



Eight Wildcats on 4-5A All-District Team
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Trump: More Votes in LA Than Anyone in State History

Big Victory in Electoral College

Trump Electors Met In 7 Swing States To Lay Groundwork For Jan. 6 Challenge

CENTRAL — The members of the Electoral College from Louisiana met at noon Monday in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol to perform its duty under the Constitution. All eight members voted to reelect President Donald J. Trump, in accordance with the votes of the people of the state Nov. 3, 2020.

Each of the electors received 1,255,776 votes on behalf of President Trump. His Democratic opponent, Vice President Joe Biden, received 856,034.

At the same time Monday, members of the Electoral College from 49 other states and the District of Columbia also met at their state capitols to cast their ballots.

This time-honored tradition established by the Constitution 230 years ago took on a different role this year. Electors pledged to President Trump met in seven states where Joe Biden was certified as the winner. In each case,



Photo by Catherine Newsome

MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE - (left to right) Ross Little, Rodney Michael Collier, Beth Billings, Kay Katz, Eric Skrmetta, Woody Jenkins, Vinson Serio, and Robert Monti met at the State Capitol and cast eight votes for President Trump.

the Trump electors called themselves to order at the State Capitol, elected officers, considered resolutions, and then cast their votes for President Trump. They signed documents certifying their votes, which were transmitted to the National Archives and to the President of the Senate.

This election has been marred

by allegations of widespread voter fraud and legal irregularities, especially in the swing states.

On January 6, 2021, the President of the Senate who is the Vice President will preside over a meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives. When two or more slates of electors are presented from a state to the President of

the Senate, each House withdraws to consider which slate to adopt.

The last time this occurred was in 1960, when Hawaii submitted two slates. The Republican slate, which was certified by the governor, was not accepted, but the Democratic slate for John Kennedy was. If a slate is accepted by both the House

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District Judge Rules Suit Has 'Probability of Success'

State Supreme Court Justice Jeff Hughes Wins Round in Libel Suit Against Advocate

Judge Alleges Paper Knew Its Allegations Were False and Is Guilty of Actual Malice

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

CENTRAL — Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeff Hughes was the center of attention at the Baton Rouge *Advocate* for more than a year. Half a dozen major front-page articles held up the judge as the epitome of unethical behavior on the bench. Another two dozen stories mentioned him as an example of judges who avoid being held accountable for their misbehavior.

However, the *Advocate* hasn't written much about Justice Hughes



Supreme Court Justice Jeff Hughes wins round in libel suit.

lately. On July 20, 2020, the paper reported that he had filed a libel suit against the *Advocate* in connection with the stories.

Since then, what the *Advocate* hasn't reported is that Justice Hughes has scored a major victory in that suit. Last month, the *Advocate* asked for a hearing on a Special Motion to Strike, which would have thrown the Justice out of court. However, District Judge Kevin Kimball ruled against the *Advocate* and for Justice Hughes.

Judge Kimball held that Hughes "has established a probability of success on his case." The judge ordered the *Advocate* to pay \$5,000 toward Hughes' attorney fees. He also signed a Partial Final Judgment in the case.

Justice Hughes has asked for a jury in the case, indicating that he will seek more than \$50,000 in damages. The preliminary judg-

ment of the court that Hughes has a probability of success and that the district judge granted a Partial Final Judgment can be presented to the jury at the trial on the merits.

The libel suit primarily attacks an editorial by the *Advocate*, which said that back in 1998, Hughes dated an attorney for a party before his court. At the time, Hughes was single and a district judge.

The charge was false, as demonstrated by court documents and a prior news article by the *Advocate*. At no time did then-District Judge Hughes hear a case while he was dating one of the parties' attorneys, nor did he have a conflict of interest over the matter.

After the editorial ran in the *Advocate*, Hughes met with the editors and reporters of the *Advocate* to request a retraction.

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