

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. R-\_\_\_\_\_

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION,  
EX PARTE

LA PUBLIC SERVICE COMM  
JUN 22 2023 AM 10:17

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*In re: Investigation of jurisdictional electric, water, wastewater, and gas utilities' use of ratepayer funds on political spending.*

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**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this proceeding is being initiated per directive of the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC" or "Commission"). At the Commission's June 7, 2023 Business and Executive Session, Commissioner Lewis directed Staff to:

...open a rulemaking docket investigating jurisdictional electric, NARUC Class A water and wastewater, and Group 1 and 2 gas utilities' use of ratepayer funds on political spending.

This inquiry should include, but not be limited to, examination of said jurisdictional utilities charging Louisiana ratepayers for any (1) activities meant to influence the outcome of any local, state, or federal legislation, ordinance, resolution, rule, measure, or other regulatory decision, (2) advertising, marketing, and/or public relations expenses that do not directly relate to a purpose or program that is required or authorized under statute or commission rule or order, and/or (3) organization or membership dues or other contributions to any organization, association, institution, corporation, or other entity that engages in lobbying or other similar activities meant to influence the outcome of any local, state, or federal legislation, ordinance, resolution, rule, measure, or other regulatory decision.

Based on these findings, Staff shall recommend Commission action to protect against improper use and/or recovery of ratepayer funds, such as (1) updated and clarified rules, (2) requirements for regular disclosures of relevant utility spending, and (3) propagation of related enforcement mechanisms. Best efforts shall be made to present these topics to the Commission in a timely manner.

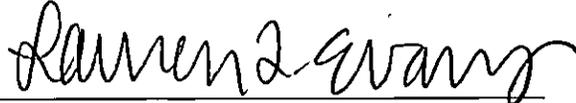
Further, I ask Staff to open a Request for Proposal for consultants and counsel in order to begin this necessary and important work for the people of Louisiana.

F23 - 69390

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Lewis, with Commissioner Skrmetta objecting, the Commission held a roll call vote. Chairman Campbell, Commissioner Greene, and Commissioner Lewis voted in support, and Vice Chairman Francis and Commissioner Skrmetta voted in opposition of Commissioner Lewis' directive. The directive passed 3:2.

Therefore, Staff provides notice of this proceeding for publication in the next Official Commission Bulletin.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2023.



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cc: Commissioners  
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