

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF
PARDONS & PAROLE**

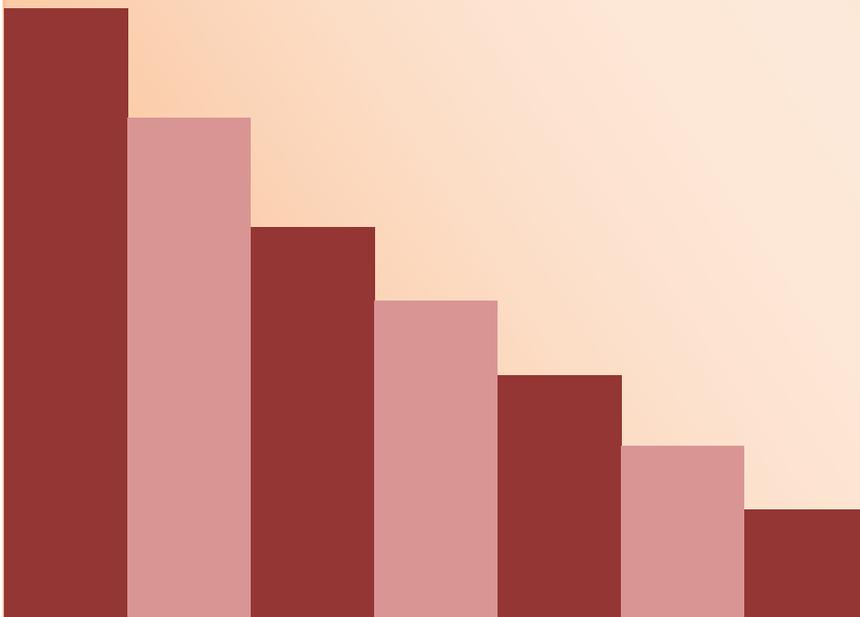
P O Box 94304
Baton Rouge, LA 70804



Annual Report

2012

This report has been prepared for the review of overall performance and development of the Louisiana Board of Pardons & Parole.



Board of Pardons

In 2012, Act 714 of the Louisiana Legislature merged the functions and duties of the Board of Pardons and the Board of Parole. The legislation mandates that all members (appointed after August 15, 2012) possess at least five years actual experience in one of the following fields (or a combination thereof): penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, or medicine. The Board of Pardons consists of five members appointed by the Governor, and one ex-officio member (Warden, or deputy warden in the warden's absence) if the offender is incarcerated at the time of application for clemency.

All of the board's recommendations for clemency are forwarded to the Governor for final action.

Committee on Parole

Act 714 of the 2012 Louisiana Legislature merged the functions and duties of the Board of Parole into the Board of Pardons and created the Committee on Parole. The five members of the Board of Pardons serve on the Committee on Parole, as well as two at-large members who are also appointed by the Governor. Wardens (or deputy wardens in their absence) also serve as ex-officio members of the Committee on Parole.

The majority of the Committee's duties are discharged by parole panels, consisting of a minimum of three (3) Committee members, meeting with offenders for the purpose of considering and voting on parole and parole-related matters. The meetings are held, by means of videoconferencing, on regularly scheduled dates and times and at correctional institutions throughout the state. Meeting dates/times can be found at <http://doc.la.gov/quicklinks/parole-board/parole-dockets/>.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Louisiana Board of Pardons is to perform the duties as imposed by Article I, Section 10 and 20, and Article IV, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution and recommend the resolution of clemency matters to the Governor.

The mission of the Committee on Parole is to determine the time and conditions of release for eligible offenders in a manner that ensures public safety and facilitates an offender's reintegration into society, recognizing that the parole process is an essential element of the criminal justice system.

Using evidence-based research, the parole decision makers (Committee members) shall:

- Render just determination in regard to parole release and revocations, thereby maximizing the restoration of human potential while restraining the growth of the Louisiana prison population;
- Impose reasonable and prudent conditions of release consistent with the goal of structured reintegration of an offender's release into the community; and
- Impose realistic and relevant conditions of release tailored to the specific offender.

The Committee seeks to promote successful offender reentry by maintaining contact during supervision to not only intervene and address violation behavior, but to acknowledge and support compliance and accomplishments.



From the Chairman

On behalf of the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Parole, I am pleased to present our 2012 Annual Report. Within this report, you will learn how the Committee on Parole is employing evidence based practices to enhance an offender's transition back to Louisiana's communities.

We are working closely with our partners within the Department of Public Safety & Corrections at all levels on reentry efforts. We work together to ensure accountability of offenders and assist with their reentry in the community.

In 2012, the Louisiana Legislature merged the functions of the Board of Pardons and the Board of Parole. As a result, we have placed much emphasis on training of Board members throughout this year, both formal and informal. Pardon Board members and members of the Committee on Parole attended orientation training hosted by the Department of Public Safety & Corrections which focused on the elements of the decision making process through the use of evidence-based practices for determining offender risk, needs, and motivation to change; security classifications used by the Department; the programming and disciplinary processes and the Department's supervision, case planning, and violation processes. Board members also participated in orientation training hosted by the National Institute of Corrections which focused on evidence based decisions. Quarterly training for calendar year 2013 has already been scheduled and members are looking forward to the training opportunities.

The Governor has appointed an experienced and dedicated team to serve on the Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole. We share the desire to enhance public safety of Louisiana's communities and, as a team, Board and Committee members are committed to providing the citizens of Louisiana with an independent, well-informed, just, and careful clemency and parole process. The Board is actively engaged in the development, implementation, and evaluation of change to enhance our processes.

Sheryl M. Ranataza, CCE
Chairman, LA Board of Pardons and Parole
sranatza@doc.la.gov

Members of the Pardon Board and Committee on Parole

SHERYL M. RANATZA, Chairman

After a career that spanned over 30 years, Mrs. Ranatza retired from the Department of Corrections in 2011. She served in a variety of management positions throughout the Department, with her last position being that of Deputy Secretary. Mrs. Ranatza was the first female in Louisiana to achieve the designation of Certified Corrections Executive by the American Correctional Association and is a member several corrections affiliated organizations. She was appointed as Chairman of the Louisiana Board of Parole in February 2012 and Chairman of the Pardon Board in August 2012.

JIM WISE, Vice-Chairman

A graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and the Calcasieu Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy, Mr. Wise served as a Deputy in the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office for 18 years as supervisor over all uniformed divisions. He served as an Investigator at Louisiana State Penitentiary after having completed the Corrections Training Academy. Mr. Wise was first appointed to the Louisiana Board of Parole in 2004 and was recently appointed to the Pardon Board in August 2012 and serves as Vice-Chairman.

MATTHEW "RICKEY" HARDY

After achieving his paralegal degree, Mr. Hardy served as a member of the Lafayette Parish School Board for 13 years. In 2007, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and served the citizens in that capacity for 4 years. As a legislator Mr. Hardy served on the Education, Judicial, and Appropriations Committees. He was appointed to the Pardon Board in January 2012 and now also serves as a member of the Parole Committee.

HENRY "TANK" POWELL

In 1968, Mr. Powell achieved a degree in social work from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana. After 30 years, he retired from Prudential Insurance. Mr. Powell served 12 years in the Louisiana House of Representatives. He was appointed by Governor Jindal to the Louisiana Pardon Board in 2008 and now also serves as a member of the Parole Committee.

MICHAEL SLOCUM

A resident of Rapides Parish, Mr. Slocum's law enforcement career spans 30 years. Mike served numerous administrative positions with the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office, ranging from Major and Commander of the Uniform Division, SWAT Commander, and Metro Narcotics Commander. He was instrumental in the implementation of the first School Resource Officer program in Louisiana. Mr. Slocum was nominated to serve as the Victims' Advocate to the Parole Board and was appointed to that position in March 2012. He was appointed to serve as the Victim's Advocate on the Pardon Board in August 2012.

At-Large Members of Committee on Parole

GRETA W. JONES

Mrs. Jones is a native of Union Parish and has devoted her life to community service activities on the national, state, and local level. Her continuing education includes courses in Psychodynamics and Mediation and she is a certified Parliamentarian. Mrs. Jones served as Vice-Chairman of the Tourism Development Commission as well as a member of Ouachita Expressway Authority. She and her family are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe where she is an ordained Elder [inactive]. Mrs. Jones was appointed to the Louisiana Parole Board in 2008 by Governor Jindal and now serves as a member of the Parole Committee.

JERRIE LEDOUX

Ms. LeDoux received her B.A. in Communications Arts from Louisiana College in Pineville, Louisiana. She is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Business/Organizational Communications. She has served on the Governor's Commission for Marriage and Family and as a volunteer lobbyist for Louisiana Family Forum. For the past 17 years Ms. LeDoux has served as an educator and State the Coordinator for the National TeenPact Leadership Schools. Governor Jindal appointed Ms. LeDoux to the Parole Board in 2010 and to the Parole Committee in August 2012.

Projects

Mission Statement

We began the year with the adoption of a mission statement and goals that create a culture that supports the use of evidence based practices to assist offenders to effectively transition and reenter society. Decision-making goals were clarified to ensure they align with transition and reentry efforts. We are still in the process of identifying organizational changes needed for the organization to be evidence-based.

Rulemaking

We reviewed rules regarding the parole process and revised the rules of the Committee on Parole to reflect actual practice and to authorize some limited independent actions by Parole Officers. Rules regarding clemency have also been reviewed and revisions have been submitted to the Governor for approval.

Risk Assessment

The Louisiana Risk and Needs Assessment (LARNA) is the risk assessment instrument that is now reviewed and considered on each offender that appears before the Committee on Parole. The Static99 risk assessment instrument for male sex offenders is now also reviewed and considered on each sex offender that appears before the Committee for a parole hearing.

Data Collection

In collaboration with the Department of Public Safety & Corrections, data currently being collected was reviewed and revised to incorporate more finite measures of performance.

Transparency

The Board of Pardons and Parole can be found within the DOC website. The Board is currently working with the DOC webmaster for enhancements to information available on the website.

Strategic Planning

With the merger of the Board of Pardons and Board of Parole in 2012, the Board has applied for a technical assistance grant through the National Institute of Corrections for the purpose of strategic planning. The Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole will collaborate with the Department of Public Safety & Corrections on the development of its strategic plan.

Information Technology Update

All Board and Committee members have received laptop computers which allows them access to the most current and accurate information available through the Department of Public Safety & Corrections offender databases.

Going Forward

Goals for 2013

Strategic Planning

- Development of a strategic plan that articulates how the established mission will be carried out.

Team Development

- Further development of the team to ensure that members have the tools and abilities to understand and implement evidence based decisions.

Training

- Include staff and other corrections partners in training events;
- Provide training to other stakeholders regarding the cost benefit of parole.

Business Process Review

- Participate with the Department of Public Safety & Corrections information technology experts in the review of business processes to determine efficiency and effectiveness, and to streamline those processes.

Reentry

- Collaborate with the Department of Public Safety & Corrections on further development of reentry programs for offenders housed in local jails in an effort to reduce recidivism for that population.

Information Sharing

- Use existing web capacity to disseminate information on the work of the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Performance Reporting

LOUISIANA COMMITTEE ON PAROLE ACTIVITY DATA FY 2006-2007 through FY 2011-2012

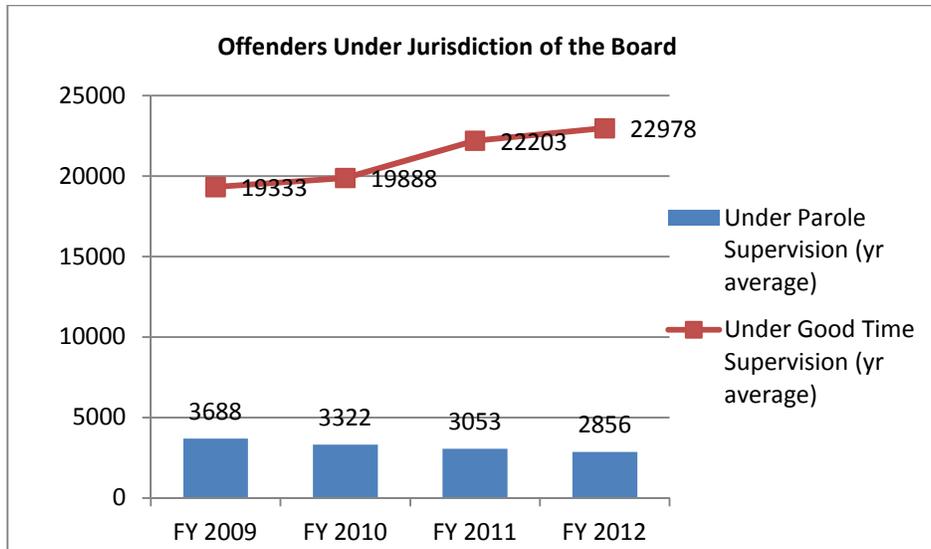
PAROLE GRANT RATE

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Parole Hearings Conducted	2798	2663	2809	2286	2223	1923
IMPACT Granted	403	359	284	248	253	239
Granted to Release	677	591	178	164	291	551
Conditional Grant ¹	394	245	303	243	180	270
Granted Medical Parole ²						14
Total Paroles Granted	1474	1195	765	655	724	1074
Grant %	52.7%	44.9%	27.2%	28.7%	32.6%	55.9%
Paroles Rescinded³	187	120	103	45	82	72
% of Grants Rescinded	12.7%	10.0%	13.5%	6.9%	11.3%	6.7%

¹ Parole granted upon completion of specific programming, i.e., Transitional Work Program, Substance Abuse Treatment or Education, 100 hours pre-release curriculum, etc.

² Medical Paroles were not tracked separately during FY 06/07 through 10/11

³ Committee rescinded the offender's parole due to violation of transitional work program agreement, institutional disciplinary report after being granted parole/prior to parole release, lack of approved residence plan, etc.



A decline in the parole population under supervision for the period fiscal year ending 2009 through fiscal year ending 2012 may be a result of the decrease in parole grant rate for the corresponding years. In addition the increase in the population under good time supervision may also be a result of the decrease in parole grant rate for the same period.

**LOUISIANA COMMITTEE ON PAROLE
ACTIVITY DATA**

PAROLE REVOCATIONS

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Hearings Conducted	611	354	334
Revocations Ordered Subsequent to Hearing	249	249	291
% Revoked	40.8%	70.3%	87.1%

ACTIONS TAKEN IN LIEU OF REVOCATION FY 2011-2012

Substance Abuse Treatment In Lieu of Revocation	7
Transitional Work Program In Lieu of Revocation	8

OTHER VIOLATION ACTIONS

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Other Actions by the Committee on Parole ¹	17837	18077	17909	18686

¹ Other Actions include actions which can be performed by a single member, i.e., revocation for new felony conviction; revocation due to waiver of final hearing before the Committee; issuing warrants; issuing reprimands; adding/modifying special conditions of supervision; terminating supervision unsatisfactorily, etc. The Committee began tracking these various actions beginning in FY 11/12.

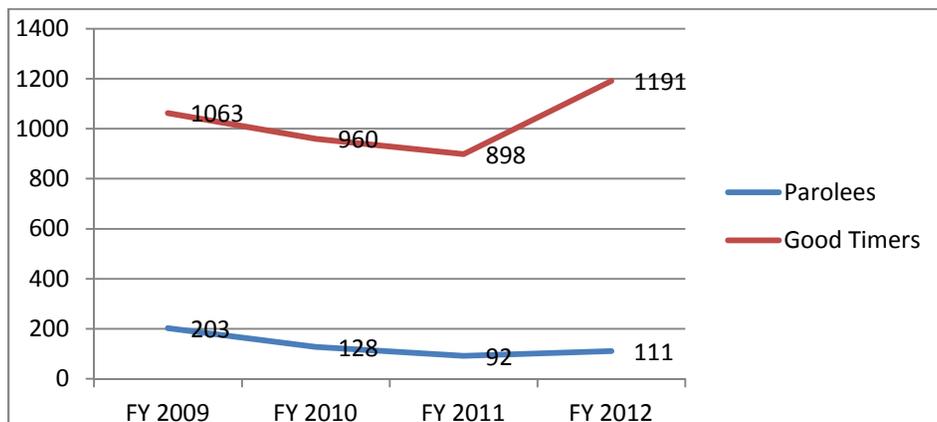
DETAIL OF OTHER VIOLATION ACTIONS FY 2011-12

Revocation - New Felony Conviction	782
Revocation - Offender waived final hearing	3802
Terminations: Unsatisfactory	646
Act 402-1st Technical Violation (letters processed)	1080
Deferred ²	1792
Warrant Issued	7428
Reprimand Issued	1500
Add/Removed Special Conditions of Supervision	1656
	<u>18686</u>

² Offender deferred preliminary hearing; Committee authorized a hold on offender pending disposition of new criminal charges

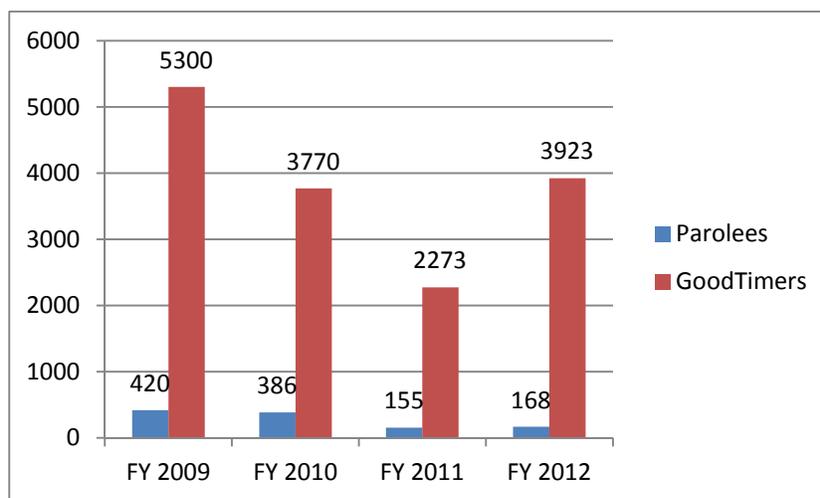
For a first technical violation of the conditions of parole supervision (whether the offender is on supervision via release on parole or via release on good time/parole supervision) the Committee on Parole may authorize, under certain circumstances provided for in Act 402 (R.S. 15:574.9.G), that an offender serve no more than 90 days in jail prior to revocation for a technical violation. Upon completion of the technical revocation sentence, the offender is returned to active supervision for the remainder of the original term of supervision. The provisions of Act 402 do not apply to offenders released on parole for the conviction of a crime of violence or sex offense or who is subject to sex offender registration and notification requirements. The chart below indicates an increase in the application of Act 402 for first technical violations during fiscal year 2012.

First Technical Violations - Act 402 (up to 90 days jail in lieu of revocation)



The chart below reflects a decrease in total revocation actions for the period fiscal year ending 2012 as compared to fiscal year ending 2009.

REVOCATIONS



**LOUISIANA COMMITTEE ON PAROLE
APPLICATION FOR 2ND OR SUBSEQUENT PAROLE HEARING¹**

	2010-2011	2011-2012	5 mos July 2012-Nov 2012
Applications Received	469	414	191
Request for Hearing Granted	34	145	132
% Granted Request for Re- Hearing ²	7.2%	35.0%	69.1%

¹ If parole is denied at the offender's initial parole hearing, the offender may apply for another hearing:

- Six months after initial hearing IF convicted for a non-violent offense
- Two years after initial hearing IF convicted of violent offense or sex offense.

²A granted request for a re-hearing does NOT indicate that the offender was or will be granted parole at the subsequent parole hearing.

The Committee began tracking the number of re-hearings conducted/granted/denied during FY 2012-2013.

Please direct questions or inquiries to:

LA Board of Pardons and Parole

P. O. Box 94304

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9304

225.342.5421 (Pardons) 225.342.6622 (Paroles)

<http://doc.la.gov/quicklinks/pardon-board/>

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