



THAT SPECIAL FEELING

After WMG, Sessionpalooza awaits

- **MENTAL PREP:** If you're traveling to Washington Mardi Gras this week, enjoy the good times while you can. Because re-entry into Capitoland will be bumpy. Monday will bring us right into the year's first special session, to be followed by a regular session roughly 10 weeks later.
- **ABOUT THE SPECIAL SESSION:** Called by Gov. **John Bel Edwards**, the special session can run until Feb. 5 and is narrowly drawn as to restrict legislative action to appropriating excess revenue to the Insure Louisiana Incentive Fund.
- **LEADING PERSONALITIES:** Insurance Commissioner **Jim Donelon** begged for this special session and wants \$45 million for the incentive fund to lure companies to Louisiana after more than a dozen have been shuttered or relocated. Speaker **Clay Schexnayder** is the loudest skeptic and has rightly noted an incentive fund is a short-term fix as more hurricanes and floods are surely around the corner.
- **POLITICAL ANGLES:** Some conservatives are reluctant to approve another corporate welfare scheme during the special session. Others know something (anything) has to be done. "Calling this special

session is critical to support and protect the property owners of Louisiana,” said LABI Prez **Stephen Waguespack**. “Ultimately, the legislation to be passed will ideally help stabilize the insurance market for all property owners in the interim while creating a pathway for the additional reforms needed in the years to come to put our markets on more permanent sustainable footing.”

- **STICKING POINTS:** Expect a robust conversation from lawmakers about the needs of consumers. Some reps and senators are already pushing to direct a portion of the incentive fund to consumers, but the call may not allow such legislating. Republicans also want some action on tort reform before considering any kind of insurance legislation. Will lawmakers attempt to link any special session legislation to regular session legislation? Based on other sessions from this term, that’s a real possibility.
- **IMPORTANT DOCS:** To dive deeper into the regular session, [here’s the governor’s call](#) and [the insurance commissioner’s letter to lawmakers](#), which offers an outline of how the incentive program would work.
- **AND THE REGULAR SESSION?:** There are already nine House bills filed for the regular session, which convenes April 10. Learn more at www.Legis.La.Gov.
- **HOW CAN YOU STAY INFORMED?:** For the past 30 years, political professionals have trusted www.LaPoliticsWeekly.com to stay ahead of the curve. Subscribe today!

SPECIAL SESSION NEWS COVERAGE

- [Insurance Journal](#): Louisiana Governor Orders Special Session to Address Insurance Incentive Fund
- [WVLA-TV](#): Lawmakers weigh in on need, concerns for special session
- [WRKF](#): Louisiana Legislature special insurance session: What, if anything, gets done?
- [Fox 8](#): Louisiana insurance agents say companies need incentive fund; a state lawmaker isn’t convinced
- [KALB-TV](#): Interview: State Rep. **Gabe Firment** discusses special session on insurance crisis

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MOBILE SPORTS BETTING

Sovereignty, Equity

& Betting on the Reservation

Mobile sports betting is an emerging anchor in Louisiana's gaming industry — to the tune of \$26.5 million for the state's coffers over the past 12 months.

Federally recognized tribes in Louisiana are empowered to conduct the same gaming activities (on their own land) as private gaming enterprises across the state. In fact, in three different regions of the state, employment opportunities at land-based casinos and revenue generated on tribal lands have led to significant economic investments and steady job creation.

For example, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana has allocated more than \$80 million in local grants for law enforcement, infrastructure, public service and community programming since building its market-leading land-based casino at the turn of the Century. And we're not alone. No private gaming corporation can match the magnitude of the direct impact tribes have made with their own profits in their communities for the past 20 years.

When mobile betting legislation authorized private industry to take online bets in Louisiana, however, the listed entities eligible for licensure excluded federally-recognized Native American tribes. Unfortunately, this move left tribes behind and prevented them from using this critical economic tool to support tribal members and surrounding communities.

Before mobile sports betting, parity and equity in the gaming world existed for private industry and tribal governments. Today, adding insult to injury, the purposeful exclusion of tribal participation in the mobile betting marketplace undermines the financial security of some of our most prized cultural assets in Louisiana — our Native people.

Technology, as a tool, should be used to empower communities, not merely to enrich for-profit companies.

Could changes to tribe participation in mobile gaming be coming soon?

Stay tuned...

POLITICAL CHATTER

- **MAJOR WMG NEWS:** The liquor store across the street from the Washington Hilton is permanently closed, which is a shame, because no one wants to pay hotel prices for a bottle. Plan accordingly.
- **WMG EVENTS:** Did you miss the special Washington Mardi Gras edition of *The Tracker* last week? Don't sweat it. [Here's a PDF with all of the WMG events](#) published last week. There are also a few other events that were missed that appear in the following items...
- **RICHARD NELSON EVENT:** Rep. **Richard Nelson's** gubernatorial campaign has a fundraiser at Lincoln (1110 Vermont Ave. NW) on Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- **NE LA EVENT:** Northeast Louisiana boosters are hosting a happy hour for all lovers of The 318 at Cafe Riggs' on Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **ELLEVATE EVENT:** The Ellevate Louisiana Luncheon is Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at The Palm. ([Register](#))
- **HEADS UP:** Qualifying begins tomorrow (Wednesday) for the March 25 ballot, which will include three district judgeships and a handful of minor, local-level races in 28 parishes.
- **ON TV:** A new [one-minute spot](#) from Team Louisiana PAC features Democratic Party Chair **Katie Bernhardt** promising "help is on the way" for Louisiana. She does not mention the governor's race or any other election. PAC underwriter AP Marullo of New Orleans said he put \$300,000 behind the media buy. "As a stakeholder in this community and father of four, I want a brighter future for all the children across the state," Marullo said. "National divisiveness on both sides is causing a major road block in improving quality of life

and creating better opportunities for all Louisianan's. It's time to work together and put people first. Enough is enough."

- **GARY FOR GOVERNOR?:** *The Tracker* reached out to one of Louisiana's best known progressive politicians this weekend, **Gary Chambers**, who recently made a bid for the U.S. Senate. Chambers said Democrats statewide started calling him when Party Chair Katie Bernhardt targeted the governor's race. Folks want him to run, and he said he's listening. "People are calling me because they want a candidate who can run a race and build energy," Chambers said. "Katie keeps losing and she may be losing her mind if she thinks she will be governor."
- **ANNOUNCED:** Solicitor General **Liz Murrill** officially announced her candidacy for attorney general this week. Her campaign released this [one-minute video](#). When asked if she would take leave at the state Justice Department to run, as others have done, Murrill recently indicated that's unlikely. Attorney General **Jeff Landry**, her boss, has created an exception in department policy. "I'm going to stay as long as it's manageable because we have a lot of important work I'm quarterbacking," she said. Likewise expected to qualify are District Attorney **John Belton** of Ruston and HGA Chair **John Stefanski**.
- **ALSO ANNOUNCED:** Rep. **Barry Ivey** made it official this week and announced for Senate District 6, which is being vacated by Sen. **Bodi White**. Rep. **Rick Edmonds** has also officially announced. Need info on other legislative districts? Watch for the "Inside the Rails" feature in this week's issue of www.LaPoliticsWeekly.com.
- **COLLAB:** In advance of the regular session, the Louisiana Oncology Society has formed an advocacy relationship with cancer advocate **Julie Stokes**, a former House member, to "drive comprehensive cancer advocacy to address four key areas: early detection, treatment, access to treatment, and survivorship."

HEADLINES & BYLINES

- [The Advocate](#): **Katie Bernhardt**, Democratic party chair, signals interest in running for governor

- The Advocate: Illegal juries? New Orleans criminal trials halted amid allegations of improper jury summons
- WWL-TV: Louisiana teachers choosing to remain in the profession increased, LA Department of Education report says
- Daily Advertiser: More than 100,000 Louisiana workers left jobs in November, among the highest in U.S.
- Center Square: Louisiana auditor says state environmental agency needs more internal controls
- AP: Entergy Louisiana customers to cover \$1.5B for Ida repairs

WHAT YOU MISSED IN LW

Here's what you missed in the latest issue of LaPolitics Weekly, published last week...

- **PARISH POLITICS**: There are at least three open seats for parish president in St. Bernard, St. Mary and Terrebonne. In three other parishes, Livingston, Washington and West Baton Rouge, incumbents are opting to pack it up rather than seeking subsequent terms...
- **THE DEAN**: Most elections for parish president will be humdrum, with incumbents working overtime to protect their incumbency. A couple, however, will be notable, starting with the re-election bid of Iberville Parish President **Mitch Ourso**. Elected in 1997, Ourso is the dean of Louisiana's parish presidents and his shadow will only grow with another term...
- **THE NEXT GENERATION**: **Monique Blanco Boulet**, the daughter of late Gov. **Kathleen Blanco** and a registered Republican, is telling friends and family she will run for Lafayette mayor-president...
- **REPEAL POSSIBLE**: Legislators are working quietly behind the scenes to repeal all or part of a law that was authored by Speaker **Clay Schexnayder** to promote the production and sale of industrial hemp and related products...

- **Q&A:** “Last year, I had a meeting with several Apple executives. The meeting went well and I thought we reached a compromise on the issue,” said Rep. **Daryl Deshotel**, on his app store legislation he filed and then paused in 2022. “In my opinion, Apple has not kept its end of the deal. However, they did just publicly announce that they were considering a change to their business model and that potential change would model the bill I brought the last two sessions. If they don’t change, I look forward to seeing them in committee again this year.”
- **ELECTED:** Commissioner **Foster Campbell** was elected chair of the Public Service Commission this week. Members are now rotating the chairmanship.
- **100 YEARS:** Via LMOGA: “The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association has announced its centennial anniversary. Jan. 4 marked 100 years since the association’s founding in 1923. To celebrate, LMOGA will host several events in 2023 including their annual meeting, regional receptions and 100-year Gala set for late March in New Orleans. Throughout the year, the association will unveil the industry’s collective vision for the future of energy development that will drive Louisiana’s economy for the next 100 years...”
- **AWARDED:** NSSF, the firearm trade association, recognized House Majority Leader **Blake Miguez** as its state legislator of the year for his “determined commitment to protect the firearm industry against ‘woke’ discrimination.” The award was presented by **Laurie Aronson**, chairwoman and CEO of Lipsey’s...
- **HISTORY:** Who was the first woman elected as treasurer in Louisiana? No, it wasn’t former U.S. Sen. **Mary Landrieu**. She was the second woman to serve as Louisiana’s treasurer. It was actually **Mary Evelyn Parker**, who passed away at the age of 94 just eight years ago last week (Jan. 17, 2015)...
- **THEY SAID IT:** “For those of you who are wondering, the No-Party Party has not yet endorsed a candidate for governor.” —Rep. **Joe Marino**, via Twitter

Wish you would have read these stories last week? Subscribe today to www.LaPoliticsWeekly.com.

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Our History:

The Real WMG After-Party

Whether you're going to Washington Mardi Gras this week or staying home in Louisiana, the place to be next month (on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m.) will be the Capitol Park Museum.

After seeing the real thing in person, head to the Baton Rouge museum for an evening of pageantry, politics and Mardi Gras with those who know it best — **Jessica Dauterive** and **Arthur Hardy**.

Dauterive will share her research on culture and pageantry followed by a guided tour by Hardy of the museum's *Carnival in the Nation's Capital: The Washington Mardi Gras Ball Exhibition*.

Dauterive will discuss her doctoral research on representations of the Acadiana region and how those have been expressed through Mardi Gras, tourism and folk festivals. Her dissertation, "Imagining Acadiana: Cajun Identity in Modern Louisiana," explores the shifting boundaries of Cajun identity in southwest Louisiana from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Carnival in the Nation's Capital features royal regalia, costumes, photographs, posters and memorabilia. Highlights include the gown that **Barbara Boggs**, daughter of **Hale Boggs** and **Lindy Boggs**, wore as queen in 1957; **Russell Long's** and **John Breaux's** captain's costumes; **George Rodrigue's** painting of the 1985 king, **Marion Edwards**; and photographs showing national political figures, from **Richard Nixon**, **John F. Kennedy** and **Gerald Ford** and **Betty Ford** to **Sandra Day O'Connor**.

According to Hardy, the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians, which sponsors the ball, is a key player in the "pantheon of Carnival organizations in the state."

He added, "The beautiful and comprehensive exhibit currently running at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge is a tribute to the 75-year history of this important and vibrant organization which, since its

founding, has been led by political leaders from Louisiana who have brought the state's signature event to the nation's capital."

- **About Dauterive:** *She is a PhD candidate in history at George Mason University. She focuses on 20th Century U.S. history with concentrations in cultural, digital and public history. Her dissertation will explore the development of 20th Century Cajun identity through tools of mass culture, including records, radio, television, tourism and folk festivals.*
- **About Hardy:** *He has been featured in magazines, books, radio, and television, including the Today Show and National Geographic. A 1970 graduate of Loyola University, he taught in the public school system for three years, then went on to become band director at Brother Martin High School. Seeing the need for more detailed information about Mardi Gras parades, he began publishing Arthur Hardy's Mardi Gras Guide in 1977. The annual publication remains indispensable for carnival aficionados.*
- **About Capitol Park Museum:** *From **Louis Armstrong** to **Huey P. Long**, from Mardi Gras to fais-dodos, and from the nation-building commerce of the Mississippi River to the life-sustaining bounty of the Gulf of Mexico, the Capitol Park Museum provides a panoramic exploration of the most vibrant state in America. The museum's commitment to education and civic engagement is possible through the support of our sponsors and the Friends of Capitol Park Museum. Located at 660 North 4th Street in Baton Rouge, Capitol Park Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to Capitol Park Museum is \$7 for adults; \$6 for students, seniors, and active military; and, free for children 6 and under.*

SOCIALLY YOURS

WEDDING BELLS

Judge **Jonathan Perry** and **Christine Perry** are celebrating 24 years together... **MaryBeth Wilkerson Ritchey** and **Talbot Ritchey** are toasting to their first... **Rachael Feigley** and **Matthew Deslatte** are celebrating their anniversary as well this month...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TRACKERS!

- Tuesday, Jan. 24: Mayor **Nic Hunter**, former Secretary of State **Tom Schedler**, **Nathan Stubbs**, **Bill Brumfield** and **Jessica Elliot**
- Wednesday, Jan. 25: Former Sen. **Robert Barham**, Judge **Chris Hazel**, **James Hartman**, **Mike Perlstein**, **David Trusty**, **Kevin Gautreaux**, **R. Erich Caulfield** and **Kristie Cross**
- Thursday, Jan. 26: Sen. **Bob Hensgens**, **Norman Morris** and **David Hammer**
- Friday, Jan. 27: Judge **Jonathan Perry**, **Morgan Reese**, **Sarah Olcott Allen**, **Bob Ellis**, **Whitney Higginbotham Greene**, **Addie Dean Cross**, **Murphy Chestnut**, and **Lauren Leist**
- Saturday, Jan. 28: Former Rep. **Frank Hoffman**, **Kea Sherman**, **Tania Hilburn**, **Tim Sproles**, **Mandi Mitchell Thomas**, **Tim Johnson** and **Scott McKay**
- Sunday, Jan. 29: **Kelli Bottger**, **Les Landon**, **Chad Rogers** and **Meg Sunstrom**
- Monday, Jan. 30: Congressman **Mike Johnson** and **Sonny Cranch**
- Have an upcoming birthday or a date I need to know about? Drop a line to JJA@LaPolitics.com.

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THE END.