

Louisiana

Board of Pardons & Committee on Parole



2024 Annual Report

Our Mission

To serve the citizens of Louisiana through informed decision-making, thereby promoting public safety, addressing the needs of crime victims, and to facilitate successful reentry for offenders who have appropriately prepared for community supervision.

Our Vision

The Louisiana Board of Pardons & Parole, guided by evidence based principles, shall:

- Render just determination in regard to parole release and revocations, thereby maximizing the restoration of human potential;
- Ensure crime victims have a voice in the decision-making process;
- Use appropriate Department of Corrections and community resources to facilitate an offender's successful transition from confinement to the community;
- Impose reasonable conditions of release consistent with the goal of structured reintegration of the offender;
- Hold accountable those offenders who violate the conditions of release;
- Foster a positive relationship with all stakeholders;
- Administer the clemency process with recommendation to the Governor fully commensurate with public safety and due consideration;
- Strive to be a continuously learning organization

Our Values

We value Ethics, Integrity, Equity and Innovation.





Sheryl Ranatza

Chairman Pardon & Parole

As Chairman of the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole, I am honored to present our 2024 Annual Report, which reflects a year of significant progress and transformation for our state. With the inauguration of Governor Jeff M. Landry in January 2024, we welcomed new leadership and a renewed commitment to enhancing public safety and justice in Louisiana. The Governor appointed three new members to our Board of Pardons and reappointed two existing members, ensuring a blend of fresh perspectives and experienced leadership guiding our mission. Additionally, two at-large members were appointed to the Committee on Parole. All members are deeply committed to serving the citizens of Louisiana.

In preparation for their roles, new board members underwent three months of comprehensive orientation and pre-service training focused on evidence-based decision-making, equipping them to make informed decisions that impact the lives of those seeking parole. This dedication to thorough training resulted in the board making 11,878 parole case decisions in 2024 and issuing 3,601 warrants for parolees suspected of violations.

A special legislative session convened early in 2024, aimed at addressing violent crime, led to the enactment of new laws that shape our criminal justice landscape. These changes include significant revisions to parole eligibility and good time laws, emphasizing a more stringent approach to public safety while honoring our commitment to victims. Our Louisiana Victim Outreach Program (LAVO) continued to provide essential services, reaching over 1,000 victims, with over 1,500 victims participating in the pardon or parole hearing process, underscoring our unwavering dedication to those affected by crime.

As we reflect on the progress made in 2024, we remain steadfast in our mission to uphold justice, enhance public safety, and ensure that the voices of victims of crime are heard and valued.





Steve Prator

Vice Chairman Pardon & Parole

Steve Prator was with the Shreveport Police Department for 19 years, working patrol, detectives, and narcotics before being appointed chief of police, a position he held for over eight years. He was then elected Sheriff of Caddo Parish. He held that office for six terms, during which time he served on the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and was the Chairman of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. Mr. Prator is a graduate of LSU-Shreveport and the FBI National Executive Institute. He also is a proud member of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Hall of Fame..



Curtis "Pete" Fremin

Pardon & Parole

Curtis "Pete" Fremin is the former Director of Probation and Parole at the Department of Corrections and has 35 years of experience in Louisiana state government. In the past, he served as President of the Louisiana Probation and Parole Association, a State Representative of the Southern States Correctional Association, elected member of the Louisiana Civil Service Commission, and the Interstate Compact Commissioner for Louisiana. Mr. Fremin is also an LSU alumni and received his Bachelor of Sciences degree in 1983.

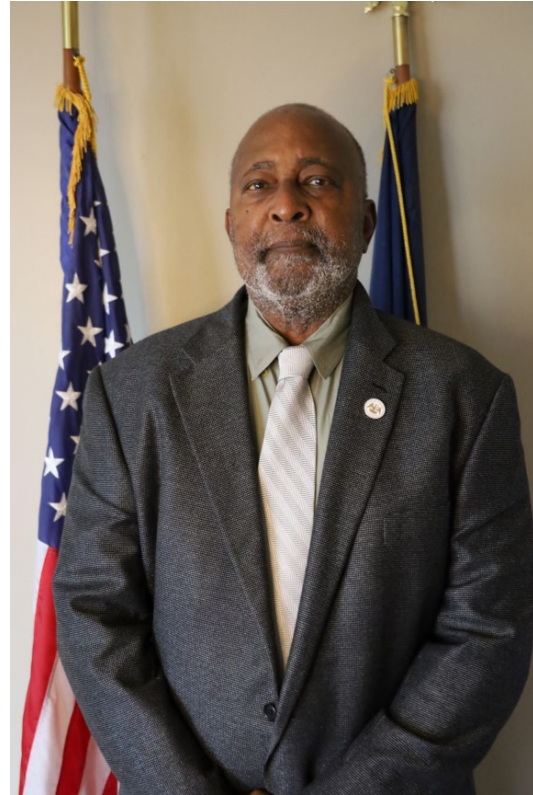




Carolyn Stapleton

Pardon & Parole

Carolyn Stapleton retired from the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office in 2014 with over two decades of experience in Crime Victim Assistance Services. During her tenure as the EBR Crime Victims Assistance Division director, she was awarded the National Sheriff's Association's Award for Crime Victims Services and the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Grant. Since her retirement, Ms. Stapleton has served in various capacities in victims' services, including a position with the 16th Judicial District Attorney. She also served on the Crime Victims Reparation Board, representing the 6th Congressional.



Chuck Tillis

Pardon & Parole

Chucky Tillis is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge and served over 30 years as President of Oilfield and Plant Maintenance, Inc. For the past 15 years, he selflessly dedicated himself to prison ministry. His work serving and ministering to the inmates at Louisiana State Penitentiary reflects a deep understanding of the challenges faced by those who are incarcerated. He also has served as a director at the Louisiana Leadership Institute, shaping young minds in the Greater Baton Rouge area.





Jerrie LeDoux

Parole

Jerrie LeDoux is returning to the Committee on Parole after serving five years under a previous administration. She took advantage of multiple Association of Parole Authority International training events. During her tenure on the Board, she earned her M.S. in Communication from the University of Louisiana Lafayette, where she wrote her qualitative thesis on Stakeholder Theory in Medical Parole Reform. Recently, she has served seven years as a congressional liaison for the United States House of Representatives speaker.



Danny Barras

Parole

Daniel Barras is a former Probation and Parole Supervisor with 37 ½ years of experience in Probation and Parole. He began his career with Probation and Parole in 1986 when he was hired as a field agent and worked as a specialist and supervisor until his retirement in 2018. Previously, he served as President, Vice-President, Sergeant-at-Arms, Board Member, and Legislative Liaison of the Louisiana Probation & Parole Officers Association. Mr. Barras is also a University of Southwestern Louisiana alumni and received his Bachelor's degree in Business Management in 1983.



New Administration Brings New Board Members

Governor Jeff Landry's election win in November of 2023 brought the appointment of three new Board of Pardons members and two new Committee on Parole members. The work of this Board plays a crucial role in overseeing parole decisions and reviewing requests for clemency, which can significantly affect the lives of justice-involved individuals and their chances for rehabilitation and reintegration into society. By carefully selecting individuals for these positions, Governor Landry aimed to ensure that the board and committee remain effective and fair in their decision-making, balancing the interests of victims, public safety, and rehabilitation.

In accordance with LARS 15:572.1, Board Members are required to have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years of experience in fields such as penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, psychology, or psychiatry, or a combination of these. If a member does not hold a bachelor's degree, they must have at least seven years of experience in one of the aforementioned fields. This ensures that Board Members possess the expertise necessary to make informed decisions that directly impact public safety.

Following their appointment, Board Members went through a rigorous training focused on the Board policies, procedures, relevant laws and evidence-based practices related to the discretionary release process. In addition to training, Board members met with multiple stakeholders including representatives from district attorneys, community service providers and department heads from the Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C). Hearings resumed under this new Board on March 20, 2024.



Senate Confirmation Hearing held on May 28, 2024

From Left: Chucky Tillis, Jerrie LeDoux, Carolyn Stapleton, Vice-Chairman Steve Prator, Danny Barras, Pete Fremin and Chairman Sheryl Ranatza



TRAINING AND CREDENTIALS



Annually Board Members must complete at least 40 hours of continuing education to maintain our American Correctional Association (ACA) Accreditation. We prioritize providing comprehensive training opportunities to both Board Members

and staff. The Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C) is dedicated to staying at the forefront of public safety by integrating emerging trends and the latest research into our training programs. These efforts are crucial to our role as the discretionary releasing authority for the State of Louisiana, ensuring that public safety remains a central focus in all decisions made.

Association of Paroling Authorities International



The Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) held its 2024 Annual Training Conference from May 5 to May 8, 2024, in Bellevue, Washington. This event convened professionals dedicated to advancing parole and community corrections, emphasizing the critical importance of professional development in the field. Representing Louisiana were Executive Director Francis Abbott, Chairman Ranatza, Board Members LeDoux, Stapleton and Tillis. The conference featured a series of engaging sessions and distinguished speakers who underscored the necessity for ongoing professional growth. The APAI 2024 Annual Training Conference underscored the critical need for professional development in parole and community corrections. By facilitating knowledge exchange, showcasing innovative practices, and honoring outstanding contributions, the conference inspired attendees to pursue continuous learning and collaboration, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of parole systems and promoting successful community reintegration.



American Correctional Association

In June The Louisiana Board of Pardons & Committee on Parole welcomed ACA auditors Kyle J. Poppert and Sandra Hylton for its Standards Compliance Reaccreditation Audit. Board staff presented the auditors with three years' worth of documentation to review. ACA sets standards that create an environment that promotes fairness in our processes. As one of the few Parole Boards in the United States that is accredited, the Board strictly adheres to the standards set forth by ACA. These standards help ensure public confidence in our criminal justice system, the rights of incarcerated individuals are preserved, and that procedures are constantly reviewed and updated so that our organization can continue to progress. Out of the 131 standards, the Board was found to be in compliance with 128. The ACA audit team recognized that the 3 standards that the Board was found to be non-compliant with were a result of statutory restrictions that the Board has continuously made efforts to address through the legislative process. As a result, the Board received a 97.7% score at its ACA Audit Exit Interview and received its reaccreditation at the American Correctional Association's 154th Congress of Corrections Conference in Nashville, TN. Administrative Program Manager Chiquita McQuirter (left), Executive Director Francis Abbott (center) and Executive Management Officer Whitney Troxclair (right) accepted the accreditation certificate on behalf of the Board and our entire staff. This is the Board's fourth time receiving reaccreditation since establishing its accreditation status in 2015. This achievement reflects our staff's commitment to their work to support Louisiana's discretionary releasing authority.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE? REPRIEVES, PARDONS AND PAROLE

The Governor of Louisiana holds significant constitutional powers related to the criminal justice system, specifically in granting reprieves, pardons, and commutations. These powers allow the Governor to provide relief to individuals who have been convicted of crimes, offering opportunities for rehabilitation, mercy, or a reduction in punishment under certain circumstances.

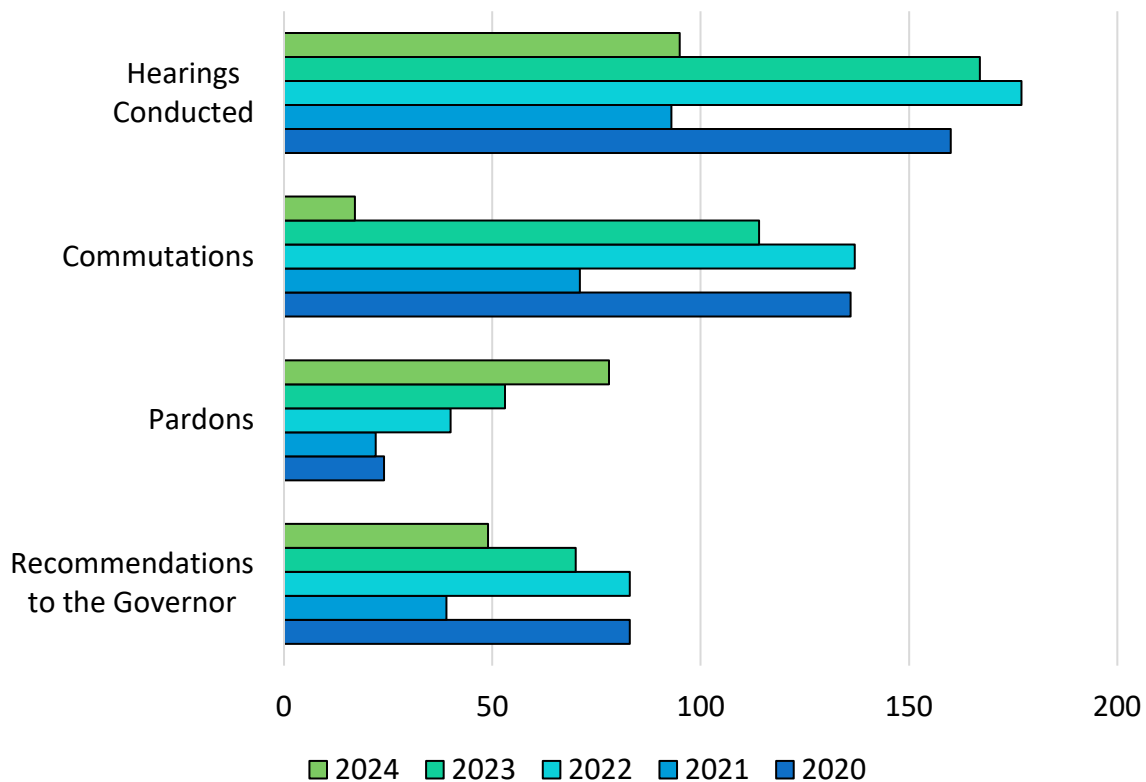
A reprieve is a temporary delay in the execution of a sentence, often granted to allow time for further review, new evidence to be considered, or other factors that may justify

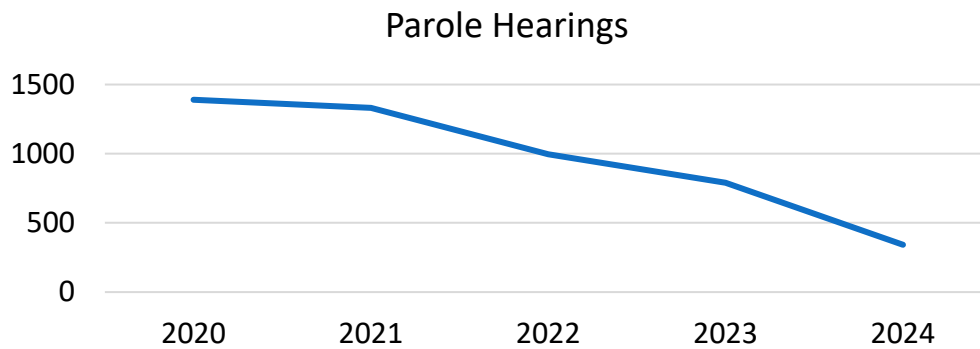


reconsideration. A pardon, on the other hand, is a formal forgiveness of a crime, typically granted to individuals who have demonstrated genuine reform or have shown that their punishment no longer serves a just or corrective purpose. A commutation refers to the reduction of a sentence, typically in cases where a convicted individual has served a portion of their sentence but is seeking a reduction in the time they must serve. Commutations are often considered when there is a compelling argument for leniency, such as the demonstration of good behavior, personal growth, or extraordinary circumstances.

While the Governor has the authority to grant reprieves independently, granting pardons with restoration of certain rights and commuting sentences require a recommendations from the Board of Pardons. Public Hearings are conducted with applicants needing four like votes to move their request to the Governor's desk. This process ensures that decisions related to pardons, and commutations are thoroughly vetted, fair, and based on relevant factors, rather than being made arbitrarily.

Clemency Statistics





Hearings conducted has leveled off since 2023 due to laws that changed between the years of 2017 – 2020 making large portions of the offender population parole eligible. 2024 was lower due to the appointment and training of new Board Members.

PROCESS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD

Commutation: The clemency process begins when incarcerated individuals or released individuals submit clemency applications. For those still incarcerated, the application includes a comprehensive set of documents, such as programs of completion (e.g., educational, vocational, or rehabilitative programs), records of disciplinary conduct during incarceration, and a detailed reentry plan outlining how the individual plans to reintegrate into society and contribute positively after release. These documents provide a snapshot of the individual’s progress, behavior, and readiness for reintegration.

Pardon: For individuals already released, the application requires submission of their current employment status and the specific reasons for requesting clemency, which could include a reduction in sentence, pardon, or commutation. The request may also involve a detailed explanation of how they have changed since their release and their ongoing efforts to be a law-abiding citizen.

Parole: Incarcerated individuals who are statutorily eligible for parole consideration must meet criteria related to their risk assessment and disciplinary conduct before being deemed eligible by DPS&C.

INVESTIGATION

When a hearing is scheduled, a thorough investigation is ordered to gather all relevant information regarding the applicant’s case and the potential impact of granting clemency on public safety. This stage is crucial and focuses heavily on ensuring that every aspect of the case is fully examined to make an informed decision. The investigation prioritizes several key areas:



Victim Input: A critical part of this investigation involves engaging with victims and their families. Victim Assistance Coordinators (VACs) play a vital role in this process by contacting victims, gathering victim impact statements, and conducting interviews to capture their perspectives. This ensures that the voices of those most affected by the crime are central to the process. VACs are trained to approach victims in a trauma-informed manner, which helps to ensure that victims feel heard and respected while minimizing the emotional strain of participation. The victim's opinion on whether clemency should be granted is carefully considered, as their input provides vital context on how the crime continues to affect them and the potential risks of releasing or reducing a sentence.

Community and Law Enforcement Input: In addition to victim statements, the District Attorney, judges, and law enforcement agencies are contacted to gather their insights on the case. The District Attorney's office can provide information on how the individual's conduct has been evaluated in the past, their commitment to justice, and any objections to clemency based on public safety concerns. Judges who presided over the case may provide their perspectives on the original sentencing, the individual's progress, and whether the initial sentence continues to serve justice. Law enforcement agencies provide valuable input on the individual's risk to public safety if released or granted clemency.

Criminal History: The applicant's entire criminal history is reviewed and dispositions are provided on all arrests to ensure all criminal activity the applicant has engaged in is considered. Police reports and court records are secured for instant offenses that are being considered.

Risk & Needs Assessment: The investigation also includes a thorough risk assessment to evaluate the individual's likelihood of reoffending. This assessment may involve psychological evaluations, evaluations of the individual's behavior while incarcerated, and any history of violent or disruptive behavior. Public safety is a primary consideration, and any indication that the individual poses a continued risk to others will weigh heavily against the granting of clemency.

LIVE HEARINGS

Once the investigation is completed, a live hearing is held. During this hearing, the applicant is interviewed, providing them an opportunity to present their case to the Board and address any concerns raised during the investigation. The applicant may present additional evidence or testimony regarding their rehabilitation efforts, character, and



reasons for requesting relief. They are also allowed to have individuals from their family or support system speak on their behalf.

During this hearing victim input is given significant weight. We are required to notify victims ninety days in advance of a hearing. Our team of victim assistance coordinators provide information about the process and assist victims to participate in the hearing, or secure written Victim Impact Statements that are reviewed, considered and made a permanent part of the record. This ensures that their perspectives are heard directly by those making the decisions, and their emotional and physical well-being is taken into account. Testimony from the victim or their family can highlight the lasting impact of the crime, which may influence the final decision.

Representatives from the District Attorney's office, law enforcement, and judges involved in the original case may attend the hearing. Their presence ensures that all relevant viewpoints are considered. Law enforcement input can provide information on any ongoing concerns regarding the individual's behavior and the potential threat to community safety, while the District Attorney's office may present additional arguments for or against clemency based on the broader impact on the justice system and public perception of fairness.



WHAT THE BOARD CONSIDERS

In addition to the public testimony heard, the Board of Pardons & Committee on Parole take into account a wide range of factors when making decisions.

Nature of the Offense: The severity of the crime committed is taken into account. Violent offenses or crimes involving harm to victims are carefully weighed against other factors, including the passage of time since the crime and the individual's conduct since the conviction.

Rehabilitation Efforts: The Board examines the offender's behavior while incarcerated, including participation in educational, vocational, or rehabilitative programs. Positive behavior and evidence of personal growth or remorse can significantly impact the recommendation.



Public Safety and Risk Assessment: The Board assesses whether granting relief would pose a risk to public safety. If the individual shows signs of dangerousness or has not demonstrated sufficient rehabilitation, the Board may recommend against clemency.

Time Served: In the case of commutations, the Board evaluates how much time the individual has already served, as well as the circumstances surrounding their conviction. Long sentences, especially for non-violent offenses, may warrant consideration for commutation if rehabilitation and other factors suggest that further incarceration is no longer necessary.

Legal and Moral Factors: The Board also takes into account legal issues, such as whether the original sentence was disproportionately harsh or if plea agreements were agreed upon by the offender. Moral factors, including the person's potential to contribute positively to society, are also considered.

HEARING OUTCOMES

After all parties have had an opportunity to present their case and the full range of factors has been considered, the Board will issue its outcome with a clear emphasis on public safety, the severity of the crime, and the impact on the victim. Parole decisions and clemency decisions are both mechanisms of relief in the criminal justice system, but they serve different purposes and are made through distinct processes.

Parole is a conditional release granted to a prisoner before the completion of their sentence, based on factors like behavior, rehabilitation, and the risk of reoffending. The Committee on Parole may require pre-release conditions to be satisfied prior to release, as well as conditions while on community supervision.

In contrast, a pardon is a formal act of forgiveness granted by the Governor that removes legal consequences of a crime, typically for those who have already served their sentences and demonstrated good conduct after conviction. A pardon originates in the form of a recommendation from the Board of Pardons to the Governor and does not imply innocence but acts as a form of clemency, absolving the individual of the criminal record's legal penalties.

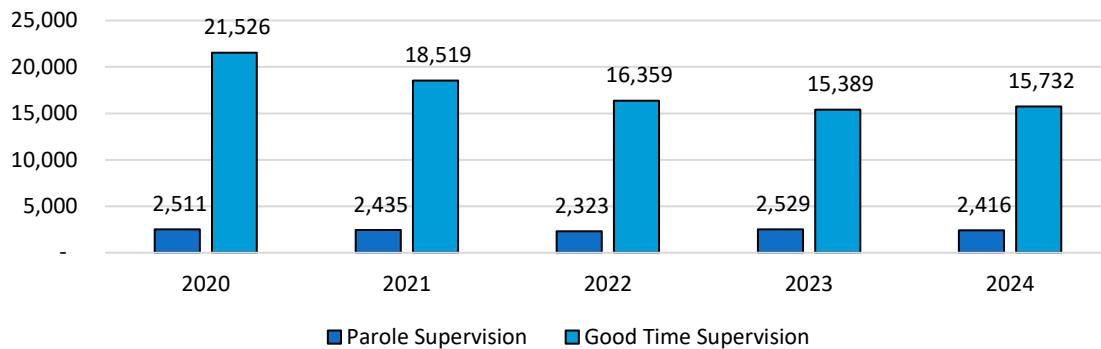
Commutations, also start with a recommendation from the Board of Pardons and can reduce or alter a convicted individual's punishment. This power allows the Governor to shorten a prison term, replace a death sentence with life imprisonment, or lessen other penalties. Unlike a pardon, which forgives the crime, a commutation only modifies the sentence while the conviction remains.



COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

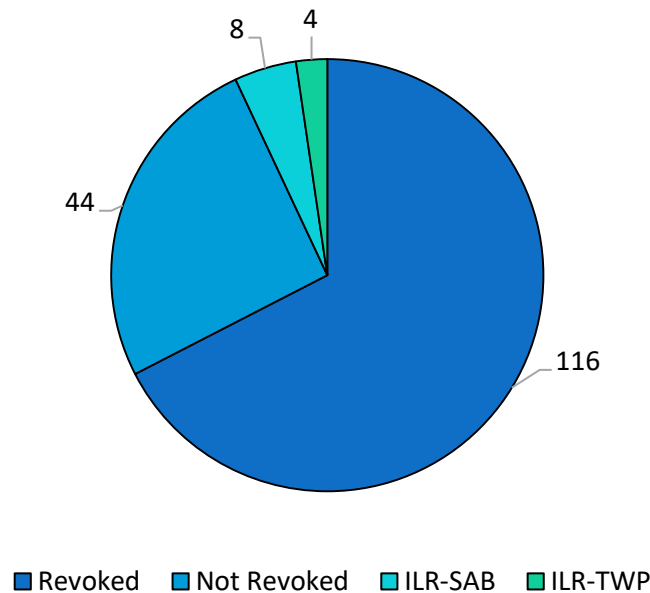
Offenders released through the discretionary powers of the Committee on Parole or via statutorily set Good Time Parole Supervision are under the jurisdiction of the Board. The Committee process actions daily modifying conditions of supervision at the request of parole officers. Average number of offenders under jurisdiction of the Board by type of supervision. Parole supervision reflects discretionary releases by the Committee on Parole. Good time supervision reflects mandatory releases via diminution of sentence.

Average Number of Offenders by Supervision Types

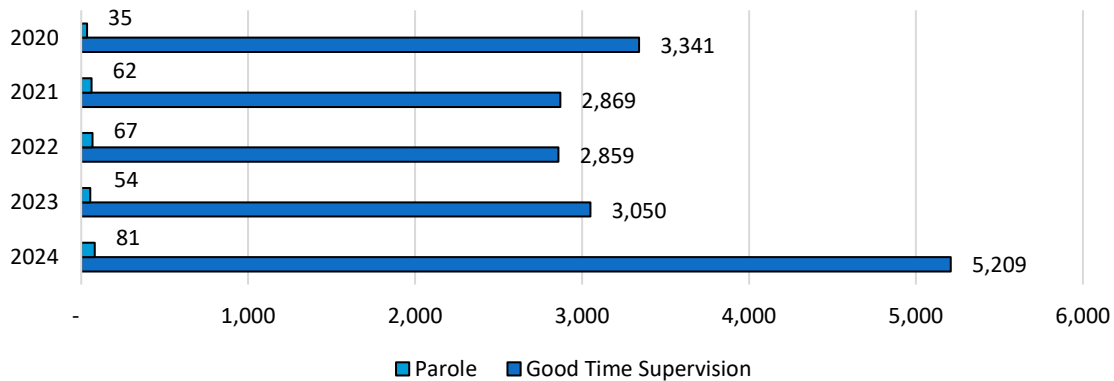


Revocation Hearing Outcomes or other actions ordered In Lieu of Revocation (ILR) such as Substance Abuse Treatment (SAB) or participation in Transitional Work Program (TWP).

2024 Revocation Hearing Outcomes



Revocation by Supervision Type



Revocation by Supervision Type demonstrates that after the Covid-19 pandemic courts were not finalizing charges for offenders awaiting disposition of charges while on parole supervision. The data for 2024 shows that courts are operating at full capacity.

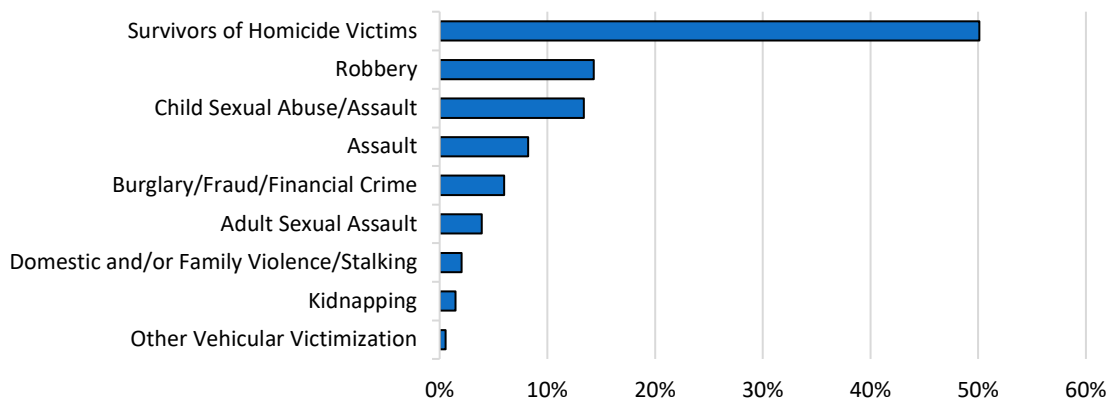
LOUISIANA VICTIM OUTREACH

The Victims of Crime Act provides federal support to state and local programs that assist victims of crime. Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) administers the Louisiana VOCA funding allocation and provides funds to the Board to provide services directly to victims and survivors navigating the post-conviction criminal justice system. These funds were utilized throughout 2024 by the Louisiana Victim Outreach Program (LAVO). We were able to deliver notifications, counseling referrals, advocacy, victim impact statement assistance and accompaniment to pardon and parole hearings. Our team continued to work diligently to provide support and resources to victims and survivors of crime.

Victim Assistance Coordinators (VAC): Since its implementation in April 2020, the VAC program has made significant strides in enhancing victim support and involvement in the parole and pardon processes. Our VACs continue to provide compassionate, trauma-informed services to victims by handling notifications and securing victim impact statements for upcoming pardon and parole hearings. This process ensures that victims are fully informed and their voices are heard in the decision-making process, which is crucial for both the healing of victims and the integrity of the justice system.



Victimization Types Serviced in 2024



The program consists of nine dedicated VACs, along with a Program Administrator, who are strategically stationed throughout the state. Each coordinator works closely with the local Probation and Parole Districts to collect and submit victim statements for hearings related to sex and violent offenses. This distribution of responsibilities ensures that victims across Louisiana are reached in a timely and sensitive manner, with a specific focus on maintaining trauma-informed practices that have been shown to be beneficial to victims' emotional well-being.

The nine VACs are geographically spread across the state to provide localized support. This includes three coordinators in the Greater New Orleans Area, two in the Greater Baton Rouge Area, two in Central Louisiana, two in North Louisiana, and one in the Florida Parishes, with some overlap to ensure comprehensive coverage. This regional approach allows each coordinator to foster meaningful relationships with victims and their families, ensuring that no area is underserved. The trauma-informed practices employed by the VACs have been especially effective in creating an environment where victims feel supported and respected throughout the entire process.

In addition to assisting with pardon and parole hearings, this initiative has allowed the Probation and Parole Division to devote additional time and resources to offender supervision, further improving the overall safety and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. The efforts of the VACs have contributed significantly to a more balanced and restorative approach, ensuring that victims' rights are upheld while maintaining public safety.

Looking ahead, there are plans to expand the responsibilities of the VACs to include notifications and the securing of victim impact statements for all upcoming pardon and parole hearings, as well as for victims involved in new crimes committed by offenders currently under parole supervision. This expansion will ensure that victims continue to play a central role in the criminal justice process, contributing to more informed decisions



that prioritize public safety while addressing the needs and concerns of victims throughout Louisiana.

Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD): The VOD Program is rooted in the principles of restorative justice, aiming to create opportunities for healing and accountability by directly engaging both victims and offenders in meaningful dialogue. With a dedicated team of 22 trained facilitators, the program provides a space where victims can express their pain, ask questions, and be heard, while offenders have the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions and the harm they've caused. At present, there are 17 open cases in the program, highlighting the sensitive and often complex nature of these restorative encounters.

A significant step forward in enhancing the program's impact took place in September 2024, when the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) conducted specialized advanced training focused on the handling of sexual assault cases. This training was provided to 9 facilitators and improved their trauma-informed practices, active listening, and ethical facilitation, which is all critical to ensuring that dialogues are conducted in a safe, supportive, and respectful environment. The training emphasized the importance of understanding and addressing the specific needs of both victims and offenders, with a focus on ensuring safety while encouraging accountability and empathy.

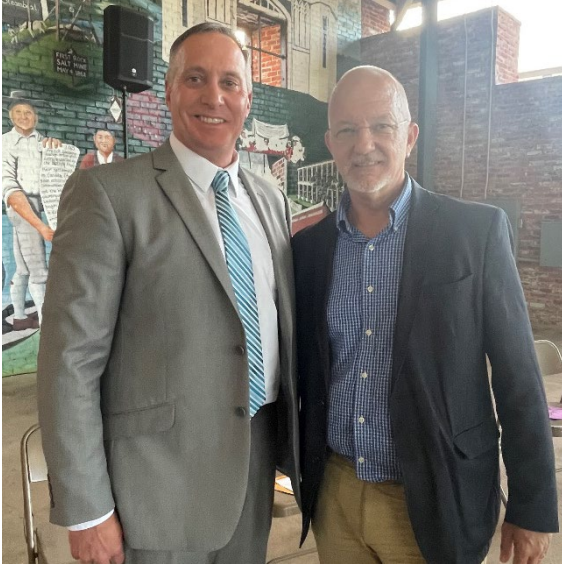
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

With so many changes to the Board and the statutes surrounding our work a great deal of effort was spent in 2024 educating stakeholders around the State.

March 13th, 2024 Vice-Chairman Prator (right), Board Members Barras and Fremin along with Executive Director Abbott attended the Louisiana Probation & Parole Officers Association Annual Training Conference. This gave the Board the opportunity to provide Parole officers who conduct investigations on the Board's behalf much needed insight to what the Board is considering in hearings.



April 25th, 2024 Board Member Barras (pictured right with VOICE founder Catalene Theriot) and Executive Director Abbott accompanied DPS&C Secretary Westcott (pictured left with District Attorney Bo Duhe 16thJD) to the VOICE Victims' Rally. The Voices of Innocent Citizens Empowered is a support group that supports victims of crime in and around the 16 Judicial District.



September 5th, 2024 Executive Director Abbott presented at the Louisiana District Attorney Association Annual Victim Assistance Coordinator Conference in Baton Rouge. The LDAA conducts an annual training event focused on providing resources to VACs around the state. This is the third year LVO VACs have been included in this training giving them a valuable opportunity to foster relationships.



November 4th, 2024 Chairman Ranatza and Executive Director Abbott attended the Fall Meeting of Elected District Attorneys. The Board recognizes District Attorneys as one of our largest stakeholders providing a great deal of input to all of our hearings. The topics discussed included our newly appointed Board Members, changes in law, and how our organizations can continue to improve collaboration and communication.



November 19th, 2024 Chairman Ranatza and Board Members Barras and LeDoux sat for parole hearings at the University of Louisiana (UL) in Lafayette. Board Members participated in debrief of the cases heard with criminal justice students answering questions about the decision making process. Later Secretary Westcott and Executive Director Abbott fielded questions on the future of criminal justice in Louisiana in a round-table discussion with the University's Criminal Justice Society.



INREACH

October 3rd, 2024 Chairman Ranatza (bottom center) along with Board Members LeDoux and Fremin conducting Live Hearings at Raymond Laborde Correctional Center. Warden Marcus Myers (top right) welcomed the Board, staff and Senator Heather Cloud (top center).



December 2nd, 2024 The Board held its Bi-Annual Fall Training at the Louisiana State Police Joint Emergency Services Training Center (JESTC). The Board received updates from the Reentry Programming, Medical departments within DPS&C as well as a presentation on the State Police Barracks work program and housing facility. The event included a tour of the SPB housing facility and a discussion with the offender population on the recent changes in law and a general overview of the Board and its processes.





December 3rd, 2024 Board Member LeDoux and Executive Director Abbott spoke to the offender population at Allen Correctional Center. The goal of this visit was to address the recent changes in law and answer question the offender population have.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Over the past year a number of changes were made to the laws governing the Board of Pardons & Committee on Parole. These changes represent one of the most significant parole and clemency reforms in Louisiana's history, tightening parole eligibility, strengthen victim and law enforcement notification requirements, and strengthen parole and clemency guidelines. The sole purpose of these changes were to enhance public safety and strengthen victim rights.

2024 Second Extraordinary Session

Act 6: Eliminates parole eligibility for individuals who commit offenses on or after August 1, 2024.

Act 11: Now requires a unanimous vote for parole and increased the amount of time an offender must be free of disciplinary write-ups from 12 to 36 months. The Board is now required to notify the Attorney General and increased the notification period to 90 days for all concerned parties. Increased the period of time and incarcerated individual must wait to apply for a rehearing to 3 years for first-time offenders convicted of a crime of violence or sex offense (except first-degree murder, second-degree murder, first-degree rape, second-degree rape, third-degree rape, or crime against nature)and all other persons convicted of violent or sex crimes must wait 5 years after a parole denial before being reheard.

2024 Regular Session

Act 576: Renames the Crime Victim Services Bureau to the Louisiana Victim Outreach Program.

Act 660; Requires 30 days' notice to all concerned parties before the Governor signs a commutation of sentence. Board recommendations for clemency expire when the Governor leaves office or at the end of their term. The Board is now required to notify the Attorney General and increased the notification period to 90 days for all concerned parties. Lifers convicted of a violent or sex offense must serve 25 years before applying for clemency. Individuals serving a life sentence after a commutation from the death penalty cannot apply for another commutation to a specific number of years.



2025 GOALS

Enhance data collection and analysis to improve business processes:

As the DPS&C continue to work towards implementing a new offender management system, we have worked on identifying the data points that matter to the Board. This focus will ultimately drive what the Board's interface with this new system looks like.

Maintain ACA Compliance:

Coming off of our 2024 reaccreditation, we are looking at all standards and insuring staff has a working knowledge of each. We will also be looking at how we can continue to meet and exceed these standards.

Provide professional development to Board members and staff:

As laws have changed we continue to evaluate the evidence based practices we employ when making discretionary release decisions. We look to identify new training opportunities for our bi-annual trainings and ways to incorporate staff members in more trainings.

Begin reviewing HIGH and MODERATE Risk Good Time releases and adding conditions:

Act 11 of the 2024 Second Extraordinary Session resulted in offenders with MODERATE and HIGH risk assessment score ineligible for parole consideration. We know that based on the Boards recidivism rate is drastically lower than all statutorily eligible offender releases. We have taken initial steps to implement a review process for MODERATE and HIGH risk offenders prior to release on good-time parole supervision in a process we are referring to as Committee on Risk Evaluation (CORE).

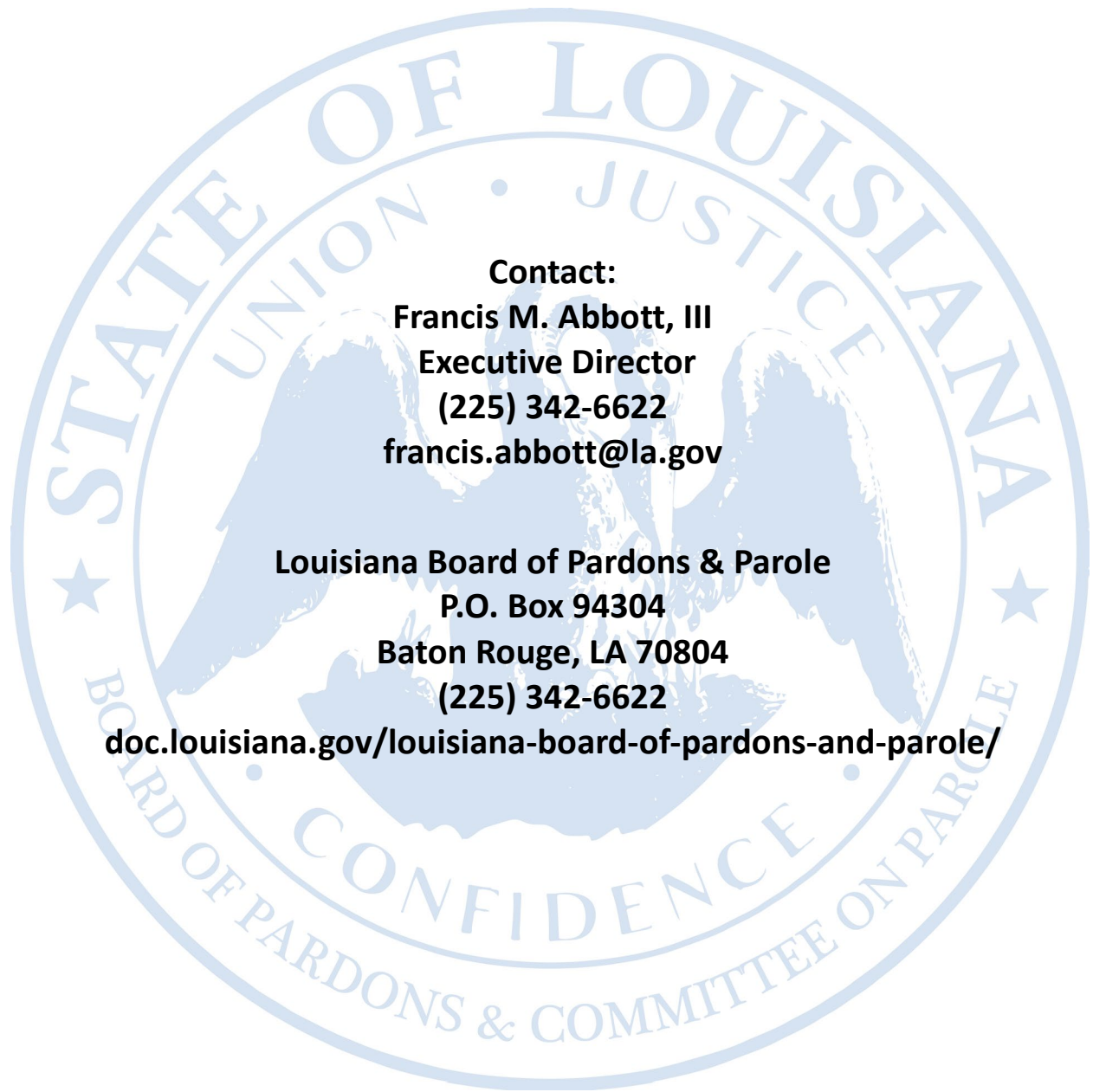
Expand Services provided by LAVO's Victim Assistance Coordinators:

Currently our VACs are only assisting victims of violent and sex offenses. As we move into 2025 we are expanding to assist victims of property crimes with victim impact statements.

Increase participation in Victim Offender Dialogue:

Lack of education about the services available to victims and survivors navigating the post-conviction criminal justice system is one of Louisiana Victim Outreach's largest challenges. We also know and understand that Victim Offender Dialogue is a powerful restorative justice tool and we would like to see greater participation in that program.





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