

TODAY'S PARADES **NEW ORLEANS:** Hermes, 5:30 p.m. ● d'Etat follows ● Morpheus follows ● **SLIDELL:** Selene, 6:30 p.m. ● **maps, 2B**

CARNIVAL WEATHER FORECAST

FRI	53	41	
SAT	55	44	
SUN	67	55	
MON	76	67	
TUE	80	66	



ARTHUR HARDY PREVIEWS TODAY'S CARNIVAL PARADES 2B

— SINCE 1837 —

The Times-Picayune

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TODAY'S BULLETINS:
HERMES, D'ETAT, MORPHEUS

Recall group challenges voter rolls

Cantrell's finance report shows empty war chest

BY MATT SLEDGE
Staff writer

Organizers of the push to recall New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell sued two election officials on Thursday, setting the stage for what could be a protracted legal

and political fight as the campaign prepares to prove it has the signatures it needs to force a referendum on her fate.

In a lawsuit filed in Orleans Parish Civil District Court, recall organizers Belden "Noonie Man" Batiste and Eileen Carter allege

that Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters Sandra Wilson failed to remove tens of thousands of dead, out-of-state or otherwise ineligible people from the city's active voter list, a move that would have lowered by thousands the number of signatures they must collect by a

Wednesday deadline.

They also allege that Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin failed to produce an accurate count of active voters as mandated by law.

The lawsuit represents the recall organizers' first legal salvo at the public officials charged with overseeing the recall process and determining whether enough New Orleans voters have properly

signed petitions to trigger a recall vote.

Yet even as the jockeying over the signature count began, a report from Cantrell's campaign organization revealed that she could enter the fight of her political life with an empty war chest. Cantrell had only \$6,700 in cash on hand at

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NIGHT LIGHTS



CARNIVAL 2023
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STAFF PHOTO BY SOPHIA GERMER
CHAOS: Mounted riders travel the parade route on Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER
MUSES: Riders hand out treats while traveling through Uptown on Thursday.

State dropping suits against homeowners over elevation grants

BY DAVID HAMMER
and RICHARD A. WEBSTER
WWL-TV and Verite

This article was produced in partnership with Verite, WWL-TV and The Times-Picayune | The Advocate, which was part of ProPublica's Local Reporting Network in 2022.

Louisiana is dropping thousands of lawsuits against homeowners who received grants to elevate their homes after hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 but used the money to make repairs instead.

Many of those homeowners said they had been told by representatives of Road Home, the grant program, that they could use the

money for repairs, according to an investigation by The Times-Picayune | The Advocate, WWL-TV and ProPublica.

"It's about damn time," said attorney Shermin Khan, who represented more than 50 of the 3,500 people who were sued over elevation grants.

Despite what homeowners were

told, grant agreements said the money — federal grants that were managed by the state — had to be used to raise homes. Under pressure from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to recoup grants that hadn't been spent properly, the state sued homeowners, seeking repayment of \$103 million.

Many of those sued were older and poor. Several homeowners preemptively declared bankruptcy, according to their attorneys. Others failed to defend themselves in court, so the state placed liens on their properties.

Gov. John Bel Edwards

➤ See **SUITS**, page 6A

WEATHER
HIGH 53
LOW 41
PAGE 8B



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