

From: [Jessica Rourke](#)
To: [Platts, David](#); [Brown, Ashley](#)
Subject: [External] :: Grants / 2027
Date: Friday, June 12, 2026 12:35:26 PM

Hello David + Ashley,

I am writing to provide you with an advance heads-up regarding my upcoming votes on the grant funding recommendations scheduled for next week.

After reviewing the proposals, I intend to vote against the funding allocations for the *Proud Mary Theatre Company* and the *Gay Men's Chorus* in Greenville.

My decision is based on a personal and governance principle that commission funding should not be directed toward organizations structured around specific sexual orientations, nor should public funds support drag performances. This decision aligns with recent federal executive orders restricting public funds being used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate gender ideology or the acknowledgment of gender identities differing from sex assigned at birth.

I wanted to share this with you ahead of the meeting out of respect for your leadership and to ensure there is transparency regarding my positions before the formal vote takes place. Thank you for your hard work in preparing these recommendations, and I look forward to our discussion next week.

Best,



Jessica Rourke, *Wedding Planner*

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