

Louisiana Board of Pardons

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 24, 2025

Recorded by: Jasmine Thompson

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM.

2. Roll Call

A roll call was made with 4 members, and a quorum was declared.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair – Sheryl Ranatza | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pete Fremin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair – Steve Prator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chucky Tillis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Stapleton | |

Staff members present:

Francis Abbott	Chiquita McQuirter	Sharel Favorite
Karla Williams	Jasmine Thompson	----

3. **Public Comment** was allowed on request before any action item.

4. Regular Business

- a. The minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting were reviewed.
 - i. **Mr. Prator** made a motion, seconded by **Mr. Fremin**, to accept the minutes without any corrections. Without objection, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Clemency/Pardon hearings: The Board of Pardons conducted 13 hearings.

5. Adjournment

- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by **Mrs. Ranatza** at 1:37 PM.

Chiquita McQuirter

Chiquita McQuirter, Administrative Program Manager

Louisiana Board of Pardons
 Department of Public Safety & Corrections Headquarters
 Monday, February 24, 2025

1. Call to order/roll call at **9:11 AM**.
 By: Chair Sheryl M. Ranatza

Board of Pardons Members	Present	Absent
Chair – Sheryl M. Ranatza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice Chair – Steve Prator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pete Fremin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chucky Tillis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carolyn Stapleton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S)

Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Time Out:	Time Returned:
Mr. Tillis	Mr. Fremin	10:41 AM	10:45 AM

2. Regular Business
- a. Approval of minutes from the **February 10, 2025** meeting.
 Approved by **Mr. Prator** and seconded by **Mr. Fremin**.
 - b. Pardon Docket
13 cases were heard.

3. Adjournment
 Adjourned by: **Mrs. Ranatza**
 Time adjourned: **1:37 PM**

**BOARD OF PARDONS & COMMITTEE ON PAROLE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

JEFF M. LANDRY
GOVERNOR



SHERYL M. RANATZA
BOARD CHAIRMAN

PARDON HEARING DOCKET: February 24, 2025 – 9:00 AM
Hearing Location: Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections Headquarters
504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 342-5422

Assigned	Applicant's Name	DOC #	Request/Location	JDC/Location	Offense	Vote
1.	BENNETT, STACEY	707869	PWF Released	16 th JDC Iberia	Theft of \$500 or More	Grant 4-0 PWF
2.	BOURGEIOS, JAMOND D.	407734	PWF Released	22 nd JDC/24 th JDC Jefferson/St. Tammany	2 Cts. – Armed Robbery, 2 Cts. – Second Degree Kidnapping, 2 Cts. – Second Degree Kidnapping, 2 Cts. – Armed Robbery; 2 Cts. – Armed Robbery, 2 Cts. Armed Robbery; Possession of an Unregistered Firearm or Illegal Weapon	Grant 4-0 PWF
3.	ROBERT, DARRL	522453	PWF Released	24 th JDC Jefferson	Possession of Cocaine	Grant 4-0 PWF
4.	TROESCHER, KEVIN M. ATTY: R. A. OSBORN	401762	PWF Released	24 th JDC Jefferson	Aggravated Flight from an Officer; Hit and Run Driving	Deny 0-4
5.	JENNINGS, II, DAVID L.	608885	CTO DWCC	26 th JDC Bossier	Molestation of a Juvenile	Deny 0-4
6.	RODRIGUEZ, JR., CHARLES ATTY: GREG ROME	437720	CTO EHCC	21 st JDC Tangipahoa	2 Cts. – First Degree Murder	Deny 0-4
7.	BILLIOT, HERMAN	100188	CTO LSP	24 th JDC Jefferson	Second Degree Murder	CONTINUED
8.	BYLES, EUDIS D.	304186	CTO LSP	24 th JDC Jefferson	Second Degree Murder	Deny 0-4

CTO=Commutation of Sentence - PWF=Pardon with Restoration of Firearms - PWF=Pardon without Restoration of Firearms - Released=Not incarcerated

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9.	JACKSON, MELVIN	356924	CTO LSP	19 th JDC East Baton Rouge	Second Degree Murder	Deny 3-1
10.	KENNEDY, LONNIE G.	110432	CTO LSP	19 th JDC East Baton Rouge	Second Degree Murder	Grant 4-0 99 yrs w/IPE
11.	LOPEZ, ISIDROS E. ATTY: JANE HOGAN	100881	CTO LSP	Orleans	First Degree Murder	Grant 4-0 99 yrs w/IPE
12.	ROBERTSON, LUTHER	90556	CTO LSP	21 st JDC Tangipahoa	Aggravated Kidnapping; Armed Robbery; First Degree Murder	Deny 0-4
13.	WASHINGTON, MARLON	125892	CTO LSP	1 st JDC Caddo	Hab. Illegal Use of a Weapon or Dangerous Instrument; Illegal Use of a Weapon or Dangerous Instrument; Aggravated Burglary; Att. Aggravated Burglary	Deny 1-3
14.	JEFFERSON, JR., HARRISON	544653	CTO Rapides DC #3	9 th JDC Rapides	First Degree Robbery; Att. First Degree Robbery; Att. Simple Robbery	Deny 0-4

CTO=Commutation of Sentence - PWF=Pardon with Restoration of Firearms - PWO= Pardon without Restoration of Firearms - Released=Not incarcerated

BOARD OF PARDONS

Meeting date: 2/24/25

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION: Marlon Washington #125892

I move that the board go into an executive session. The purpose of this is to discuss the information contained in the record of each case on the docket that is confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

Motion made by: Tillis

Seconded by: Fremin

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MRS. RANATZA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MR. FREMIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MR. PRATOR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MR. TILLIS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MRS. STAPLETON

The motion is:

APPROVED **REJECTED**

Time Out: 10:41am

Time Back: 10:45am

Jasmine Thompson
Recording Secretary



**LOUISIANA BOARD OF PARDONS
AND COMMITTEE ON PAROLE**

**Number: 02-203-POL
Date: February 24, 2025
Page: 1 of 4**

BOARD POLICY

SUBJECT: **ELIGIBILITY FOR CLEMENCY CONSIDERATION**
PURPOSE: To describe the eligibility for clemency consideration
AUTHORITY: LAC Title 22, Part V, Chapter 1; La R.S. 15:572
REFERENCE: ACA Standard 2-1011

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Louisiana Board of Pardons (Board) that it may consider individuals for a recommendation of clemency to the Governor based on the eligibility requirements outlined in this policy.

DEFINITIONS:

Violent Offense – A conviction for any offense as defined in La R.S. 14:2(B).
Sex Offense – A conviction for any offense as defined in La R.S. 15:541.

PROCEDURES:

A. Eligibility

- 1) **Pardon** – A person may not apply for a pardon if the applicant has any outstanding detainers or any pecuniary penalties or liabilities that total more than \$1,000, resulting from any criminal conviction or traffic infraction. In addition, no person is eligible to apply for a pardon unless the applicant has paid all court costs that were imposed in connection with the conviction of the offense for which the pardon is requested.
- 2) **Commutation of Sentence** – A person may not be considered for a commutation of sentence unless he or she has been granted a hearing by the Pardon Board and has had his or her case placed upon a Pardon Board agenda. A person who is serving a life sentence resulting from a commutation of sentence of death shall not thereafter be eligible to apply for a commutation of sentence to a specific number of years.
- 3) **Remission of Fines and Forfeitures** – A person may not apply for a remission of fines and forfeitures unless he or she has completed all sentences imposed and all conditions of supervision have expired or been completed including but not limited to, parole and/or probation.

- 4) **Specific Authority to Own, Possess, or Use Firearms** – A person may not apply for the specific authority to own, possess, or use firearms unless he or she has completed all sentences imposed for the applicant’s most recent felony conviction and all conditions of supervision imposed for the applicant’s most recent felony conviction have expired or been completed, including, but not limited to, parole and/or probation, for a period of five years. The applicant may not have any outstanding detainers or any pecuniary penalties or liabilities that total more than \$1,000 and result from any criminal conviction or traffic infraction. In addition, the applicant may not have had any outstanding victim restitution, including, but not limited to, restitution pursuant to a court or civil judgment or by order of the committee on parole.
- 5) **Automatic First Offender Pardon** – On the day that an individual completes his or her sentence, the Division of Probation and Parole, after verifying that the individual is a first offender and has completed his or her sentence, shall issue a certificate recognizing and proclaiming that the petitioner granted. The individual shall not be entitled to receive another automatic pardon.

B. Applications

All applications must be submitted in accordance with Board Policy 02-205-POL, “Application Filing Procedures.”

C. Incarcerated Applications or Applicants under the Supervision of Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections

1. An executive pardon shall not be considered for an offender while in prison, except when exceptional circumstances exist:
 - a. Ensure the identification of the parolee;
 - b. Obtain an acknowledgment that the parolee understands his rights related to the hearing.
2. An incarcerated applicant who is not serving a life sentence for a non-violent offense may request a commutation of sentence:
 - a. At any time; and
 - b. Must have been disciplinary report-free for a period of at least 36 months prior to the date of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - c. Must not be classified to maximum custody status at the time of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - d. Must possess a marketable job skill, either through previous employment history or successful completion of vocational training while incarcerated.

3. An incarcerated applicant who is not serving a life sentence but who is serving a sentence for a violent offense or a sex offense may request a commutation of sentence:
 - a. After having served a minimum of 10 years; and
 - b. Must have been disciplinary report-free for a period of at least 36 months prior to the date of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - c. Must not be classified to maximum custody status at the time of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - d. Must possess a marketable job skill, either through previous employment history or successful completion of vocational training while incarcerated.

4. An incarcerated applicant who is serving a life sentence for a non-violent offense may request a commutation of sentence:
 - a. After having served a minimum of 15 years (The 15 years shall include periods of time prior to the imposition of the sentence in which the applicant was in actual custody for the offense for which he or she was sentenced to life imprisonment); and
 - b. Must have been disciplinary report-free for a period of at least 36 months prior to the date of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - c. Must not be classified to maximum custody status at the time of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - d. Must possess a marketable job skill, either through previous employment history or successful completion of vocational training while incarcerated, unless deemed unable to work due to medical or mental health conditions.

5. An applicant who is serving a life sentence for a violent offense or a sex offense may request a commutation of sentence:
 - a. After having served a minimum of 25 years (The 25 years shall include periods of time prior to the imposition of the sentence in which the applicant was in actual custody for the offense for which he or she was sentenced to life imprisonment); and
 - b. Must have been disciplinary report-free for a period of at least 36 months prior to the date of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - c. Must not be classified to maximum custody status at the time of the application or at the time of the hearing; and
 - d. Must possess a marketable job skill, either through previous employment history or successful completion of vocational training while incarcerated, unless deemed unable to work due to medical or mental health conditions.

D. Capital Cases

No application for commutation of a death sentence to life without parole should be filed before the applicant's direct appeal of the conviction and sentence has been denied, and the applicant has served 25 years from the date of sentence. The 25 years shall not include periods of time prior to the imposition of a sentence in which the applicant was in actual custody of the offense for which they were sentenced to death.

In addition to the application, the applicant must submit the following information:

- a. Certified copies of the indictment, judgment, verdict of the jury, and sentence in the case; and
- b. A brief statement of the offense for which the applicant has been sentenced to death; and
- c. A brief statement of the appellate history of the case, including its current status; and
- d. A brief statement of the legal issues that have been raised during the judicial progress of the case; and
- e. A brief statement of the effect of the applicant's crime upon the family of the victim.

SHERYL M. RANATZA, CHAIRMAN

**Signature on file*

This policy replaces and supersedes Board Policy 02-203-POL, "Eligibility for Clemency Consideration," dated March 20, 2021.



**LOUISIANA BOARD OF PARDONS
AND COMMITTEE ON PAROLE**

Number: 02-205-POL
Date: February 24, 2025
Page: 1 of 4

BOARD POLICY

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FILING PROCEDURES
PURPOSE: To establish procedures for filing an application for clemency
AUTHORITY: LAC Title 22, Part V, Chapter 2; La R.S. 15:572
REFERENCE: ACA Standard 2-101; Board Policy 02-209-POL, "Hearings Before the Board of Pardons"

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Board of Pardons to consider only those applications for clemency that conform to the procedures outlined in this board policy. An Application for Clemency form shall be made available on the Board's webpage at doc.la.gov. No application shall be considered by the Board until it deems the application to be complete in accordance with this policy.

PROCEDURES:

A. All Applicants

- 1) Every application must be submitted on the form approved by the Board of Pardons and posted on the Board's webpage at doc.la.gov. The answers on the application must be typed or printed in ink. If the application is illegible, it will be returned and will not be processed.
- 2) It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a complete application. The application will not be processed until it is complete. If any required information does not apply, the response should be "N/A." If, after receipt of the application, it is determined incomplete, the applicant will be notified about the missing information.
- 3) Each answer must be answered fully, truthfully, and accurately. The submission of any false information is grounds for immediate denial of the application.
- 4) Additional relevant documentation may also be attached, including letters of support on behalf of the applicant, military DD-214 if applicable, and other attachments that the applicant would like to include. (See also section "B." below for required documentation.)

- 5) The mailed application must be filled out completely, signed, dated, and notarized where required.
 - 6) The online application must be digitally signed and submitted through the webpage.
- B. In addition to the information submitted by application, the following required documents must be attached as they apply to each applicant:
- 1) **Incarcerated Applicants**—Any applicant presently confined in any facility must attach a current master prison record, the signature of a classification officer verifying the applicant's conduct in the appropriate section of the application, and a copy of the conduct summary report. Applicants sentenced to death must attach proof of direct appeal denial. (See also Board Policy 02-207, "Capital Cases.")
 - 2) **Parolees** – Applicants who have completed parole supervision must attach:
 - a A copy of their parole certificate (see also Board Policy 02-201, “Types of Clemency); and
 - b A certified judgment and sentence on each conviction for which they are applying for a pardon; and
 - c A certified statement from the Clerk of Court that all fines, fees, and court costs (including restitution and parole fees) have been paid in full; and
 - d A current credit report (current within 90 days of the date of application); and
 - e Proof of income; and
 - f Proof of residence.
 - 3) **Probationers** – Applicants who have completed their period of probation must attach:
 - a A certified copy of sentencing minutes or copy of automatic first offender pardon; and
 - b A certified judgment and sentence on each conviction for which they are applying for a pardon; and
 - c A certified statement from the Clerk of Court that all fines, fees, and court costs (including restitution and probation fees) have been paid in full; and
 - d A current credit report (current within 90 days of the date of application); and
 - e Proof of income; and
 - f Proof of residence.
 - 4) **First Offender Pardons [R.S. 15:572 (B)]** – Any applicants who have ever received an Automatic First Offender Pardon must attach a certified copy.

- C. No additional information or documents may be submitted until the applicant has been notified that he or she qualifies for a hearing. The Board of Pardons will not be responsible for items submitted prior to notification that a hearing will be scheduled.
- D. **Reapplication upon Denial** – Any applicant denied by the Board shall be notified in writing of the reason(s) for the denial and thereafter may file a new application as indicated below.
- 1) Applicants with a life sentence may reapply five years after the initial denial and every five years thereafter. The applicant must also meet the criteria stated in §203.C.3.-4d.
 - 2) Applicants without a life sentence may reapply five years after the initial denial and every two years thereafter. If incarcerated, the applicant must also meet the criteria stated in §203.C.1-2.d.
 - 3) **Fraudulent Documents or Information** – Any fraudulent documents or information submitted by an applicant will result in an automatic denial by the Board, and no new application will be accepted until five years have elapsed from the date of the letter of denial.
 - 4) **Governor Granted Clemency** – The governor’s office will notify an applicant if any clemency is granted. Any otherwise eligible person who has been granted any form of executive clemency by the Governor may not reapply for further executive clemency for at least five years from the date that such action became final.
 - 5) **Denial by Governor after Favorable Recommendation**—The Board shall notify an applicant after receiving notification from the Governor that the Board’s favorable recommendation was denied. If the applicant is denied by the Governor, the applicant may not reapply for clemency for at least five years from the date of the denial. The application filing procedures in A through C listed above shall apply.
- E. **Hearing Granted/Advertisement in Local Journal** – After notice to an applicant that they are qualified for a hearing, the applicant must provide the Board of Pardons office with proof of advertisement within 90 days from the date of the notice. The advertisement must be published in the official journal of the parish where the offense occurred. This ad must state:
“I (applicant's name), (DOC number), have applied for clemency for my conviction of (offense). Please send any comments to PardonBoard@la.gov or call (225) 342-5421.”
- F. At this stage of the process, along with the proof of advertisement published in the local journal, the applicant may submit additional information (e.g., letters of recommendation and copies of certificates of achievement and employment/residence agreement).

SHERYL M. RANATZA, CHAIRMAN

**Signature on file*

This policy replaces and supersedes Board Policy 02-205-POL, “Application Filing Procedures,” dated March 20, 2021.