



PRESS RELEASE

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PAR Statement on Governor's Proposed Tax Reform

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana believes comprehensive, responsible tax reform is long overdue. The state's tax system is cluttered with too many exemptions, deductions and credits. It contains outdated, uncompetitive taxes that are out of step with the rest of the country.

That is why PAR applauds the attempt from Gov. Jeff Landry and his administration to revamp Louisiana's tax structure. They are taking a comprehensive, thoughtful approach to a complex issue, and at this early stage, they seem largely headed down the right path.

For decades, economists, tax experts and policy analysts have urged changes to state tax laws to make the system fairer, simpler and more competitive with neighboring states. In broad strokes, the governor's tax proposals incorporate many of the suggestions from previous study groups.

Louisiana's overall tax burden may be low compared to other states, but its tax structure is unnecessarily complex, requiring people and businesses to navigate a myriad of tax break offerings to lower their payment obligations.

PAR will undoubtedly disagree with some aspects of the governor's proposal and will share those concerns with elected officials and citizens. We will be engaged in an independent analysis of the recommendations and what they mean for taxpayers.

We also urge citizens, stakeholders and elected officials to scrutinize the proposals with an open mind. They should feel comfortable to offer constructive alternatives where they see room for improvement. Tax reform should be a bipartisan effort.

Louisiana shouldn't languish in poor policy choices made decades ago. We look forward to working with the governor and lawmakers to improve Louisiana's tax system and to inform the public about the proposed changes.