



Report Highlights

St. Helena Parish Police Jury

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Why We Conducted This Audit

In September 2025, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) received multiple complaints regarding the St. Helena Parish Police Jury's (SHPPJ's) use of public funds. LLA initiated this audit to determine the validity of those complaints.

What We Found

Police Jury Improperly Used Public Funds for Celebratory Functions

SHPPJ spent funds totaling \$22,156 for Christmas parties in 2024 and 2025. Records show that SHPPJ solicited and received donations totaling \$9,100 from vendors and business partners specifically to fund these Christmas parties. Although SHPPJ may accept donations, once accepted, those funds become public funds and must be used in furtherance of the public purpose for which SHPPJ was created. By using public funds for celebratory functions, including funds solicited and received specifically for that purpose, SHPPJ employees and officials may have violated the Louisiana Constitution, which prohibits the donation of public funds, and state law.

Travel Substantially Exceeded Budgeted Amounts

Records show that SHPPJ exceeded its total travel budget by a combined 155% for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2024, and December 31, 2025. According to travel records, SHPPJ employees and officials attended a total of 27 out-of-town conferences during this period, including nine instances in which six or more employees/officials attended the same conference. In addition, from February 2025 to December 2025, SHPPJ issued six travel advance payments to employees/officials totaling \$9,740; however, these employees/officials failed to timely reimburse \$5,812 for the unused portions of the advances. Records also show that SHPPJ paid \$5,000 to reserve tables for employees/officials while they attended fundraisers during the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucuses in 2024 and 2025. By failing to timely account for and reimburse unused travel advances, and by using public funds to reserve tables at fundraisers, SHPPJ employees and officials may have violated the Louisiana Constitution and state law.

View the full report, including management's response, at www.la.gov.