

Louisiana Real Estate Commission
State of Louisiana

Office of the Governor

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



TAYLOR F. BARRAS
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

JANUARY 22, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday, January 22, 2026, the Louisiana Real Estate Commission (“LREC” and/or “Commission”) conducted its regularly scheduled, monthly meeting in-person at the Commission’s domicile office located at 9071 Interline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, 70809 in accordance with La. R.S. 37:1430 *et seq* and other applicable law.

Commission Members Present:

Ms. Synde Devillier, Chair (Sup. Ct. Dist. 6) Mr. Tony Cornner, Vice Chair (3rd Congress. Dist.)
Ms. Doneva Halphen, Secretary (Sup. Ct. Dist. 1) Ms. Paula Duncan (Sup. Ct. Dist. 3)
Mr. Jeff Free (Sup. Ct. Dist. 2) Ms. Carole Horn (At-Large)
Mr. Theodore Major (At-Large) Mr. Joseph Pappalardo, Jr. (Sup. Ct. Dist. 7)
Ms. Gladys Smith-Coward (Sup. Ct. Dist. 5)

Commission Members Absent:

Ms. Hanna Chustz (Sup. Ct. Dist. 5) Mr. Matt Ritchie (Sup. Ct. Dist. 4)

Staff Present:

Ms. Summer S. Mire, Executive Director Mr. Thomas E. Devillier, Dep. Dir. / Exec. Counsel
Ms. Arlene Edwards, General Counsel Ms. Celeste Amezcu
Mr. Rhett Bordelon Ms. Karen Carey
Ms. Dusty Evans Ms. Malissa Fowler
Ms. Jessica Neal Ms. Allison OToole
Mr. Jeremy Travis Ms. Jenny Yu
Ms. Nikki Wallace

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Others Present:

Mr. Andrew Baker, Burk Baker School of Real Estate & Appraising, LLC

Mr. Wardell Coward

Mr. Michael Ezell

Mr. Brent Lancaster, Bob Brooks School of Real Estate

Mr. David Trimble, Burk Baker School of Real Estate & Appraising, LLC

Ms. Kathryn Vigrass, Commerce Committee, Louisiana House of Representatives

Mr. Benjamin McArthur, Commerce Committee, Louisiana House of Representatives

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Devillier called the meeting to order at or about 10:00 a.m. A roll call was conducted in open meeting. See attendance detailed above. Secretary Major led the invocation, and Commissioner Pappalardo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PLAQUE PRESENTATION - 2025 CHAIR, JOSEPH S. PAPPALARDO, JR.

Chairman Devillier presented Commissioner Pappalardo with a plaque commemorating his time as chairman in 2025.

III. 2026 LREC OFFICERS – OATHS OF OFFICE

Commissioner Pappalardo led the Oath of Office presentation for Chair Devillier. Chair Devillier led the Oath of Office presentations for Vice Chair Cornner and Secretary Halphen.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: DECEMBER 18, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Major made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Smith-Coward, and unanimously approved to adopt the minutes of the December 18, 2025, Regular Meeting (Exhibit A) as written and circulated.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget. Commissioner Smith-Coward reported regarding the Commission’s current budget report (Exhibit B).

2. Education. Commissioner Horn delivered an update, stating the Education Committee will hold a meeting in February to discuss the 2027 Mandatory Course topic.

3. Legal / Legislative.

Discussion of 2026 Regular Session; Legislative Considerations. Mr. Devillier led a discussion regarding a legislative draft proposed, in concept, by Commissioners Major and Pappalardo respectively at the October 2025 Commission meeting. Generally, Mr. Devillier stated the proposed legislation contained two portions. The first portion would provide a limited exemption to certain licensees regarding continuing education. The second portion would allow licensees, who exceed the required number of annual continuing education hours, to have a certain number of those excess hours roll over to the following year's education transcript. Mr. Devillier led the Commissioners through the document and highlighted key areas for discussion. After extensive discussion, Secretary Halphen made a motion, which was seconded by Vice Chair Cornner, to indefinitely postpone consideration of the proposal. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion passed 5-4, with Commissioners Duncan, Major, Pappalardo, and Smith-Coward voting in opposition.

Mr. Devillier also stated he spoke with Norman Morris, Chief Executive Officer of Louisiana REALTORS, to understand any legislation the association plans to present this year. Mr. Devillier stated his understanding is that Louisiana REALTORS plans to present legislation during the 2026 Regular Session regarding a business practice known as "wholesaling."

Review of 2025 Oversight Reporting. Mr. Devillier led a discussion relating to certain 2025 oversight reports. Mr. Devillier directed the Commissioners to reports involving Act 270 (2018 R.S.) and Act 486 (2022 R.S.). Mr. Devillier concluded the discussion by stating he will present additional oversight reports at the next Commission meeting.

4. Standardized Forms. Secretary Halphen stated she has received both positive and constructive feedback regarding LREC's Mandatory Forms and is currently working with staff to review whether any changes are necessary.

5. Technology and Capital Assets. Vice Chair Cornner provided a recap of projects completed in 2025, which included installation of servers and updates to staff workstations, and indicated an intent to commence design and renovation of LREC's hearing room.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Licensee Count. Ms. Mire reported regarding the current number of statewide real estate licensees following the 2025 annual renewal period, which ended on December 31, 2025.

2. Text Messaging System. Ms. Mire reported regarding LREC's implementation of a text messaging system during the 2025 annual renewal period, which was sent to all licensees who had missing continuing education hours or had not yet renewed his or her license. Vice Chair Cornner asked for clarification regarding details of the text communication. Ms. Mire also indicated that the Compliance Division will begin issuing education audit notices in the coming weeks to those licensees who failed to complete the required CE for 2025.

3. ARELLO Conference Reminders. Ms. Mire reminded the Commissioners that registration is open for the ARELLO Legal Exchange and ARELLO Mid-Year conference.

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4. Mr. J.C. Willie, Past LREC Executive Director. Ms. Mire informed the Commission of the recent passing of Mr. J.C. Willie. Mr. Willie served as the LREC Executive Director from 1992 to 2010, overseeing the construction of the Commission's current office building, which was previously named in his honor.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Cornner made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Secretary Halphen, and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at about 11:25 a.m.