

CANDIDATE AGREEMENT WITH BLUEPRINT LOUISIANA

As candidates for public office in 2011, we agree in principle with Blueprint Louisiana's mission of identifying and implementing essential changes to make Louisiana a better place to live and work. Together, we will continue to work to create the state all of our citizens deserve.

We are committed to maintaining integrity in the legislative process, acting as catalysts for civic engagement, establishing targets of excellence, and recognizing that an effective and efficient government is part of the solution. If elected to public office for the 2012-16 term, we will consider and pursue legislation and policies to achieve the following goals that are summarized here and detailed at www.blueprintlouisiana.org:

- 1 • Prioritize Student Success Over Traditional Practices That Impede Performance in Public Schools.** Our adherence to long-standing models and systems, for tradition's sake, is not delivering the outcomes our students deserve or that our society requires in the 21st century. It is past time to replicate what we know works in public education—high-quality teachers and principals empowered to make performance-based decisions—and implement proven strategies in public schools in our state.
- 2 • Create A Single High-Quality Pre-Kindergarten System.** Louisiana should prioritize funding for pre-kindergarten and simplify access through a coordinated statewide program of high quality with accountability for outcomes.
- 3 • Re-Engineer Public Retirement and Health Care Benefits for Long-Term Stability.** Louisiana must act now to stem the growth in retirement and health care debt for public employees—both state workers and teachers. The state cannot afford to put off structural and systemic changes that ensure we live up to our commitments now and make more affordable policies for the future.
- 4 • Transition Louisiana's Charity Hospitals to Public-Private Partnerships.** The New Orleans network of primary care clinics and the upcoming Baton Rouge partnership between Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and Earl K. Long Hospital are best-practice models that should be applauded and replicated. The state should build on this progress and take the lead to encourage other regional partnerships, allowing Louisiana State University to focus on medical education and research.
- 5 • Adopt "Smart on Crime" Reforms that Reduce the Highest Incarceration Rate in the Nation.** Experts attribute "policy choices" as the primary determinant for incarceration rates, not crime itself. Louisiana must re-evaluate business as usual in our prison system and act on the recommendations of the Sentencing Commission to lower costs and improve outcomes.

By signing this non-binding document, I indicate my support for Blueprint Louisiana's goals and my willingness to actively work toward these goals and for passage of necessary legislation, where applicable.

Print Candidate Name

Sign Candidate Name

Office Seeking

Date