



2025



IMPACT

REPORT

2025

By the Numbers

DIGITAL AD
IMPRESSIONS



6.3 MILLION

MEDIA
MENTIONS



1,653

GRASSROOTS
NETWORK



73,828

PELICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
ALUMNI



99

The Pelican Institute hosts State Night during the State Policy Network Annual Meeting at Mardi Gras World, welcoming partners from across the country to experience the heart and soul of Louisiana. From authentic local cuisine to iconic traditions and vibrant culture, the evening

ON THE COVER



showcased what makes our state truly special. Guests were invited to embrace our famous saying, Laissez les bons temps rouler, “Let the good times roll,” as we celebrated Louisiana’s spirit of hospitality, resilience, and opportunity, while sharing the story of a state on the rise.

CONTINUING LOUISIANA'S COMEBACK

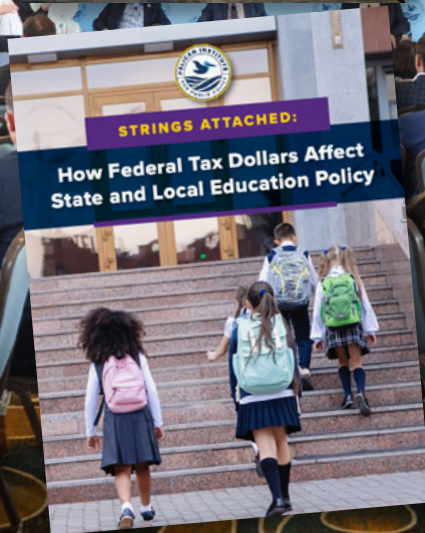
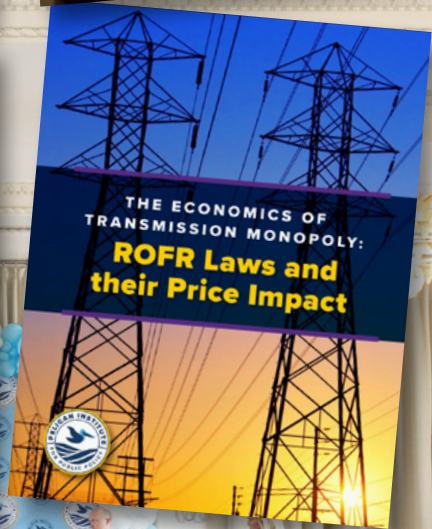
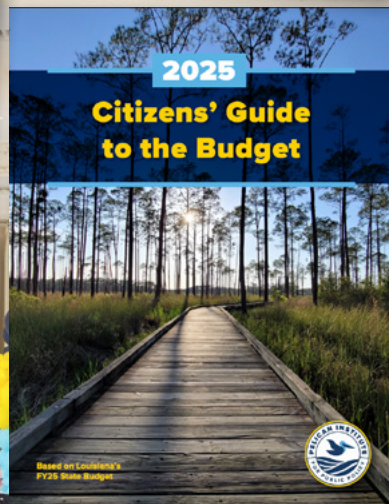
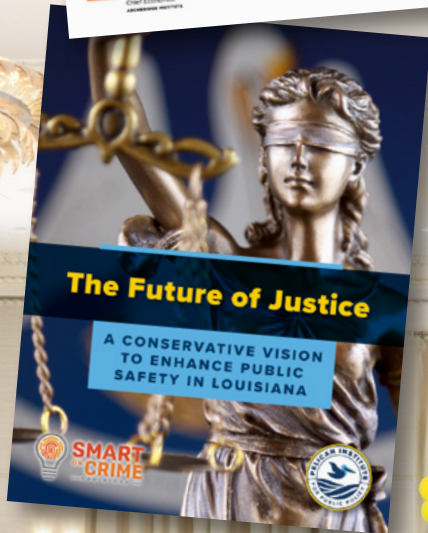
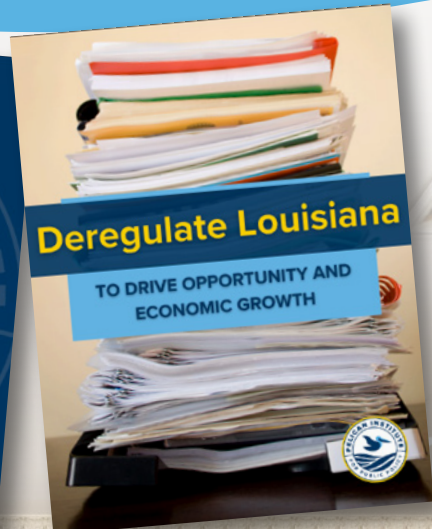
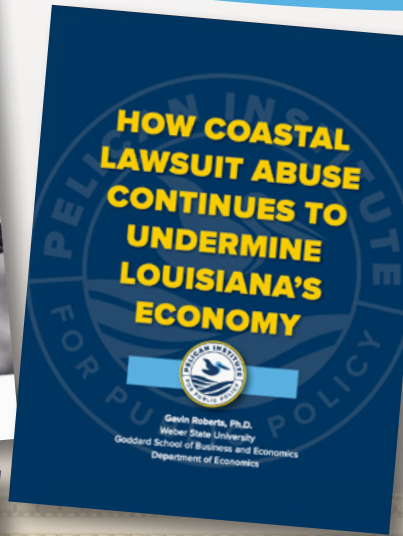
The Pelican Institute entered 2025 with a clear focus: continuing Louisiana's Comeback. With your partnership, our state continued to focus on the fundamentals that matter most: expanding opportunity, strengthening our business climate, and building the long-term infrastructure needed for lasting change.

Together, we secured critical policy wins, launched the Pelican Center for Energy, and made major progress on One Door to Work, the most significant overhaul of Louisiana's workforce and safety-net systems in decades. We also advanced regulatory reforms that restore accountability in government and give job creators the certainty they need to invest and grow.

These victories reflect a return to common sense: putting families first, clearing pathways to work, and ensuring government serves the people, not the other way around. And we are just getting started. The momentum built in 2025 is already shaping what comes next. Because of your support, bold ideas are becoming real results, and Louisiana is laying the groundwork for a stronger future.



FROM RESEARCH





TO RESULTS

Priority recommendations from the Pelican Institute’s Back to Basics agenda shaped Louisiana’s 2025 legislative priorities and featured prominently in Governor Jeff Landry’s reform efforts alongside state lawmakers. Together, these measures advanced education freedom, strengthened Louisiana’s business climate, modernized workforce and safety-net systems, restored accountability to government, and removed long-standing barriers to opportunity and innovation.

Your investments drove the following outcomes based on the Institute’s research agenda:

EDUCATION FREEDOM

- ★ **SB 27:** Allows stacking of tax credit scholarships and LA GATOR scholarships
- ★ **SB 71:** Expands use of Louisiana’s Charter School Start-Up Loan Fund
- ★ **HB 378:** Levels ACT score expectations for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) eligibility
- ★ **HB 477:** Authorizes university laboratory schools to participate in the tax credit scholarship program

INNOVATION POLICY

- ★ **SB 59:** REINS-style rules review requiring legislative approval of high-cost regulations
- ★ **HB 99:** Ends judicial deference

OPPORTUNITY POLICY

- ★ **HB 427:** One Door – LA Works
- ★ **HB 617:** One Door – DCFS Reorganization

CIVIL JUSTICE & INSURANCE REFORM

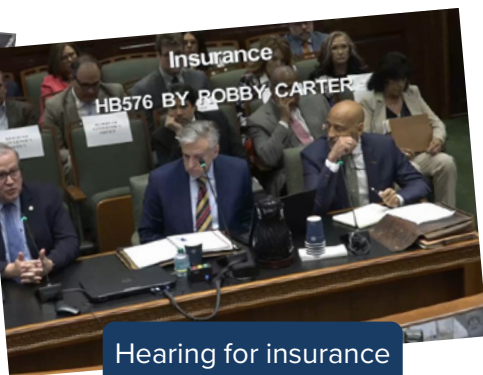
- ★ **SB 231:** Expands medical bill transparency by allowing evidence of both billed and paid amounts when private insurance, Medicare, and/or Medicaid are used
- ★ **HB 431:** Bars recovery for drivers 51% or more at fault
- ★ **HB 434:** Caps general damages at \$100,000 for uninsured drivers (special damages, including lost wages, remain recoverable)
- ★ **HB 450:** Ends injury presumption without evidence of causation



Hearing for One Door Workforce Reform which became Act 478 by Stephanie Berault



Hearing to End Judicial Deference, which became Act 139 by Representative Beth Billings



Hearing for insurance rate regulation changes

Media Coverage Highlights

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
Bad Business on the Bayou



SCOTUS hears oral arguments in Louisiana coastal case; industry organizations react

THE ADVOCATE

Quin Hillyer: Legislators should listen to huge demand for LA GATOR scholarships



Pelican Institute CEO: Louisiana's economy is on the line in SCOTUS case

Forbes

Louisiana is Litigating Away it's Economic Prosperity

Erin speaking on a panel at the LSU AI in Action symposium



President Trump's education plan draws mixed feelings in Louisiana



Sarah being interviewed Opt-In Showdown: How Unions Gutted Louisiana's Public-Sector Labor Reform



OUTLETS THAT COVERED OUR WORK





Pelican Leadership Academy

Since launching in January 2020, the Pelican Leadership Academy has equipped emerging leaders with training in ethics, public policy, the legislative process, and campaign fundamentals. Today, 99 graduates from communities across Louisiana are part of a growing network working to advance opportunity, strengthen civic engagement, and drive meaningful reform.



Members of the 2025 Pelican Leadership Academy celebrate their graduation at a closing dinner, where each participant receives their PLA pin and hears from alumni about how the program has shaped their personal and professional journeys.



The 2025 Pelican Leadership Academy class gathers for their first session, where participants are introduced to the Pelican Institute's mission, values, and policy priorities. This opening class sets the foundation for a year of leadership development, civic engagement, and principled policy learning.



Laura Neubert

OWNER, LADANCO LLC | RSCC & CADDO RPEC MEMBER

“They say the right environment can change your entire path, and for me, that environment was the Pelican Institute. Being surrounded by a community so dedicated to flourishing and freedom gave me the clarity I needed for my next chapter. It inspired a shift from being a student of policy to wanting to become an architect of it. I'm thrilled to share that I'll be continuing this journey by pursuing my Law and Policy doctorate at Liberty University, a move fueled by the encouragement and intellectual rigor I found at Pelican.



Ethan Estis

LAW STUDENT AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS COLLEGE OF LAW

“The Pelican Leadership Academy was a formative experience that challenged how I think, deepened my understanding of our nation, and connected me with Louisianians who care deeply about the future of the Pelican state. As a 2025 graduate, PLA sharpened my grasp of conservative principles, grounded me in the history of our nation's founding, and equipped me with practical, real-world leadership skills that too few programs prioritize. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity that the Pelican Institute afforded me.”



Pelican Center for Justice

In 2025, the Pelican Center for Justice continued to defend constitutional rights, protect economic opportunity, and hold government accountable in courts across Louisiana and the nation. Our legal team represented workers, small businesses, and service members facing unlawful mandates and arbitrary regulations, securing key victories and advancing high-impact cases. From protecting religious liberty to defending the right to earn a living and safeguarding energy jobs, these efforts ensured that the principles of freedom and opportunity were not just debated in the legislature but enforced in the courtroom.

The Pelican Center for Justice joined with the National Taxpayers Union Foundation to challenge Louisiana's confusing local sales tax collection scheme.



CASE SPOTLIGHTS



GALEY V. BIDEN

Victory for Religious Liberty

Filed on behalf of a U.S. Army master sergeant, this case challenged the military's denial of a religious exemption to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. In 2025, the Pelican Center for Justice reached a settlement with the federal government that included an award of attorneys' fees and policy improvements. The outcome helped vindicate the religious rights of service members and marked a significant victory against unconstitutional federal mandates.



STOOKSBURY V. LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Protecting the Right to Earn a Living

This case challenges an arbitrary licensing rule that forced experienced veterinarians to retake a national exam to practice in Louisiana. In 2025, the Pelican Center for Justice secured a key discovery win and an award of attorneys' fees, advancing the fight against unnecessary occupational licensing barriers. The case builds on the Institute's Right to Earn a Living Act and seeks to remove obstacles that prevent qualified professionals from working.



OIL & GAS WORKERS ASSOCIATION V. BIDEN

Defending American Energy Jobs

The Pelican Center for Justice challenged the federal government's halt on approvals for certain LNG exports, arguing the policy violated federal law and threatened American jobs and economic growth. In 2025, a related court ruling blocked the policy, and following a change in administration, the case was resolved as the export review process was restarted. The outcome protected energy workers and reinforced limits on federal overreach.

NEW ORLEANS
City BUSINESS

Pelican Institute questions U.S. legal system and energy production

LEGAL NEWS

SEC won't defend climate disclosure rule after legal challenge

American Press

Advocates warn Louisiana's coastal lawsuits are costing billions

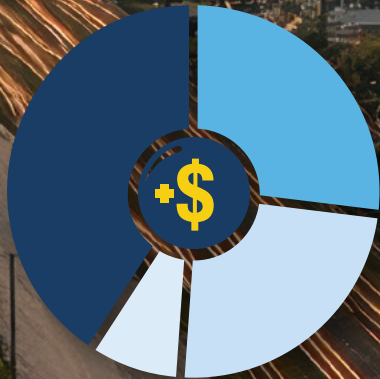


Financials

Thanks to hundreds of investors from all across Louisiana, financial support for the work of the Pelican Institute has grown substantially in the last seven years. Ultimately, these investments fuel the effectiveness of a robust durable infrastructure to achieve big wins for freedom in Louisiana. Thank you!

REVENUE

\$2,574,905*



Foundations

41%

Individuals

27%

Corporations

24%

Programs and Other

8%

EXPENSES

\$3,249,093*



Programs

88%

Management & General

7%

Fundraising

5%



*unaudited



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