

LEGISLATORS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD MANY OF THE RESET AGENDA'S GOALS.

01 TAXES

CREATE A FAIR AND COMPETITIVE TAX ENVIRONMENT

The Legislature passed long-awaited and greatly needed tax reform founded in sound public policy that if enacted by the people will achieve a critical objective of RESET following multiple years of investment and education by C100, PAR, and CABL. With input from the Governor, dedicated and determined Senate and House leadership built a coalition of strong support to create a breakthrough system for centralized sales tax collections and to lower the rates of the individual income tax dramatically while conserving revenue. They also reduced the harmful franchise tax and trimmed the number of brackets and the top rate of the corporate income tax. By eliminating the individual and corporate deductions for federal income tax, the reform package provides for a future that will not be impacted by actions outside of our control. However, in order to make these reforms a reality, we will need an equal if not greater level of dedication and determination to assure passage of these ballot measures this Fall. The session also bore new income tax rules for mobile workers, a useful modernization that if signed by the Governor will become law irrespective of the constitutional amendments. In all, Louisiana's tax structure stands to become simpler, fairer, more competitive, and better-ranked nationally.

02 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

MAKE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AN ASSET

The Legislature passed the first major increase in state-funded infrastructure revenue in more than 30 years, without raising taxes. The new resources will flow from a two-year phased-in dedication of 60% of vehicle sales taxes to a special infrastructure fund, keying into mega-projects as well as bridge repairs and road maintenance. The total will represent close to \$300 million when fully implemented in fiscal 2025 and then drop to about \$265 million annually after a temporary sales tax expires. As budgetary safeguards, only up to \$150 million can be bonded and the dedication would be limited under conditions of a budget deficit greater than \$100 million. These revenues are currently part of what funds higher education and health care, so we will have to support new ways to grow our economy, re-establish priorities or further reform our fiscal system to address this shift in financing. This legislation is not subject to a vote of the people but will go to the Governor's desk for his decision of whether to approve it. This initiative in the future will need a renewed commitment each year by the Legislature to stay with the plan.

03 CRIMINAL JUSTICE / PUBLIC SAFETY

BUILD AN EFFICIENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT IMPROVES PUBLIC SAFETY

The bipartisan effort to implement meaningful criminal justice reforms in Louisiana delivered an array of state policy reforms again this year including expanding earned sentence reductions, lessening the burden of probation and parole fees, piloting a new re-entry transition program, streamlining record expungements, and the decriminalization of small-amount possession of marijuana, each of which is designed to avoid unnecessary burdens on our system and enhance the path to re-entry.

04 HIGHER EDUCATION / WORKFORCE

BUILD THE TALENT POOL IN LOUISIANA

Higher education and workforce training saw a number of important advances this session. The M.J. Foster Promise Program will help thousands of working-age adults upgrade their skills by providing financial aid at the state's community and technical colleges. TOPS was fully funded, increased investment in the needs-based Go Grants program will serve more economically disadvantaged students than ever, and changes in state law will allow the sharing of data to evaluate and improve programs that prepare students for postsecondary education and the workforce. Overall, higher education received more than \$100 million in new investment, the largest increase in more than a decade.

05 EARLY CHILDHOOD

SEND ALL CHILDREN TO KINDERGARTEN READY TO LEARN

Massive federal recovery funding appeared to substitute temporarily for direct state funding of early childhood care and education programs, leaving more work to be done in this area. But lawmakers took a number of steps to improve early education opportunities in Louisiana by passing legislation to make kindergarten in Louisiana mandatory and dedicating 25% of future proceeds from sports wagering, capped at \$20 million. In response to requests from the Legislature, BESE approved more than \$30 million from various one-time federal relief funds to expand access to early care and education to economically disadvantaged families.

06 K-12

ADVANCE K-12 EDUCATION POLICIES THAT WORK

There was a major focus on early literacy this session and lawmakers passed initiatives that will help improve reading and the teaching of reading in grades K-3 along with a framework to assist struggling students in later grades. There were also measures to provide additional tutoring and support for students and expand certain school choice options. Teachers received an \$800 pay raise.

**RESET EXTENDS A SINCERE THANK YOU
TO ALL THE LEGISLATORS WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO LOUISIANA'S PROGRESS.**

**LOUISIANA IS A BETTER PLACE
TODAY BECAUSE OF YOUR WORK.**

RESET is a targeted, nonpartisan effort led by the **Committee of 100** (C100), the **Council for A Better Louisiana** (CABL), and the **Public Affairs Research Council** (PAR) focused on four state policy issues: education, state finance, criminal justice, and transportation infrastructure.