee may hold another municipal and/or parochial office or employment if authorized by a legislative or home rule charter.

Please note that House Bill 258 of the 2026 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature is currently pending executive approval by the Governor and, if enacted, may create additional exceptions to Louisiana's Dual Office Holding and Dual Employment Law applicable to firefighters, members of unpaid advisory commissions, and employees of the judicial branch.

For a complete listing of the exemptions to the Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law see La. R.S. 42:66.

ABOUT THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

If you are seeking justice for yourself in a personal, corporate, or family matter, you try to get the best legal representation. But if an entire State or its political subdivisions are injured or victimized by the federal government, a multinational corporation, or even another State -- that requires an Attorney General.

The Office of the Attorney General *is* the Louisiana Department of Justice, and we work to protect the people of Louisiana as whole. We fight for Louisiana's natural resources, investigate fraud, secure justice for our most vulnerable, and so much more.

We also provide educational content meant to help you make wise choices based on guidance you can trust. With that in mind, we hope this guide to Louisiana Dual Officeholding and Dual Employment Law has been helpful; but should you need more information, please feel free to reach out to our office or your local parish representative.

ABOUT
ATTORNEY GENERAL
LIZ MURRILL



AG Liz Murrill is committed to defending the rule of law and protecting the people of our State. She has argued multiple cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and served as lead counsel in many cases challenging federal overreach, ranging from open border policies and attacks on religious liberty to COVID-19 mandates and First Amendment violations. With more than 30 years experience working in state and federal government, including eight as Louisiana's first Solicitor General, Liz Murrill has been a champion for women, children, and victims demanding justice. Now she is leading the fight to preserve our rights, our industries, and Louisiana's unique way of life. You can learn more at www.AGLizMurrill.com.



www.AGLizMurrill.com

@AGLizMurrill



A SUMMARY OF ELECTION OFFENSES AND PENALTIES



Attorney General Liz Murrill
Louisiana Department of Justice



A Message from Attorney General Liz Murrill

As Attorney General, I am committed to ensuring the Louisiana Department of Justice serves all of our State's people - including those seeking public office.

I hope this information assists you during the campaign process, from the qualifying period through Election Day.

Please review the enclosed election laws, offenses, penalties, and excerpts from Attorney General opinions discussing these matters.

If you would like more information or would like to ask any questions, please visit www.AGLizMurrill.com.

Together - let's make Louisiana an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Murrill".

Liz Murrill
Attorney General

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STATE OF LOUISIANA'S ELECTION OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

The Louisiana Election Code, La. R.S. 18:1 *et seq.*, regulates the conduct of elections. Sections 1461 through 1471, which are listed below, provide for election offenses and penalties. Also included herein are references to Attorney General Opinions, which discuss these statutory provisions.

§1461. Bribery of voters; penalties

- A. (1) Bribery of voters is the giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, any money, or anything of apparent present or prospective value to any voter at any election, or at any convention of a recognized political party, with the intent to influence the voter in the casting of his ballot. The acceptance of, or the offer to accept, directly or indirectly, any money, or anything of apparent present or prospective value, by any such voters under such circumstances shall also constitute bribery of voters.
- (2) Bribery of voters is also the giving or offering to give, directly or indirectly, any money or anything of apparent present or prospective value to secure or influence registration of a person or to secure or influence a person to sign or not sign a recall or other election petition.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than four thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.
- C. In the trial of persons charged with bribery of voters either the bribe-giver or the bribe-taker may give evidence, or make affidavit against the other, and may receive immunity from prosecution in favor of the first informer, except for perjury in giving such testimony.
- D. In addition to any other penalty imposed pursuant to this Section, the court may order restitution as a part of the sentence. Restitution may include payment for any costs incurred, including reasonable attorney fees, by a candidate who brought an action contesting an election wherein the court found that one or more of the votes cast in the contested election were illegal based on the actions of the defendant and the court changed the result of the election or ordered a new election to be held.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 01-390** - There is no violation of La. R.S. 18:1461 or La. R.S. 18:1462(A)(1) in distributing caps and shirts with statements seeking a vote for a candidate in an election inasmuch as such items confer no pecuniary benefit.

§1461.1. Coercion;prohibitedpractices;penalties

A. (1) No person shall knowingly coerce or attempt to coerce another person to give or withhold a contribution to influence the nomination or election of a person to the office of president or vice president of the United States, presidential elector, delegate to a political party convention, United States senator, United States congressman, or political party office.

(2) No person based on an individual's contribution, promise to make a contribution, or failure to make a contribution to influence the nomination or election of a person to any of the offices listed in this Subsection shall directly or indirectly affect an individual's employment by means of:

- (a) Denial or deprivation or the threat of the denial or deprivation of any employment or position.
- (b) Denial or deprivation or the threat of the denial or deprivation of the loss of any compensation, payment, benefit, or other emolument derived from or related to such employment or position.
- (c) Discharge, promotion, degradation, or change in any manner in rank, status, or classification, or the threat or promise to do so.

(3)(a) No person based on an individual's contribution, promise to make a contribution, or failure to make any contribution to influence the nomination or election of a person to any of the offices listed in this Subsection shall directly or indirectly affect an individual by means of:

- (i) Denial or deprivation or the threat of the denial or deprivation of membership or participation in any organization.
- (ii) Denial or deprivation or the threat of the denial or deprivation of the loss of any compensation, payment, benefit, or other emolument derived from or related to such membership or participation in any organization.
- (iii) Discharge, promotion, degradation, or change in any manner in rank, status, or classification in any organization, or the threat or promise to do so.

(b)(i) No organization shall directly or indirectly have as a condition of membership or participation, the requirement that a person make a contribution to such organization which will be used by such organization for the purpose of supporting, opposing, or otherwise influencing the nomination or election of a person to any of the offices listed in this Subsection, for the purpose of supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters, or for the purpose of supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer.

(ii) For the purposes of this Subparagraph, "contribution" shall have the same meaning as provided for in R.S. 18:1483(6) and shall also include any dues or membership fees of any organization.

(c) For the purposes of this Paragraph, "organization" shall mean a partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal entity, including their subsidiaries.

(4) No political committee, candidate, or other person shall knowingly and willfully make a contribution or expenditure using funds which were obtained through any practice prohibited by this Section.

(5) Any contribution received by a candidate, political committee, or other person who makes expenditures or receives contributions which was obtained through practices prohibited in this Subsection shall escheat to the state and shall be paid over to the state by such candidate, political committee, or such other person.

(6) Penalties for violations of any of the provisions of this Section shall be as provided in R.S. 18:1461(B).

B. Terms used in this Section shall be defined as in Chapter 11 of this Title except that, for purposes of this Section:

(1) "Candidate" shall mean a person who seeks nomination or election to the office of president or vice president of the United States, presidential elector, delegate to a political party convention, United States senator, United States congressman, or political party office. An individual shall be deemed to seek nomination or election to such office if he has, since prior participation in an election, if any, received and accepted a contribution or made an expenditure, or has given his consent for any other person or committee to receive a contribution or make an expenditure with a view to influencing his nomination or election to such office, or taken the action necessary under the laws of the state of Louisiana to qualify himself for nomination or election to such office.

(2) "Person who makes expenditures or receives contributions" shall mean any person, other than a candidate or a political committee, who makes any expenditure or who accepts a contribution, other than to or from a candidate or to or from a political committee, if either said expenditures or said contributions exceed five hundred dollars in the aggregate during the aggregating period provided in the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act which would be applicable to candidates as defined in this Subsection if they were candidates for purposes of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

§1461.2. Election offenses affecting registration and election fraud or forgery; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

- (1) Vote or attempt to vote more than once at an election.
- (2) Vote or attempt to vote, knowing that he is not qualified, or influence or attempt to influence another to vote, knowing such voter to be unqualified or the vote to be fraudulent.
- (3) Register, vote, or attempt to register or vote in the name of another or in an assumed or fictitious name, or in any manner other than as provided in this Title.
- (4) Forge the name of another or use a fictitious name on an affidavit or document required under this Title.
- (5) Procure or submit voter registration applications that are known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent.
- (6) Forge, alter, add to, deface, take, destroy, or remove from proper custodial care any book, card, record, voter registration application, election return, nomination papers, withdrawals of candidacy, election supplies, election paraphernalia, or any affidavit or other document required or provided for under the provisions of this Title, unless required to be removed by a court of competent jurisdiction for inspection and photostatic copying for the court record.
- (7) Have in his possession an official ballot in violation of any provision of this Title.
- (8) Have in his possession the registration certificate of another with intent to violate any provision of this Title.
- (9) For purposes other than fulfilling the person's duties relative to registration of voters as provided by law, copy or reproduce a voter registration application that has been submitted by an applicant.
- (10) Fill out information on another person's voter registration application, except when providing assistance to an applicant in the manner authorized by this Title.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be subject to the penalty provisions of R.S.14:133.1.1.

§1461.3. Election offenses affecting election officials or watchers; penalties

*C (5) goes into effect on August 1, 2026.

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

- (1) Being an election official, permit fraudulent votes to be cast, or knowingly count votes not entitled to be cast.
- (2) Fail, refuse, or neglect to discharge any duty imposed upon him, either individually or in an official capacity, by any provision of this Title.
- (3) Supply a false answer or statement to an election official or in any document required by this Title, or execute an affidavit knowing it to contain false or incorrect information.

B. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection A of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.

C. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

- (1) Being a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner fail to identify an applicant to vote as required by this Title.
- (2) Sign another voter's name in the precinct register.
- (3) Attempt to influence an election official or watcher in the performance of his duties on election day.
- (4) Disobey any lawful instruction of a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner or a law enforcement officer providing assistance to maintain order at a polling place.
- (5) Photograph, record, or otherwise reproduce voter registration information in precinct registers, except while performing his duties as a clerk of court or an employee of a clerk, an election day or early voting commissioner, a registrar of voters or an employee of a registrar, or the secretary of state or an employee of the secretary of state.*

D. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection C of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned in the parish jail for not more than six months, or both.

§1461.4. Election offenses involving threats or intimidation of voters; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

- (1) Intimidate, deceive, or misinform, directly or indirectly, any voter or prospective voter in matters concerning voting or nonvoting or voter registration or nonregistration, or the signing or not signing of a petition, including but not limited to any matter concerning the voluntary affiliation or nonaffiliation of a voter with any political party.
- (2) While in the voting booth assisting another person in voting, coerce, compel, or otherwise influence the assisted voter to cast his vote in a certain way.
- (3) Intimidate a person by the use of violence, force, or threats with the intent to influence that person's decision to vote or to impede such person's ingress or egress from a polling place.
- (4) Without lawful authority, obstruct, hinder, or delay any voter on his way to or while returning home from any polling place where an election is being held or on his way to or while returning home from a place where he can legally exercise a vote concerning candidate representation of his party.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

§1461.5. Election offenses involving bribery, threats or intimidation of election officials or candidates; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

- (1) Offer money or anything of apparent present or prospective value or use, directly or indirectly, or engage in any form of intimidation to influence the action or encourage inaction of any election official with regard to the duties of his office.
- (2) Give or offer to give, directly or indirectly, any money or anything of apparent present or prospective value to any person who has withdrawn or who was eliminated prior or subsequent to the primary election as a candidate for public office, for the purpose of securing or giving his political support to any remaining candidate or candidates for public office in the primary or general election.
- (3) When such person is a candidate for public office who has withdrawn or was eliminated prior to or subsequent to the primary election, accept or offer to accept, directly or indirectly, any money, or anything of apparent present or prospective

value that is given for the purpose of securing or giving his political support to any remaining candidate or candidates for public office in the primary or general election.

(4)(a) Give or offer to give, directly or indirectly, any money or any thing of apparent present or prospective value to a candidate for public office for the purpose of securing the candidate's withdrawal from an election.

(b) Solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, money or any thing of apparent present or prospective value to secure the withdrawal from an election of a candidate for public office.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

C. In the trial of a person charged with a violation of this Section, either the bribe-giver or the bribe-taker may give evidence, or make affidavit against the other, and may receive immunity from prosecution in favor of the first informer, except for perjury in giving such testimony.

§1461.6. Election offenses involving tampering with election equipment; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

(1) Prior to an election, during transit to a polling place, during early voting, during election day voting or while in storage awaiting certification of election results, with intent to defraud, tamper with any voting equipment so as to attempt to influence the accurate and timely reporting of election results.

(2) Unlawfully, directly or indirectly, possess, tamper with, break, impair, impede, or otherwise interfere with the maintenance, adjustment, delivery, use, or operation of any voting machine or part thereof or with any of the paraphernalia connected with or appertaining thereto.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than five years, or both.

§1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

- (1) Fail to submit to the parish registrar of voters a completed registration application collected through a third-party voter registration drive within thirty days of receipt of the completed application from the applicant or no later than the date provided in R.S. 18:135(A)(1), whichever occurs first.
- (2) As a voter, election official, watcher, or person assisting a voter, allow a ballot to be seen, except as provided by law; announce the manner in which a person has cast his ballot; place a distinguishing mark on a ballot with intent to make the ballot identifiable, or make a false statement concerning ability to mark a ballot without assistance.
- (3) When assisting a voter in voting, fail to mark the ballot or vote in the manner dictated by the voter.
- (4) Being a physician, optometrist, physician assistant as defined in R.S. 37:1360.22, or nurse practitioner as defined in R.S. 37:913 certify to the disability of a voter under this Title or certify that a person will be hospitalized on election day, knowing such information to be false.
- (5) Transmit or otherwise provide false or misleading information concerning an election from a source disguised to appear to be or while impersonating the secretary of state, a registrar of voters, a clerk of court, or other election official.
- (6) Facilitate the distribution and collection of absentee by mail ballot applications or absentee by mail ballots in violation of this Title.
- (7) Breach any mandatory provision of this Title.
- (8) Witness the certificate of more than one voter who is not an immediate family member in violation of R.S. 18:1306.
- (9) Witness more than one certificate of a voter who is not an immediate family member in violation of R.S. 18:1306.

B. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection A of this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

C. No person shall:

- (1) Possess any beverage of alcoholic content in a polling place after having been directed by a registrar or deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge, commissioner or law enforcement officer providing assistance to maintain order at the polling place to remove or dispose of the beverage.

(2) Appear at a polling place in an intoxicated condition.

(3) Carry or possess a firearm while present in a polling place, except a peace officer as defined by R.S. 40:2402(3)(a), in the performance of his official duties.

D. Whoever violates any provision of Subsection C of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. On a second offense or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

§1461.8. Election offense; candidate; forfeiture of office

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and in addition to the penalties provided in R.S. 18:1461 through 1461.7, any candidate who is elected to public office and is convicted of an election offense as provided in R. S. 18:1461, 1461.2(A)(2) or (4), 1461.3(A)(3), 1461.4(A)(1) and 1461.5(A)(2) that is related to his campaign for such public office shall forfeit such public office. If such conviction becomes final prior to the candidate taking the oath of office for such public office, the candidate shall forfeit the public office and shall not be allowed to hold such public office and such public office shall be declared vacant at the time such conviction becomes final. If the conviction for such election offense does not become final until after such candidate has taken the oath of office for such public office, then, at the time such conviction becomes final, he shall forfeit such public office and shall be, ipso facto, removed from such public office and such public office shall be declared vacant.

B. However, if such candidate held such public office at the time of the commission of the election offense, he shall be allowed to serve the remainder of the term he was then serving, but, at the time his conviction for the election offense becomes final, he shall forfeit the public office for the subsequent term. If he has taken the oath of office for the subsequent term, he shall, at the time the conviction for the election offense becomes final, forfeit such public office and shall be, ipso facto, removed from such public office and such public office shall be declared vacant.

C. Any vacancy in a public office occurring as a result of the provisions of this Section shall be filled as in the case of ordinary vacancies and according to the constitution and laws of the state.

§ 1462. Acts prohibited during early voting or on election day; electioneering; intimidation; exceptions; enforcement; penalties

A. The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the right to vote is a right that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government. In order to preserve the integrity of its election process, and to protect the right of citizens to vote freely for the candidates of their choice, the state has a compelling interest in establishing a zone securing polling locations against certain conduct and activities, including voter intimidation, election fraud, confusion, and general disorder, that would interfere with the exercise of the right to vote. The legislature, therefore, enacts this Subsection to provide for a six hundred foot campaign-free zone around polling places to provide to each voter such an environment in which to exercise his right to vote. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, it shall be unlawful for any person, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., to perform or cause to be performed any of the following acts within any polling

place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting:

(1) To solicit in any manner or by any means whatsoever any other person to vote for or against any candidate or proposition being voted on in such election.

(2) To remain within any such polling place or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance of any such polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by an election commissioner, law enforcement officer, registrar, or deputy registrar to leave the premises or area of a polling place.

(3) To hand out, place, or display campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature of any kind or description whatsoever which advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.

(4) To place or display political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising which advocate for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.

(5) To circulate a petition or seek handwritten signatures to a petition.

B. The provisions hereof shall not apply to the placing and displaying, either by the owner, lessee, or lawful occupant thereof, or with the consent of such owner, lessee or occupant, of political signs or pictures on private property which is not being used as a polling place.

C. The provisions of this Section shall not be construed as prohibiting any appointed election commissioner or any official watcher from remaining in and about the polling place in which he was selected to serve.

D. No election official shall wear any badge, button, pin, or other insignia identifying him with any political candidate or faction.

E. No election official shall in any manner attempt to influence any voter to vote for or against any candidate or proposition being voted on in the election being held in that polling place.

F. The duly constituted law enforcement officers of the political subdivision in which any such election is being held shall enforce the provisions of this Section when requested to do so by a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner. The registrar, deputy registrars, commissioners-in-charge and commissioners likewise shall enforce the provisions of this Section at the polling places. The law enforcement officers, commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, deputy registrars and registrar are authorized to seize, remove, and destroy any political cards, signs, pictures, or literature being used or displayed in violation of any of the provisions hereof.

G. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. On a second offense or any succeeding offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

§1462.1. Registration of persons conducting exit polling during early voting or on election day; penalties

A. The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the right to vote is a right that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government and that voters should be free from intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction, and undue influence in the campaign-free zone provided in R.S. 18:1462(A) by individuals conducting exit polling who have not registered with the secretary of state.

B. No person shall conduct an exit poll between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, unless the person conducting the polling has filed a registration statement with the secretary of state prior to the start of early voting or election day, as applicable. The registration statement may be filed in person, by facsimile, or by electronic mail.

C. Whoever violates this Section shall be fined one hundred dollars or be imprisoned for ten days, or both, for the first offense. For a second offense, the penalty shall be a fine of two hundred dollars or imprisonment for ten days, or both. For a third or subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of five hundred dollars or imprisonment for ten days, or both.

§ 1463. Political material; ethics; prohibitions

**Section C(2) will be amended August 1, 2026 (see below)*

A. The Legislature of Louisiana finds that the state has a compelling interest in taking every necessary step to assure that all elections are held in a fair and ethical manner and finds that an election cannot be held in a fair and ethical manner when any candidate or other person is allowed to print or distribute any material which falsely alleges that a candidate is supported by or affiliated with another candidate, group of candidates, or other person, or a political faction, or to publish statements that make scurrilous, false, or irresponsible adverse comments about a candidate or a proposition. The legislature further finds that the state has a compelling interest to protect the electoral process, and that the people have an interest in knowing the identity of each candidate whose number appears on a sample ballot in order to be fully informed and to exercise their right to vote for a candidate of their choice. The legislature further finds that it is essential to the protection of the electoral process that the people be able to know who is responsible for publications in order to more properly evaluate the statements contained in them and to informatively exercise their right to vote. The legislature further finds that it is essential to the protection of the electoral process to prohibit misrepresentation that a person, committee, or organization speaks, writes, or acts on behalf of a candidate, political committee, or political party, or an agent or employee thereof.

B.(1) No person shall cause to be printed or assist in the distribution, transportation, or transmission by any means of any facsimile of an official ballot or cause to be printed, distributed, transported, or transmitted any unofficial sample ballot with the number of a candidate unless the name of the candidate to whom the ballot number was assigned is correctly listed on the ballot.

(2) No person shall cause to be printed or assist in the distribution, transportation, or transmission by any means of any facsimile of an official ballot, or cause to be printed, distributed, transported, or transmitted any unofficial sample ballot containing a photograph, or likeness of any person which falsely alleges, with an intent to misrepresent, that any person or candidate, or group of candidates in an election is endorsed by or supported by another candidate, group of candidates or other person.

C.(1) No person shall cause to be distributed, or transmitted, any oral, visual, digital, or written material containing any statement which he knows or should be reasonably expected to know makes a false statement about a candidate for election in a primary or general election or about a proposition to be submitted to the voters.

(2) Whenever any person, political committee, entity or organization makes a disbursement for the purpose of the financing of any electioneering communication, such communication shall comply with the following items under the following circumstances:

(a) If the communication is paid for and authorized by a candidate, an authorized political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state that the communication has been paid for by such authorized political committee. The name of the political committee paying for the communication shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be used.

(b) If the communication is paid for by other persons, but authorized by a candidate, an authorized political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state that the communication is paid for by such other persons and authorized by such authorized political committee. The name of the authorized political committee shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be used.

(c) If the communication is not authorized by a candidate, a political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state the (i) name, (ii) physical address (not post office box), and (iii) telephone number and the world-wide web address if available of the person, committee, entity or organization who paid for the communication and state that the communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee. The name of the payer shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be used.

(3) If an individual, association, organization, committee, or corporation is responsible for or causes the distribution or transmission of any statements relative to candidates or propositions which do not fully disclose the name of the individual or the name of the association, organization, committee, or corporation, and the full and correct name and address of its chairman or other chief administrative officer and whether or not such individual, association, organization, committee, or corporation supports or opposes such candidate or proposition, such individual, association, organization, committee, or corporation shall report all expenditures incurred in relation to the publication, distribution, transportation, or transmission in accordance with R.S. 18:1491.7, 1495.5, or 1501.1.

(4)(a) No person shall misrepresent himself or any committee or organization under his control as speaking, writing, or otherwise acting for or on behalf of any candidate, political committee, or political party, or any employee or agent thereof.

(b) No person shall willfully and knowingly participate in or conspire to participate in a plan, scheme, or design to misrepresent himself or any committee or organization under his control or under the control of any other participant in the plan, scheme, or design as speaking, writing, or otherwise acting for or on behalf of any candidate, political committee, or political party, or any employee or agent thereof.

(c) A radio or television broadcaster who broadcasts a paid political announcement or advertisement, the content of which the broadcaster had no input in or control over, is not subject

to the provisions of this Paragraph.

(5) For purposes of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, the term "electioneering communication" means any broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that refers to a legally qualified candidate for elected office and is broadcast within sixty days before any election in which such candidate is on the ballot.

D.(1) An affected candidate or voter shall be entitled to an injunction to restrain future violations of Subsections B and C of this Section.

(2) In the event a permanent injunction is granted, reasonable attorney fees shall be allowed the petitioner by the court which shall be taxed as costs to be paid by the defendant.

E.(1) No person shall cause to be distributed or transmitted for or on behalf of a candidate for political office any oral, visual, digital, or written material constituting a paid political announcement or advertisement, which is paid for by a third-party entity, without providing the name of the third-party entity on the face of the advertisement. The name of the third-party entity shall be included on written and digital material, political announcements, and advertisements so that it is clear and understandable.

(2) The name of the third-party entity in visual and oral political announcements or advertisements shall be included so that it is clearly understandable as well as audible and visible for not less than three seconds. If the advertisement is placed by a public relations firm, advertising agency, media buyer, or other person who purchases media advertising or time or space for such advertising, such person shall provide the information required by this Section.

(3) In digital announcements or advertisements, the name of the third-party entity shall appear in a text sized at least as large as the smallest text in the digital material or in a heading or similar section of text displayed above or within the digital material that is visually distinct from the remainder of the digital material's text and shall have a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the name of the third party entity.

(4) For the purposes of this Subsection, "person" means any individual, partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal entity, including its subsidiaries.

(5)(a) A media entity who broadcasts a paid political announcement or advertisement, the content of which the broadcaster has no input in or control over, is not subject to the provisions of this Subsection.

(b) For purposes of this Subsection, a media entity includes a radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, cable or satellite television company, or other video service provider, streaming video provider, newspaper company, periodical company, billboard company, advertisement agency, or media platform responsible for the production or publication of any advertisement, voice, data, or other communications, information services, or internet access provider, or bona fide news or public interest website operator.

F. For the purposes of this Section, the term "digital material" means any material or communication that, for a fee, is placed or promoted on a public facing website, web application, or digital application, including a social network, advertising network, or search engine.

G. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than two thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.

*Section C(2) will be amended to read as follows starting August 1, 2026:

(2) Whenever any person, political committee, entity, or organization makes a disbursement for the purpose of the financing of any electioneering communication or any digital material that refers to a legally qualified candidate for elected office and that is broadcast within sixty days before any election in which such candidate is on the ballot, such communication or material shall comply with the following items under the following circumstances:

(a) If the communication or material is paid for and authorized by a candidate, an authorized political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state that the communication or material has been paid for by such authorized political committee. The name of the political committee paying for the communication or material shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be used.

(b) If the communication or material is paid for by other persons, but authorized by a candidate, an authorized political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state that the communication or material is paid for by such other persons and authorized by such candidate or authorized political committee. The name of the candidate or authorized political committee shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be used.

(c) If the communication or material is not authorized by a candidate, a political committee of a candidate, or its agents, it shall clearly state the

(i) name,

(ii) physical address (not post office box), and

(iii) telephone number and the world-wide web address if available of the person,

committee, entity, or organization who paid for the communication and state that the communication or material is not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee. The name of the payer shall be given in full and no acronyms shall be used.

§1463.1. Telephone campaign communications; disclosure

In effect until 8/01/2026*

A. The Legislature of Louisiana finds that the state has a compelling interest in protecting the integrity of the electoral process and in assuring that the voters are able to know who is responsible for telephone campaign communications in order to more properly evaluate the statements contained in them and to cast a more informed vote. The legislature further finds that it is essential to the protection of the electoral process to prohibit misrepresentation that a person, committee, or organization speaks on behalf of a candidate, political committee, or an agent thereof.

B.(1) No person shall make or cause to be made any telephone call or automated call expressly advocating support or opposition of a candidate, or elected public official, or ballot proposition unless the call identifies the source of the call as provided in this Section.

(2) The source of a call shall be identified as follows:

(a) If the call is paid for and authorized by a candidate, a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, or an agent of a candidate or of such a committee, the call shall clearly state that the call has been paid for by the candidate or the committee, as applicable.

(b) If the call is authorized by a candidate, a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, or an agent of a candidate or of such a committee, but is paid for by any other person, the call shall clearly state that the call is authorized by such candidate or committee, or agent on behalf of such candidate or committee, as applicable.

(c) If the call is authorized by a political committee that is not a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, or by an agent of such a committee, and is paid for by such committee or agent or by any other person, the call shall clearly state that the call is authorized by such committee.

(d) If the call is not authorized by a candidate, a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, any other political committee, or an agent of a candidate or of a political committee, and is paid for by any other person, the call shall clearly state who authorized the call.

(3) This Subsection shall not apply to:

(a) Any telephone call in which the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call knew each other prior to the call.

(b) Any telephone call or automated call that is conducted to collect information, including message testing, or for the purpose of polling respondents concerning a candidate, elected public official, or ballot proposition, which is a part of a series of like telephone calls that consists of fewer than one thousand five hundred completed calls that average more than two minutes in duration. Such a call is presumed to be a scientific poll and not a campaign communication subject to the provisions of this Subsection.

C.(1) No person shall make or cause to be made any telephone call or automated call that states or implies that the caller represents any candidate, political committee, or any other person or organization unless the candidate, political committee, person, or organization so represented has given specific approval to the person paying for the call in writing to make such representation. The person who pays for any call subject to the provisions of this Section shall maintain records of all such calls. The person shall also maintain a copy of all such written approvals he has received as required by this Paragraph and shall file a copy of each with the secretary of state before the calls

authorized by such approval commence. The filing may be accomplished by facsimile transmission as long as within two days, exclusive of legal holidays, the original approvals received are forwarded by United States mail to the secretary of state.

(2)(a) No person shall make or cause to be made any telephone call or automated call supporting or opposing a candidate, with the knowledge and cooperation of a candidate or a political committee of a candidate, unless the person has received the prior written approval of such candidate or committee.

(b) A copy of each written approval required by this Subsection shall be filed with the secretary of state by the candidate prior to the time the calls authorized by such approval commence. The filing may be accomplished by facsimile transmission as long as within two days, exclusive of legal holidays, the original approvals received are forwarded by United States mail to the secretary of state.

D. For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Automated call" includes any call using a prerecorded or artificial voice as part of a calling campaign to deliver information.

(2) "Candidate", "person", "political committee" or "committee", "principal campaign committee", "subsidiary committee", and "public office" shall have the meanings provided in R.S. 18:1483.

(3) "Elected public official" means an individual who holds public office.

(4) "Message testing" means studying for research purposes how individuals react to positive or negative information on a candidate, elected public official, or ballot proposition.

E. Whoever violates any provision of this Section may be punished by a civil fine not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars. Upon a second or subsequent violation, the penalty shall be a civil fine not to exceed five thousand dollars.

§1463.1. Telephone campaign communications; disclosure

Below is Effective August 1, 2026.

A. The Legislature of Louisiana finds that the state has a compelling interest in protecting the integrity of the electoral process and in assuring that the voters are able to know who is responsible for telephone campaign communications in order to more properly evaluate the statements contained in them and to cast a more informed vote. The legislature further finds that it is essential to the protection of the electoral process to prohibit misrepresentation that a person, committee, or organization speaks on behalf of a candidate, political committee, or an agent thereof.

B.(1) No person shall make or cause to be made any telephone call or automated call expressly advocating support or opposition of a candidate, or elected public official, or ballot proposition unless the call identifies the source of the call as provided in this Section.

(2) The source of a call shall be identified as follows:

(a) If the call is paid for and authorized by a candidate, a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, or an agent of a candidate or of such a committee, the call shall clearly state that

the call has been paid for by the candidate or the committee, as applicable.

(b) If the call is authorized by a candidate, a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, or an agent of a candidate or of such a committee, but is paid for by any other person, the call shall clearly state that the call is authorized by such candidate or committee, or agent on behalf of such candidate or committee, as applicable.

(c) If the call is authorized by a political committee that is not a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, or by an agent of such a committee, and is paid for by such committee or agent or by any other person, the call shall clearly state that the call is authorized by such committee.

(d) If the call is not authorized by a candidate, a principal or subsidiary committee of a candidate, any other political committee, or an agent of a candidate or of a political committee, and is paid for by any other person, the call shall clearly state who authorized the call.

(3) This Subsection shall not apply to:

(a) Any telephone call in which the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call knew each other prior to the call.

(b) Any telephone call or automated call that is conducted to collect information, including message testing, or for the purpose of polling respondents concerning a candidate, elected public official, or ballot proposition, which is a part of a series of like telephone calls that consists of fewer than one thousand five hundred completed calls that average more than two minutes in duration. Such a call is presumed to be a scientific poll and not a campaign communication subject to the provisions of this Subsection.

C.(1) No person shall make or cause to be made any telephone call or automated call that states or implies that the caller represents any candidate, political committee, or any other person or organization unless the candidate, political committee, person, or organization so represented has given specific approval to the person paying for the call in writing to make such representation. The person who pays for any call subject to the provisions of this Section shall maintain records of all such calls. The person shall also maintain a copy of all such written approvals he has received as required by this Paragraph and shall file a copy of each with the secretary of state before the calls authorized by such approval commence. The filing may be accomplished by facsimile transmission as long as within two days, exclusive of legal holidays, the original approvals received are forwarded by United States mail to the secretary of state.

(2)(a) No person shall make or cause to be made any telephone call or automated call supporting or opposing a candidate, with the knowledge and cooperation of a candidate or a political committee of a candidate, unless the person has received the prior written approval of such candidate or committee.

(b) A copy of each written approval required by this Subsection shall be filed with the secretary of state by the candidate prior to the time the calls authorized by such approval commence. The filing may be accomplished by facsimile transmission as long as within two days, exclusive of legal holidays, the original approvals received are forwarded by United States mail to the secretary of state.

D. No person shall make or cause to be made any telephone call or automated call provided for in this Section which is created using artificial intelligence, using the voice of a public figure, including an elected official or limited public figure, without providing a clear and understandable disclosure at the beginning of the call that it was created using artificial intelligence.

E. For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) "Artificial intelligence" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 14:73.14.
- (2) "Automated call" includes any call using a prerecorded or artificial voice as part of a calling campaign to deliver information.
- (3) "Candidate", "person", "political committee" or "committee", "principal campaign committee", "subsidiary committee", and "public office" shall have the meanings provided in R.S. 18:1483.
- (4) "Elected public official" means an individual who holds public office in this state or any other state in the United States or holds any federal office.
- (5) "Limited public figure" means a person who is not a household name but has found themselves in the forefront of a public controversy.
- (6) "Message testing" means studying for research purposes how individuals react to positive or negative information on a candidate, elected public official, or ballot proposition.
- (7) "Public figure" means a person who is intimately involved in the resolution of important public questions, or by reason of his fame shapes events in areas of concern to society, a famous person, or person of prominence who performs services at discrete events, such as speeches, public appearances, or similar events, for compensation on a per-event basis.

F. The provisions of this Section shall not impose liability on any of the following entities as a result of content provided by another person:

- (1) An interactive computer service as defined in 47 U.S.C. 230.
- (2) An internet service provider, cloud provider, cybersecurity provider, or any provider of an information service as defined by 47 U.S.C. 153(24) or a telecommunications service as defined by 47 U.S.C. 153(53).
- (3) A radio or television broadcaster, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer.

G. Whoever violates any provision of this Section may be punished by a civil fine not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars. Upon a second or subsequent violation, the penalty shall be a civil fine not to exceed five thousand dollars.

H. The Board of Ethics shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Section.

§1464. Excessive charge for political advertisements prohibited; penalty

A. No daily, bi-weekly, weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly newspaper, journal, periodical, or other publication and no radio station, television station, or chain or network of radio or television stations operating in this state shall assess or charge for political announcements and advertisements any amount which is in excess of the rates assessed and charged for regular commercial advertising.

B. Whoever violates this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

§1465. Prohibited use of public funds

A. No public funds shall be used to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition, or be appropriated to a candidate or political organization. This provision shall not prohibit the use of public funds for dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition appearing on an election ballot.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.

- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 83-550** - A candidate should not use a patrol car while actively campaigning for the office of sheriff.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 83-559** - A chief of police need not take a leave of absence in order to campaign for the office of sheriff, if such political activity is confined to the off duty hours of the chief of police and further, if such activity does not interfere with the official responsibilities of said officer.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 90-126(A)** - Without specific, express authorization from the legislature by statute (i.e. drug education, economic development, etc.), the use of public funds to finance public relations techniques to manipulate public opinion on public issues to create a body of public opinion favorable to a public official or entity, is ultra vires. The use of public funds to provide a public information function to a state office is integral to its constitutional and/or statutory power and function and is lawful if its intent is to be factually informative to the public.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 91-216** - Use of a public building for a campaign function for no fee would amount to the use of public funds and, therefore, would be in violation of La. R.S. 18:1465.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 93-78** - A governmental entity may utilize public funds for the development and distribution of an informational poll so long as the information contained therein is purely factual information.

- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 96-62** - A public entity, such as a school board, may not use public funds by way of using a public school bus to transport voters to the election polls. The law clearly prohibits the use of public funds for anything other than the dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition appearing on an election ballot.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 04-0370** - La. Const. art. XI, § 4 and La. R.S.18:1465(A) prohibit the use of public funds to urge the electorate to vote for any candidate or proposition, as well as the appropriation of public funds to any candidate or political organization.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 11-0195** - The use of a Library's meeting room for no fee to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate would be in violation of La. Const. art. XI, § 4 and La. R.S. 18:1465(A). But one is permitted to use the meeting room for such a purpose if the use is being paid for by private funds.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 14-0110** - Campaign activities conducted while on-duty are a violation of La. Const. art. XI, § 4, which states that "no public funds shall be used to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition, or be appropriated to a candidate or political organization...." The language of this constitutional provision also appears in La. R.S. 18:1465.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 14-0203** - As we have noted in numerous prior opinions, political activity is allowed in public buildings when a sufficient fee for the building's use is charged and paid for with private funds. On the contrary, if no fee is charged for use of a public building, then public funds would be used, which would be considered a violation of La. R.S. 18:1465(A).
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 15-0161** - The Jefferson Convention and Visitors Bureau, a non-profit that receives public funds from Jefferson Parish to promote tourism, is not prohibited from engaging in political activity. However, public funds may not be used for political activity, and public funds from the hotel occupancy tax proceeds are subject to the limitations of La. R.S. 47:338.203(D).

§1466. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings hereafter ascribed to each:

- (1) "Person" shall have the meaning ascribed to it by R.S. 1:10.
- (2) "Election official" means:
 - (a) The parish board of election supervisors.
 - (b) Clerks and their employees who perform duties in the election process.
 - (c) Registrars of voters and their employees.
 - (d) The secretary of state and employees of his office who perform duties in the election process.

(e) Commissioners, including the commissioner-in-charge.

§1467. Conviction in fraudulent vote cases; prohibition from employment in elections

Any person who has been convicted of any crime involving fraud or any violation of this Title while serving in the conduct of an election and in his capacity as a commissioner-in-charge, commissioner, watcher, or employee of a parish custodian of voting machines, or deputy of a clerk of court or law enforcement officer, shall thereafter be prohibited from serving in any of the positions aforementioned in any election or in connection with any election.

§1468. Contributions in return for endorsement; prohibition

- A. No person shall solicit or receive funds nor any thing of value from a candidate or political committee and no candidate or political committee or other person shall pay any funds or any thing of value to any person for the purpose of endorsing, supporting, opposing, or securing an endorsement, support of or opposition to any candidate. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit the payment by a candidate, political committee, or other person, of funds or any thing of value to a person in return for the conducting, by such person to whom the payment is made, of a social function which is in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political committee of which otherwise seeks to influence an election.
- B. The terms used in this Section shall be defined as in Chapter 11 of this Title.
- C. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years, or both.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 01-390** - We do not find any statutory violations by making campaign items available such as shirts and caps with statements seeking votes for your election inasmuch as the Louisiana Supreme Court has determined such items "confer no pecuniary benefit" and are offered with the intent to publicize a candidate and "not to buy a vote."

§1469. Bribery of a candidate; crime defined; penalty

A. Bribery of a candidate is the giving, promising or offering to give, directly or indirectly, a campaign contribution to a candidate, political committee, or other person, or the accepting, soliciting, offering to accept, directly or indirectly, a campaign contribution, by a candidate, political committee or other person, with the intention that the candidate will provide or influence another to provide the contributor or another person a position of public employment, an appointive governmental position, a public contract, or anything of apparent present or prospective value.

B. The definitions of terms in Chapter 11 of the Louisiana Election Code shall be applicable to this Section.

C. Whoever commits the crime of bribery of a candidate shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years, or both.

§1470. Political advertising; prohibition

- A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this Section, no political campaign signs shall be erected, displayed, or posted on any publicly owned property or right of way, or to or on any public utility pole or stanchion.
- B. Subject to school board policy, political campaign signs may be erected, displayed, or posted in or on the premises of any public school athletic field or public school gymnasium if the erection, display, or posting is paid for by a political candidate or political campaign.
- C. The provisions of this Section shall not create an exception to R.S. 18:1462, relative to prohibited acts during early voting or on election day.
- **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 98-406** - State law prohibits political campaign signs from being displayed on any publicly owned property or right of way. However, an individual cannot simply remove a sign that is illegally displayed in a public place. Removal of a campaign sign or other notices from public right of ways by an individual may constitute theft.
 - **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 00-391** - A political sign cannot be displayed on a vehicle owned by the city.
 - **La. Atty. Gen. Op. No. 07-0160** - Political signs cannot be displayed on buses owned and operated by the city.

§1471. Temporary restraining order; notice; hearing

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a temporary restraining order shall not issue with respect to an allegation of any practice or procedure contrary to the election laws of the state unless notice is given to the adverse party and an opportunity had for a hearing prior to the local, state, or national election affected.

B. After service of the notice, the temporary restraining order shall be assigned for hearing not less than ten days prior to the election.

C. An appeal may be taken as a matter of right from a temporary restraining order relating to an alleged violation of the Louisiana Election Code. However, such an order shall be suspended during the pendency of an appeal unless the court in its discretion orders otherwise

§1472. Election offenses informational packet for candidates

A. Each candidate who qualifies for election in any primary election shall be provided an informational packet concerning the election offenses provided in this Chapter by the official with whom the candidate qualifies. The informational packet shall contain a summary of such offenses, the applicable enforcement procedures for such offenses, and the penalties for violations and a notice that questions concerning election violations should be directed to the attorney general or his designee and not to the official with whom the candidate qualifies.

B.(1) The informational packet shall be disseminated to each qualifying candidate immediately upon receipt of the candidate's notice of candidacy.

(2) When the notice of candidacy is filed by certified mail, by commercial carrier, or by an agent of the candidate, the informational packet shall be mailed within forty-eight hours of receipt of the notice of candidacy, via United States Postal Service first class mail, to the candidate at the address of his domicile as set forth in the notice of candidacy.

C. The attorney general shall provide for the preparation of the informational packets, including a summary of the election offenses and penalties for violations.

D.(1) Except as provided in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section, the informational packets concerning election offenses shall be disseminated at the same time the campaign finance disclosure informational packets are disseminated to qualifying candidates as provided in R.S. 18:463. The same procedure utilized in disseminating the campaign finance disclosure packets shall be used to disseminate the informational packet concerning election offenses.

(2) The attorney general shall provide a sufficient number of the informational packets concerning election offenses to the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure who shall forward such packets to the officials with whom the candidates qualify at the time required for furnishing the campaign finance disclosure information to such officials for dissemination with the campaign finance disclosure information.

Penalties

Please note that some of the election offenses cited above are considered felonies and others are considered misdemeanors. Louisiana Revised Statutes 14:2 defines felony as "any crime for which an offender may be sentenced to death or imprisonment at hard labor." Louisiana Revised Statutes 14:2 defines misdemeanor as "any crime other than a felony." Both jail time and monetary fines may be imposed for election offenses.

Contact Information

If you see an election violation, please contact your local law enforcement agency and/or local district attorney. Any question or comment regarding election offenses and penalties may be directed to my office in writing as follows:

Attorney General Liz Murrill
Louisiana Department of Justice
Civil Division
Post Office Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Telephone: 225-326-6000
Facsimile: 225-326-6098

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