

**As sitting state legislators (2008-12 term) or candidates for the Louisiana Legislature, we agree with Blueprint Louisiana that essential changes are needed to fundamentally improve our state. Together, we will work to create the state we deserve.**

We are committed to maintaining integrity in the legislative process, acting as catalysts for civic engagement, establishing targets of excellence and making government part of the solution in our state. We also recognize that some items on the Blueprint Agenda require additional financial commitments from the state.

As a current or future member of the Louisiana Legislature for the 2008-12 term, we will work to pass legislation to achieve the following goals that are summarized here and detailed at [www.blueprintlouisiana.org](http://www.blueprintlouisiana.org).

**Adopt the Nation's Best Ethics Laws.** Blueprint is proud to report the accomplishment of its four ethics recommendations in 2008: (1) Financial disclosure for all legislators and statewide elected officials; (2) Increase public access to the details of lobbyist activities; (3) Transparency when allocating state funds for local projects; (4) Strengthening the Ethics Administration program to train our leaders, prevent violations, and enforce Louisiana's ethics laws.

**Prepare Students for a Lifetime of Success.** Blueprint believes that a lifetime of success requires a strong foundation of early childhood education followed by sustained support that leads to high school graduation and a path to higher education and the workforce. Enabling legislation to expand pre-kindergarten access to all four-year-olds was passed in 2008, but appropriations are needed to expand the eligibility requirements outlined in Act No. 876 and begin providing more access to Louisiana's successful Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Childhood Education Program.

**Develop the Skilled Workforce We Need.** Blueprint is proud to report the accomplishment of two of its three workforce development recommendations in 2008: (1) A redesign of the workforce delivery system in the state, utilizing the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS); (2) Expanding the state's "rapid response" capacity to establish high-demand training programs in a timely fashion. The remaining component of this agenda item is establishing "centers of excellence" to meet industry's workforce demand in key sectors.

**Provide First-Class Access to Health Care.** Blueprint accomplished the only health care item it pursued in 2008 – transparency in state spending on the uninsured. The remaining items on its health care agenda represent a middle ground approach to help improve uninsured care and strengthen medical education in the state. It is time for Louisiana to move toward a single, competitive health care system that is more efficient, cost-effective and better meets the needs of all patients. Responsibility for the uninsured should be shared among public and private providers, allowing LSU to focus on world-class graduate medical education and research.

**Build a Superior Transportation System.** Transportation funding received a boost during the second special session in 2008 with the passage of legislation and the use of surplus funds to invest more than \$500 million in transportation and infrastructure projects. Blueprint will continue to advocate for providing a more sustainable funding source for our highways and exploring the possible funding of mega-projects through public-private partnerships to further help Louisiana address long-term infrastructure needs.

**Coastal Restoration and Hurricane Protection.** Blueprint supports the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. Blueprint will continue to identify and support logical next steps to seriously address the dual challenges of coastal restoration and hurricane protection.

**Create a Knowledge-Based, Innovation-Driven Economy.** Louisiana must begin now to build and position its economy to grow and thrive in the years and decades ahead. This involves two steps: (1) shift to a performance-based formula to fund higher education – to reward the results we need to transform our economy; and (2) create a Louisiana Research Alliance (modeled after highly successful research alliance organizations in other states) to guide state investments to support diversification and growth of Louisiana's economy. In today's world, economic development and postsecondary education must be directly linked.

By signing this document, I indicate my continued support for the goals of Blueprint Louisiana and my willingness to actively work toward these goals and for passage of necessary legislation.

Print Legislator/Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sign Legislator/Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative District/Office Seeking \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_