



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2025 Policy Positions

Early Childhood Education & K-12

Early Childhood Education Funding Goals

Ellevate Louisiana supports the Ready Louisiana Coalition's call for sustained, recurring funding for early childhood education (ECE), recognizing its long-term impact on the state's success. We advocate for maintaining \$103.4 million for state pre-K, investing at least \$87.8 million in CCAP, and appropriating at least \$30 million to the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund to match local investment. Investing in our youngest learners is essential to building a stronger, more prosperous Louisiana.

Teacher Pay

Ellevate Louisiana supports raising public-school teacher salaries to meet the Southern regional average, recognizing fair pay as essential to attracting and retaining quality educators. With Louisiana teachers earning nearly \$5,000 less than regional peers on average, competitive and stable salaries are necessary to ensure all students receive high-quality instruction.

Dual Enrollment

Ellevate Louisiana strongly supports continued and expanded investment in dual enrollment programs to ensure equitable access for all students. By allowing high school students to earn college credit early, dual enrollment opens pathways to postsecondary success, reduces the cost of higher education, and better prepares young people for the workforce. Maximizing its availability is a smart, forward-thinking strategy to build a more educated and competitive Louisiana.



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Environment & Infrastructure

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East

We are concerned with the proposed reorganization of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East. This levee board was established in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to ensure political independence, professionalism, and sustainable flood protection. It has built a strong, reputable track record and should be preserved in its current structure and should not be changed.

Energy Policy

We support a comprehensive, all-of-the-above energy strategy that strengthens Louisiana as a competitor in both traditional and emerging energy markets. While we take advantage of the current administration’s support for domestic oil and gas, we must also pursue opportunities in renewable energy to ensure long-term environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and energy independence. A balanced approach will build Louisiana’s role as an energy innovator in a future-facing market.

Carbon Capture & Sequestration

While carbon capture & sequestration technology represents an economic opportunity for Louisiana that could potentially contribute to reducing carbon emissions, some energy experts worry that the technology is unproven. We believe any future deployments should be approached with caution, grounded in sound scientific evidence, and carried out with a commitment to safety, responsibility, and long-term impact assessment. Local governments and communities should have a meaningful voice in siting decisions to ensure public trust and protect community well-being.



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Coastal Restoration

Louisiana's coast is disappearing at one of the fastest rates in the world, threatening ecosystems, communities, and the state's economy. Billions in BP Oil Spill settlement funds have fueled vital restoration projects, but those funds are projected to run out by 2032, creating a looming fiscal cliff. Without action, progress could stall or reverse. It is critical that Louisiana continues to prioritize scientific integrity in coastal planning while identifying sustainable, long-term funding sources. Protecting our coastal environments is essential for the future resilience, safety, and prosperity of Louisiana and its residents.



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Health & Wellness

Behavioral Healthcare

Ellevate Louisiana supports the expansion of comprehensive mental health services, with a particular focus on increasing access to youth services and statewide crisis stabilization. Recognizing the critical issue of mental health and the significance of outcomes, we also advocate for increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health services. We support collaborative systems of care designed to support vulnerable populations and connect them with the resources they need.

Long-Term Care

Ellevate Louisiana supports adding 750 Community Choice waiver slots to the LDH budget to expand home and community-based care for seniors. We also support increased legal accountability for abuse or neglect in long-term care settings and oppose efforts to limit nursing home liability. Our aging population deserves stronger protections, greater dignity, more options to age in place and robust support from the state's health and human services system.

Mental Health Screening in Schools

Ellevate Louisiana advocates for free mental health screenings in schools as part of a proactive approach to identifying at-risk youth. By having the Louisiana Department of Health work in tandem with school systems to establish evidence-based early identification, prevention, and support systems, we can uplift students and reduce the number of young people falling through the cracks. These free screenings must require parental consent, should be destroyed after review with parent, and must not influence a student's record.



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Support for Victim of Domestic Violence

Ellevate Louisiana recognizes the urgent crisis of domestic abuse in our state and supports allocating \$10 million in the 2026 budget to aid victims. Domestic violence carries a massive human and economic cost, with statewide estimates exceeding \$10 billion annually. We also support sentencing leniency for survivors convicted of abuse-related crimes, as a step toward a more compassionate and just legal system that acknowledges the complex realities of domestic violence.

Maternal & Child Health

Ellevate Louisiana supports evidence-based policies that improve maternal and child health outcomes in a state with some of the nation's worst disparities. We advocate for expanded Medicaid and private insurance coverage for home visits, doula care, remote monitoring, and infant nutrition support—proven tools to improve outcomes and reduce costs. We also support access to maternal mental health services and efforts to expand obstetric care in underserved areas. Louisiana must strengthen its maternal health infrastructure to ensure all women receive comprehensive, high-quality care, regardless of income, location, or circumstance.

In Vitro Fertilization

Ellevate Louisiana supports protecting and expanding access to IVF, ensuring it remains accessible, safe, and affordable. We advocate for patient-centered care that respects the personal nature of fertility treatment and upholds the ability of patients and physicians to make informed, medically guided decisions.

Cancer Care in Declared Emergencies

Ellevate Louisiana supports pausing prior authorization requirements for cancer care under Medicaid during declared emergencies. Disruptions from natural disasters can delay critical treatments, and timely, uninterrupted care is essential for cancer patients. This policy would help ensure continuity of care when patients are most vulnerable.



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Water Quality & Fluoridation

Ellevate Louisiana opposes a statewide ban on water fluoridation. Decades of research confirm that fluoridated water is the single most effective and inexpensive public health measure to prevent tooth decay, particularly in children and low-income populations. Communities that fluoridate their water experience significantly lower rates of dental disease, and proposals for unnecessary restrictions undermine local control and jeopardize long-standing public health protections.

Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

Ellevate Louisiana supports increasing physician reimbursement rates for Medicaid to 85% of Medicare rates as proposed in the FY26 state budget as an initial step towards reaching 100% parity between Medicaid-Medicare rates. Research has shown access to Medicaid insurance directly leads to positive economic impacts not just in the healthcare sector but spread across the state. Increasing physician reimbursement rates should improve access and support the needs of over one million Louisianans, expanding access to care for vulnerable populations, reducing disparities, and strengthening the state's public health outcomes.

Efficient and timely Medicaid eligibility verification is vital to maintaining continuity of care and preventing lapses that can worsen health outcomes. We support balanced approaches that protect the integrity of Medicaid while ensuring accessibility and fairness for those it serves.

Tobacco & Vaping Products

Ellevate Louisiana supports raising excise taxes on tobacco and vaping products as an effective public health measure. With youth vaping rates alarmingly high in Louisiana, higher prices can significantly reduce use and prevent early addiction. Even a 10% price increase can cut youth e-cigarette use by up to 24%. Given the state's \$2 billion in smoking-related healthcare costs, increasing these taxes is a smart, cost-effective way to improve health and reduce long-term public expenses.



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Taxation & Economic Development

LED Initiatives

Ellevate Louisiana supports Louisiana Economic Development's proposed initiatives to enhance the state's competitiveness for business investment. The creation of the Site Investment and Infrastructure Improvement Fund and the High Impact Job Program represent promising strategies to attract businesses while encouraging quality job creation. These targeted incentives have the potential to not only draw new industries to Louisiana but also to raise wages and stimulate economic growth in the regions they serve.

Sales Tax Base Alignment

Ellevate Louisiana recognizes that Louisiana's state and local sales tax bases are not currently aligned, creating complexity and inconsistency for taxpayers. To avoid exacerbating this problem, any new sales tax exemptions should also be applied uniformly at the state and local level.



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Workforce & Higher Education

Louisiana Workforce Commission & DCFS Restructuring

Ellevate Louisiana supports the “one-door” approach proposed by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, recognizing its potential to streamline access to employment services and social support services. It is our hope that this becomes a person-centered model that connects individuals to training, childcare, and other resources that reduce barriers to work and promote self-sufficiency. Incorporating reporting requirements to highlight the model’s outcomes and cost savings would strengthen transparency and demonstrate its impact.

We advocate for a balanced workforce strategy that includes expanding eligibility for training opportunities like the MJ Foster Promise Program which equip individuals with the relevant skills to thrive in the workforce. In addition, we support raising the minimum wage and increasing the earned income tax credit to better support working families and ALICE populations amid rising costs of living.

Work Based Learning

Ellevate Louisiana supports work-based learning initiatives and the use of tax credits and grant incentives to empower employers to hire more apprentices, interns, and youth workers. Strengthening these opportunities equips students with real-world skills, helps them make informed career decisions, and eases their transition into higher education or the workforce. By fostering school-business partnerships and offering financial incentives, we can better connect classroom learning with practical experience—benefiting both students and employers.