



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

JOHN BEL EDWARDS

100 DAYS: PROMISES MADE AND KEPT

A Governor Who Keeps His Word

- **Medicaid Expansion** – Signed executive order on first full day in office to expand Medicaid coverage to working Louisianans by July 1, 2016, providing access to quality health care to more than 300,000 working Louisianans who don't have it now, and realizing \$184 million in savings to the state of Louisiana in the first year alone.
- **Road Relief Ramped Up** – After visits with President Obama, Vice-President Biden, and federal Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, Louisiana has just submitted a \$100 million FASTLANE grant for competitively-awarded federal funding to complete nearly 15 miles of new pavement and a new lane on I-10 between I49 and Atchafalaya Basin Bridge. If awarded, this will free up state money to do four other projects: a new Washington St. off-ramp in Baton Rouge; advancing the design of a reconstructed interchange at Loyola Avenue for the New Orleans Airport; and improving railroad crossings on the freight-rail corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans; and advancing the I-20/I220 interchange into Barksdale Air Force base.
- **Bring Back Passenger Rail** – Ready to meet the future, the governor is bringing federal dollars home to prepare and design a long-anticipated Baton Rouge to New Orleans passenger rail service. The state has participated in a Rail inspection tour between New Orleans and Tallahassee, and will be participating in the inspection tour along the I-20 Corridor this summer to connect Shreveport and Monroe. Additionally, DOTD is a full participant in the Southern Rail Commission.
- **Keep Road Dollars on the Road** – Returned more than \$60 million Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) dollars from state police to roads, and, even in difficult budget times, refused to use TTF dollars for next year's budget; is recommending more than \$107 million of general obligation bonds in the Capital Outlay bill to go directly to roads.
- **Rebuilding a Broken Relationship with the Federal Government** – Since the inauguration, the governor has met with the President, Vice President, and various cabinet officials on a number of issues in an effort to bring Louisiana tax dollars home.
- **Stabilize Louisiana's Budget Going Forward** – Just 34 days after taking office, convened a Special Session and worked to fill a \$940 million budget deficit for this year and a \$2 billion budget deficit next year (the largest in the state's history), cutting more than \$230 million from state government spending and leading the legislature in long-term fiscal and tax code reform work that was begun, but not completed.
- **Honest Executive Budgets** – Proposed an executive budget for next year with no contingencies, no one-time money gimmicks, no robbing of Transportation Trust Fund – a budget that would, albeit with painful cuts, balance next year's budget.

- **Walking the Walk** – Already saving money in the governor’s office by eliminating 9 of 22 existing outside contracts and cutting the number of employee positions filled – all while appointing cabinet members and hiring staff members from Louisiana who together reflect our home state’s impressive diversity and talents.
- **Bold Capital Outlay Reform** – For the first time in recent history, recommended the state’s construction project priority and funding list realistically match the amount of money available to fund projects, focus on fixing roads and maintaining dilapidated state buildings.
- **More Efficient Government** – Signed executive order directing all state agencies to review and report all outside contracts to the Commissioner of Administration, with recommendations for cuts.
- **Finish the Job** – Is leading the legislature into a second special session after this regular session, because the governor is determined to stabilize the budget long-term and where possible avoid the painful cuts currently proposed to balance the budget.
- **Saving TOPS** – Included in his first regular legislative session bill setting a baseline for TOPS, decoupling TOPS from tuition raises, setting the TOPS award rates at the 2016-17 tuition amounts in order to save this critically important college fund for Louisiana students in the future.
- **Honoring Our Veterans** – Appointed a well-respected Secretary of Veterans Affairs with a heart for service and improving the quality of health care available to our state’s servicemen and women; LDVA has already received a State Civil Service Commission Commendation for Human Resources performance and excelled recently in two rigorous federal inspections of both the Northwest Louisiana War Veterans Home in Bossier City and the Southwest Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jennings.
- **Equal Pay for Equal Work** – Included Equal Pay bill in his first regular session legislative package (so far passed through the Senate and currently in the House); paying female cabinet appointees comparably to their male predecessors.
- **Jobs, Jobs, Jobs** – Since January 11, the governor’s newly appointed Louisiana Economic Development (LED) secretary has announced economic development projects that will result in: more than 180 new direct jobs, an estimated 575 new indirect jobs, 1,295 retained jobs and \$1.1 billion in new capital investment in Louisiana. These new projects include an ExpressJet Airlines aircraft maintenance expansion in Shreveport; a major new expansion of Roundup Ready products by Monsanto in Luling; and OxyChem’s expansion to produce next-generation, climate-friendly refrigerants in Geismar. Groundbreakings have taken place for ShellChemical in Geismar, IBM in Monroe and for a new Perficient technology center in downtown Lafayette.
- **Train for Success** – LED FastStart has engaged in significant workforce efforts to support major economic development projects like Sasol (Lake Charles), Bell Helicopter (Lafayette), Monster Moto (Ruston) and LSU’s Louisiana Digital Media Center (Baton Rouge) that includes EA’s North America Test Center. In these first 100 days, FastStart has conducted 166 training classes throughout the state for 2,434 workers, accounting for more than 6,500 training hours.
- **Maximum Attention to Minimum Wage** – Fighting this regular session to establish a Louisiana state minimum wage, rising to \$8.50 in two years, leading the fight for a modest but meaningful increase for working men and women in Louisiana.

- **End Discrimination** – Signed executive order providing employment protections for state employees and employees of state contractors on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, political affiliation, disability, or age, with an exemption for religious organizations.
- **Raise the Age** – Proposing in first regular session legislative package to “Raise the Age” at which children can automatically be adjudicated in the adult system from 17 to 18 years of age, with discretion left to prosecutors in more serious crimes.
- **Local Control of Schools** – Proposing in first regular session legislative package to keep certain charter school decisions locally-controlled, rather than BESE board-controlled, and to strengthen support for “C” schools in public school districts, and to ensure that every publicly-funded school is required to hire certified, highly qualified classroom teachers.
- **Joining our Delta Region neighbors** – For the first time in eight years, a Louisiana governor attended a Delta Regional Authority (DRA) meeting; now bringing home more than \$3 million in federal grant dollars for poverty-stricken Delta communities, and millions more anticipated in DRA investment dollars to come.
- **Preparing Partnership to Put People to Work** – Will announce within the week a Department of Children and Family Services – Louisiana Workforce Commission partnership, using existing successful training programs to help ABAWD SNAP recipients marshal basic job skills and walk a pathway to sustainable employment.
- **Weathering the Storm** – Bringing much-needed federal disaster cleanup dollars home, requesting and receiving federal disaster declarations and traveling extensively to be on the ground with Louisiana storm victims after devastating tornados and severe rain and flooding weather events hit southeast, north and southwest Louisiana.
- **Building Resilience in Coastal Communities** – Accepted \$92 million US Housing and Urban Development grant to build storm resilience in Louisiana coastal communities, includes work in progress to relocating members of two Native American tribes to safer communities in a nationally-anticipated resettlement model.
- **Stick with the Master Plan** – Signed an executive order recognizing the value of the Coastal Restoration Master Plan and directing state agencies, departments and officers to perform their duties and functions in a manner consistent with the Master Plan.
- **Offshore Revenues Belong on the Coast** – Wrote public letter urging President Obama to withdraw 2017 federal budget proposal sharing with the rest of the nation GOMESA federal offshore oil revenues previously directed to Gulf States, revenues which Louisiana voters in 2006 constitutionally dedicated to fund the Coastal Restoration Master Plan.
- **Protecting Local Government** – Even in difficult budget times, is staying true to the promise not to cut local government revenue streams without a replacement for that local government income.