



NEWSLETTER NO. 4

ELLEVATE LOUISIANA



ELLEVATE LOUISIANA'S MISSION IS TO EMPOWER WOMEN LEADERS THROUGHOUT LOUISIANA BY CONNECTING & EDUCATING THEM ON THE CHALLENGES IMPACTING OUR STATE WITH DATA-DRIVEN, NON-PARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO USHER IN A NEW COMPETITIVENESS FOR OUR STATE.

The Legislative Process

I am new to this part of the law...the beginning. I have never been very politically involved, so one could say that when I entered law school, I came in at Act II of a three Act play, the middle. In law school, the first year, or as a 1L, you get the foundation of legal concepts and move on to case analysis quickly. It has been a while since I attended law school, but my recollection is that discussion of how laws are made may have been an insignificant part of a Constitutional Law class. Law school teaches you how to find the issue in a case, how to apply an existing rule or law and jurisprudence to the facts at hand, and how to end up with a conclusion or position. Putting that into practice is, of course, Act III. Knowledge of the beginning, or Act I when and how laws are made, is assumed when you enter law school. Act I is usually covered in high school Civics or an undergraduate Political Science class. I didn't take Civics and my undergraduate studies were in Psychology.

Now, don't get me wrong, I generally understood how laws are made a long time ago, and yes, before I entered law school. However, the intricate process that begins with electing our state representatives and senators, identifying an issue within the state, soliciting, or not, information and opinions from experts, stakeholders, and the public, drafting legislation, and moving through the legislative process is a lot more involved than most people appreciate. Additionally, many Louisianians do not fully understand the concept of our Civil Law system, which makes our legislative process all that more important. Our elected officials ARE making and amending the laws that guide our legal system in Louisiana. Case law is referenced after codified law unlike elsewhere in the United States where case law is typically primary.

Act I is currently playing out in the state capital and there is a lot at stake. With a new administration comes new priorities and sometimes novel solutions. While I think we can all agree that everyone involved in this process wants what is best for Louisiana and its citizens, there is much disagreement about how to achieve that. My recently acquired position as Policy Coordinator for Ellevate Louisiana has afforded me the opportunity to experience this legislative process from a unique perspective, and I am truly grateful to finally get to see, and experience, Act I.

By: Yvonne Krumins, *Ellevate Louisiana Policy Coordinator*

ELLEVATE LOUISIANA'S 2024 POLICY POSITIONS:

WORKFORCE & HIGHER EDUCATION

WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

Ellevate Louisiana supports efforts to alleviate workforce shortages in our state arising primarily from low workforce participation rates, through apprenticeships, workforce development & K-12 career readiness programs such as Dual



LOUISIANA
DUAL ENROLLMENT

Enrollment & Apprenticeships. This support includes expanded funding for the MJ Foster Promise Program as well as additional funding to maximize access to Dual Enrollment.

Furthermore, Ellevate supports efforts by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to centralize the delivery of business workforce solutions through collaborative partnerships among the various workforce & educational agencies of the state, including Board of Regents, LCTCS, LED, the Dept of Education, Dept of Public Safety & Corrections, & DCFS.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Our system of Higher Education underpins all our workforce development efforts. As our state nears its budgetary fiscal cliff in 2025, we believe that it is of utmost importance that funding for Higher Education remains stable with room to grow to support our workforce needs & the goals of Pathway to 2030 put forth by the Board of Regents.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & K-12

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Ellevate Louisiana continues to support the proposed \$87 million for Early Childhood Education funding in HBI & requests recurring appropriations into the Early Care & Education Fund. Ellevate also supports legislation to create a public, user-friendly data dashboard for early care & education in Louisiana. We consider both to be of urgent importance to families, to growing our workforce & to the futures of our youngest citizens.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Ellevate Louisiana supports the establishment of holistic Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics & funding for youth services & statewide crisis stabilization.



CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT AND FOSTER PARENTS

Ellevate Louisiana supports DCFS & LDH in the implementation of the Whole Health Louisiana State Plan, the DCFS Secretary's efforts to make reforms within the agency aimed at increasing the number of foster homes within the state & efforts at improvement in communication between DCFS, Foster Families & Louisiana's Child Ombudsman.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Ellevate Louisiana requests the continuation of the 2023 funding (\$7M) for domestic violence victims & requests additional funding for mental health & trauma-informed care for those that have suffered the effects of domestic violence.

LONG-TERM CARE

Ellevate Louisiana supports the use of \$2.7M of the Community Options Waiver Fund to provide new home & community-based supports for our senior citizens.

INCREASING MEDICAID RATES

Ellevate Louisiana supports the updating of Medicaid reimbursement rates. Some of these rates have not been adjusted in over a decade, resulting in inadequate reimbursements to healthcare providers, a shortage of participating providers & a lack of access to care. A healthy population supports a vision of a productive Louisiana.

TAXATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LED REORGANIZATION

Ellevate Louisiana supports the proposed reorganization of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. Modernizing our economic development efforts around a private-sector-led model

that is rooted in strategic planning, paired with a more streamlined procurement process, should provide LED greater stability between election cycles, an increased focus on strategic thinking & the flexibility to be more responsive to businesses looking to call Louisiana home.





Caminada Back Barrier Marsh Creation (Courtesy of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority via CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED Flickr).

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

RESTRUCTURING OF DENR & CPRA

Ellevate Louisiana has concerns about the speed at which the legislature & administration are moving to restructure DENR (formerly DNR) & CPRA. It is of utmost importance to preserve & enhance the scientific rigor of those institutions so that we are strong stewards of the natural environment that we inhabit.

ABANDONED WELLS

Louisiana currently enjoys a federal grant to help clean up a portion of the 4,500 abandoned wells on its lands and in its waters. There is an opportunity for additional grants in the future, however, that funding will be tied to measuring methane emissions from, & water quality around, the abandoned wells. The state should work conscientiously within the confines of that program to remediate wells that already exist & concentrate on preventing future abandonment.

COASTAL LAND LOSS

Louisiana's coast is disappearing at alarming rates. The state is fighting a constant battle to restore its coast & is anticipating a fiscal cliff due to the projected depletion of the BP Oil Spill money in 2032. It is crucial that the state maintain scientific rigor in this important work & plan for the coastal cliff in 2032. Ellevate Louisiana ardently believes that the CPRA should remain a single state entity with authority over Louisiana's coastline.



Explorer.AAPG.org

Furthermore, we believe that a portion of every surplus should continue to be appropriated to coastal efforts for as long as there are surpluses. Beyond that point, it is imperative that we identify new funding sources to replace BP Oil Spill funds when they are exhausted.



UPCOMING EVENT:

N.O. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2024 POWER UP: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

***ELLEVATE LA WILL BE SPONSORING A TABLE*
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!**

**ELLEVATE LA WILL HAVE A BREAKOUT SESSION
DURING SESSION 1 FROM 9:30AM-10:30AM**



Location

**New Orleans Ernest N. Morial
Convention Center
La Nouvelle Orleans Ballroom (2nd Fl.)
900 Convention Center Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70130**



Date

June 6, 2024



Time

8:00am - 5:00pm



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