



Parish of Ascension

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Gov. Jindal visits St. Amant

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ST. AMANT – Gov. Bobby Jindal visited with about 200 Ascension Parish citizens Wednesday at St. Amant High School – and he didn't arrive empty handed.

Jindal brought with him a ceremonial check for just over \$24.3 million. The money, which comes from the Louisiana Recovery Authority, will be used by various parish agencies for hurricane recovery, hazard mitigation and other projects. Among them is \$4.5 million toward the parish's purchase of the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center (total cost \$7.5 million), over \$208,000 in grants to improve criminal records in Gonzales and evidence records at the Sheriff's Office, and \$100,000 to build a new 150,000-gallon water storage tank.

"I remember going to every parish after (hurricanes) Gustav and Ike and I made the comment that we weren't going to create another bureaucracy in Baton Rouge," Jindal said. "This money is going directly to communities to rebuild and to prepare for the future."

Jindal stayed for about two hours, taking questions, signing autographs and posing for photos.

The governor's visit was part of his "Louisiana Working Tour" which is scheduled to take him to all 64 parishes throughout the state.

Captions for attached photos

Left – Gov. Bobby Jindal presents a check for over \$24.3 million to Ascension Parish officials during a speaking engagement Wednesday at St. Amant High School. In attendance were (from left to right) State Rep. M.J. "Mert" Smiley (District 88), Parish President Tommy Martinez, Council Chairman Pat Bell (District 4), Gov. Bobby Jindal, Gonzales City Councilman John Cagnolatti, Constable James LeBlanc, Gonzales Mayor Barney Arceneaux, Gonzales Police Chief Sherman Jackson, Sherriff Jeff Wiley, Sorrento Mayor Blake LeBlanc and State Sen. Jody Amedee (District 18).

Middle – Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez (left) and Gov. Bobby Jindal share a laugh Wednesday during the Governor's visit to St. Amant High School as part of his 64-parish "Louisiana Working Tour."

Right – Gov. Bobby Jindal makes a point as he speaks Wednesday at St. Amant High School.