

A Jobs and Opportunity Agenda

FOR LOUISIANA

After years of short-term decision-making by Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike, Louisiana stands at a crossroads. Repeated budget crises, a confusing and cumbersome tax code, a legal environment ranked among the worst in the country, and a constitutional structure that impedes responsible budgetary practices have sent jobs and opportunity packing to nearby states with more friendly policies.

Now is the time for fundamental reforms to the state's budget, fiscal, and constitutional structures; the combination of which can finally turn the tide to bring jobs back to Louisiana and create a state where everyone can pursue opportunity.

It is not the time for half-measures. Only a comprehensive vision for sweeping reforms will ensure Louisiana has the essential policies to bring jobs—and citizens—back to our state.



Solve Louisiana's annual fiscal crisis by adopting a more comprehensive, holistic approach to reform the state's antiquated budget system.

- End the arbitrary “silos” for government programs—re-examine those in the state Constitution, and end those created through statutory dedications.
- Re-set the state's current spending caps by allowing only a low percentage increase to the budget compared to the prior budget year.
- Enact policies to bolster transfers to the rainy-day fund—both by increasing annual transfers to the fund and the maximum level of revenues the fund can hold. This allows state government to better weather economic peaks and valleys without having to turn to hardworking Louisiana taxpayers for more money.



Encourage job growth and entrepreneurship by reforming Louisiana's tax system to make it fairer, flatter, and more predictable.

- Lower and flatten personal and corporate income tax rates by eliminating most deductions and credits. This will create a fairer and more predictable playing field for everyone. In conjunction with modernizing sales tax implementation, lower rates while expanding the revenue base.
- End punitive jobs taxes and remove government from the job of picking economic winners and losers by eliminating franchise and income taxes levied on businesses and many non-performance based economic development incentives.



Give local authorities more flexibility to provide services to their constituents by removing the strings from state government, while enhancing accountability at all levels of government.

- Reduce the indirect subsidies they provide to local governments.
- In exchange, parishes should receive more flexibility to govern their finances as they see fit.



Protect the 2017 Louisiana criminal justice reforms and build upon those successes by updating archaic state policies like civil asset forfeiture and mens rea laws.

- Protect the sweeping reforms enacted by the 2017 Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Package.
- Abolish civil asset forfeiture and require a criminal conviction before an individual's property can be forfeited.
- Adopt policies that prevent Louisianans from being convicted for acts that do not warrant criminal penalties or without proper due process safeguards.



Ensure that every Louisiana child has access to a high-quality education of their choosing, providing all citizens with the opportunity to succeed.

- Allow all Louisiana families the flexibility to choose whatever educational opportunity will best meet an individual child's needs by:
 - » Adopting a system of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) where taxpayer money goes to parents, to spend at the school or schools that best serve each child's needs.
 - » Expanding Louisiana's first-in-the-nation course choice program and making it available to all students.
 - » Strengthening Louisiana's public charter school systems.
- Empower every student to graduate high school prepared for whatever comes next, whether that's college, a career, or the military.



Reform Louisiana's legal and regulatory policies, which is vital to attracting new business investment to the state.

- For new businesses to choose to locate in Louisiana, the state needs to present a friendly, fair, and legally consistent business environment to those looking to invest and grow within the state.
- Place the burden of proof as to whether a profession requires a license on the government instead of on the individual or business owner.
- Reduce the number of state and local government regulations to allow innovation to flourish through advancements in technology.



Redirect Louisiana's Medicaid system to focus on its original purpose – serving the state's most vulnerable populations.

- Submit a comprehensive waiver to the federal government to reform Medicaid that would:
 - » *Add consumer-driven options*
 - » *Increase wellness incentives*
 - » *Increase access to home-based care for the chronically ill*
 - » *Crack down on fraudulent scam artists*
 - » *Prevent the use of taxpayer dollars to cover individuals who already have affordable health insurance*
- Unwind the expansion of Medicaid to able-bodied adults by freezing future eligibility.

