

ACADIANA REGIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 AT 1:00 PM
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL CHAMBERS (OLD CITY MARKET)
131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

CALL TO ORDER

Members in attendance (7 members present constituted a quorum)

1. Sheriff K.P. Gibson
2. Kenney Courville
3. Sheriff Ricky Edwards, (Ret.)
4. Lt. Oscar West
5. Judge Jim Doherty, (Ret.)
6. Parish President Jessie Bellard
7. Judge Shaunn Callier-Harden

Absent Members:

1. Sheriff Charles Guillory
2. Judge Stanton Hardee
3. Armond Schwing
4. Sheriff Becket Breaux

Guests:

1. Andrew Jarreau, Foley & Judell Attorney
2. Joel Thompson, Reporter The Advocate
3. Reverend Elbert Guillory
4. Tyrone Glover, Outreach/Field Rep

NOTE: Public Notice of the Meeting was posted by Parish President Jessie Bellard at the place of meeting at 9:00 am on Thursday, February 19th, 2026.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 14, 2026 MEETING

The minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Sheriff Ricky Edwards, (Ret.) and seconded by Sheriff K.P. Gibson. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION – ELECTION DEADLINES, LEGAL ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS, AND FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board received guidance from legal counsel regarding election deadlines, publication requirements, and funding responsibilities associated with the proposed tax election.

Discussion included the Secretary of State filing deadline of **April 27, 2026**, and the requirement that the District receive approval from the **State Bond Commission** prior to submitting the election application.

Legal counsel explained that the District would generally be responsible for election costs; however, if the election were to fail and the District had no funds available, the Secretary of State would maintain the invoice until such time as the District had funds available from a future election or other source.

The Board also discussed potential impacts if member parishes were to withdraw from the District through legislation. Legal counsel explained that the timing of legislative action could affect whether those parishes would still appear on the ballot and whether their votes would count in the election.

Members expressed concerns about uncertainty surrounding potential parish withdrawals and the effect this could have on the feasibility of the proposed election.

DISCUSSION – PARISH PARTICIPATION AND DISTRICT COMMITMENT

Board members discussed the importance of confirming parish participation in the District before proceeding with calling the election.

Members noted that commitments had been received from some parishes, but uncertainty remained regarding others. Concerns were raised about moving forward with an election without clear confirmation from each parish.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that written confirmation from parish governments would be necessary in order to determine how the District should proceed.

MOTION – REQUEST FOR WRITTEN PARISH COMMITMENTS

A motion was made by Sheriff Ricky Edwards (Ret.) and seconded by Sheriff K.P. Gibson directing the Chairman to send a letter to each parish government requesting written confirmation of whether the parish intends to remain a participating member of the Acadiana Regional Juvenile Justice District.

The deadline for responses was set for Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

All in favor signified by saying “I.”

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

DISCUSSION – UPDATED REVENUE ESTIMATES

Board members requested that updated revenue projections be prepared showing the estimated tax revenue generated by the remaining parishes should any parishes withdraw from the District.

MOTION – SPECIAL MEETING & DEFERRAL OF PUBLIC MEETING AND RESOLUTION

A motion was made to schedule a special meeting during the week of **March 9–13, 2026** to review parish commitments and determine the next steps regarding the proposed election.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to hold the meeting on:

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

10:00 AM

St. Landry Parish Council Chambers

A motion was made by Lt. Oscar West and seconded by Judge Shaunn Caillier-Harden to defer consideration of the resolution ordering and calling the tax election until the next meeting scheduled for March 10, 2026.

All in favor signified by saying “I.”

Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sheriff Ricky Edwards, (Ret.) and seconded by Sheriff K.P. Gibson adjourn the meeting.

All in favor signified by saying “I.”

The meeting was adjourned.