



ELLEVATE
LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Early Childhood Education & K-12

Early Childhood Education

Ellevate Louisiana, as part of the Ready Louisiana Coalition, supports sustained, recurring funding for early childhood care as a critical driver for Louisiana's workforce participation and long-term economic growth. Strengthening access to affordable, high-quality early learning supports working families, improves lifelong outcomes, and enhances the state's talent pipeline. We support maintaining and expanding funding for programs such as CCAP and the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, including policies that codify and strengthen the fund's matching structure to ensure state investment keeps pace with local demand. Innovative approaches to expand care such as school-based microcenters and expanded dedicated funding streams present important opportunities to increase access. Improving quality, optimizing delivery, and expanding early childhood care are essential to uplifting Louisiana's youngest learners and the families who depend on these services.

Teacher Pay

Ellevate Louisiana supports raising public school teacher salaries to at least the Southern regional average to recruit and retain high-quality educators. Competitive and stable compensation is essential to addressing teacher shortages, strengthening the education workforce, and ensuring students receive the high-quality instruction they deserve. Policies that improve teacher pay and support workforce stability will help Louisiana attract talented educators, retain experienced teachers, and enhance student outcomes statewide.



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LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Early Childhood Education & K-12

Dual Enrollment & Postsecondary Pathways

Ellevate Louisiana supports expanding equitable access to dual enrollment opportunities that allow high school students to earn college credit while still in school. Dual enrollment accelerates students' progress toward postsecondary education, reduces the cost of obtaining a degree, and strengthens preparedness for the workforce. We support policies that streamline participation, remove barriers to access, and accelerate the attainment of high-quality credentials, including the development of a single statewide application process and stronger coordination between K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions.

Career Exposure & Work-Based Learning

Ellevate Louisiana supports policies that strengthen cradle-to-career pathways for Louisiana students. As economic development accelerates and job markets grow more competitive, the state must ensure students have meaningful opportunities, early in their education, to develop the skills and experiences needed to succeed in their home state. We encourage policies that foster strong partnerships between schools, businesses, and industry, aligning education with Louisiana's evolving workforce needs and meeting employer demand. Expanding career exposure, work-based learning, internships, youth apprenticeships, and other hands-on opportunities will better prepare students for success while bolstering Louisiana's workforce and economy.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Environment & Infrastructure

Coastal Protection, Restoration, & Flood Protection

Louisiana's coast is disappearing at one of the fastest rates in the world, threatening ecosystems, communities, and the state's economy. Ellevate supports maintaining the integrity of the Coastal Master Plan and ensuring restoration decisions remain grounded in science and long-term resilience. We advocate for increased transparency and accountability in coastal spending, including clear reporting of project budgets, expenditures, and outcomes to ensure that restoration funds are used effectively and maintain public trust.

It is also crucial that the non-federal flood authorities responsible for the operation and maintenance of the HSDRRS pump stations and levees that protect the greater New Orleans area from hurricanes are governed by board members qualified with appropriate technical expertise. These systems require informed, science-based oversight to ensure their continued effectiveness. Additionally, millage funds should be responsibly allocated toward regular levee lifts and ongoing maintenance, which are essential to strengthening the system and maintaining federal certification.

Utility Transparency & Consumer Protection

Reliable utilities are essential to Louisiana's economy and quality of life, and this reliance requires trust and good-faith operations by providers. The state should reinforce that trust through strong oversight, transparency, and clear accountability measures. As major economic development investments come to Louisiana, individual ratepayers should not bear the costs of infrastructure built primarily to support private development. Louisiana welcomes new economic opportunities, but policies should ensure that ratepayers remain protected and that costs are allocated fairly.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Environment & Infrastructure

Resilient Housing Development

Facing increasing storm severity and sky-high insurance premiums, resilient homebuilding and fortification are critical to the future of life in Louisiana. Ellevate supports expanding affordable access to wind mitigation studies, maintaining strong building standards and other resilience measures that help homeowners better withstand severe weather. Strengthening building practices and supporting programs that help offset the cost of fortification can mitigate long-term disaster losses, stabilize insurance markets, and protect Louisiana families and communities.

Broadband Access & Expansion

Reliable broadband access is essential for economic development, education, healthcare, and quality of life across Louisiana. Ellevate supports policies that expand broadband access while ensuring transparency, accountability, and consumer protections in broadband programs. Oversight mechanisms should ensure that publicly funded broadband investments deliver reliable service, clear pricing, and equitable access for rural and underserved communities.

Infrastructure Improvement & Development

Ellevate Louisiana supports the improvement and expansion of our state's infrastructure network, including ports, rail, roads, utilities, and site readiness needed to attract and sustain economic development. These systems are essential levers of commerce and should remain a priority for the state, as trade is the lifeblood of Louisiana's economy. However, infrastructure initiatives must be paired with sustainable funding and project delivery. The state should ensure that new programs and requirements are not unfunded mandates and that projects identified as priorities are supported with the resources necessary to complete them.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Health & Wellness

Mental & Behavioral Health

Ellevate Louisiana supports expanding access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services across the state, with particular attention to youth mental health, crisis stabilization services, and building behavioral health workforce capacity. We support policies that increase insurance coverage for behavioral health crisis services, expand access to mental health services in schools, and strengthen coordinated systems of care that connect individuals and families to appropriate treatment and support. Louisiana must prioritize early intervention, reduce barriers to care, and ensure that behavioral health services are available where people live, learn, and work.

Long-Term Care Quality & Access

Ellevate Louisiana supports policies that improve the quality, accountability, and accessibility of long-term care services. We support expanding home- and community-based care options, including obtaining an additional \$3.3 million in state funding for 750 new Community Choice Waiver Slots, which allow seniors to age with dignity in their homes and communities. We also support reforms that improve quality and transparency in nursing facilities, ensure accountability for neglect or abuse, and provide families with meaningful choices between institutional and community-based care options.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Health & Wellness

Maternal & Child Health

Ellevate Louisiana supports evidence-based policies that improve maternal and child health outcomes and strengthen care for women and families across the state. This includes expanding access to maternal health services, improving care coordination during pregnancy and postpartum, and ensuring families receive the support needed for healthy births and early childhood development. We also advocate for appropriate oversight, transparency, and medical standards when public funds support pregnancy centers or when clinical services are provided in pregnancy support settings, ensuring women receive accurate information, qualified care, and appropriate privacy protections. Strengthening maternal health systems is essential to reducing maternal mortality, addressing disparities in care, and improving outcomes for mothers and infants across Louisiana.

Child Welfare & Protection

Ellevate Louisiana supports policies that strengthen protections for vulnerable children and improve the systems responsible for their safety and wellbeing. This includes common-sense measures that prevent minors from accessing unsecured firearms, recognizing that safe storage policies are an important component of preventing accidental injury and youth suicide. We also advocate for more robust funding to strengthen DCFS operations and prevent child abuse, including improved oversight and accountability within child welfare systems. Additionally, we support policies that address emerging threats to children's safety, including online exploitation, harmful digital content, and the misuse of artificial intelligence and technology.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Health & Wellness

Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Ellevate Louisiana supports policies that protect survivors of domestic violence, improve access to services following abuse, and ensure justice for survivors charged with crimes related to their abuse. We support stronger legal protections against domestic violence offenses, improved access to forensic examinations, and medical care for survivors. We advocate for maintaining the \$7 million in recurring funding dedicated to services for victims of domestic violence, however an additional \$3 million is necessary to fully support survivors in this state. Louisiana must continue strengthening the systems that protect victims and hold offenders accountable.

Healthcare Price Transparency & Affordability

Ellevate Louisiana supports comprehensive transparency and accountability across the entire healthcare system to address rising costs. High prices are not driven by a single sector, but by the cumulative impact of pricing practices across prescription drugs, hospitals, insurers, and other market participants. At the same time, high deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums shift significant financial burden onto patients, often making care unaffordable even when coverage exists. Policies that require clear, accessible pricing information, strengthen oversight of cost drivers, and improve disclosure across all parts of the healthcare marketplace will better equip patients, employers, and policymakers to identify inefficiencies and advance meaningful affordability solutions.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Health & Wellness

Public Health & Prevention

Ellevate Louisiana supports evidence-based public health policies that protect and improve the health of individuals, families, and communities across our state. This includes maintaining strong vaccination programs, preserving proven public health measures such as community water fluoridation, reducing tobacco and vaping use, improving environmental health and safety standards, expanding access to preventive care such as screenings and early detection services, and supporting efforts that make healthcare more accessible and affordable. We also support strengthening the social conditions that influence health, including nutrition, housing stability, and community support systems. A healthier population is essential to Louisiana's future, supporting stronger families, a more productive workforce, and long-term economic and community wellbeing.



ELLEVATE
LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Cancer Advocacy

Cancer Screening & Early Detection

Ellevate Louisiana supports policies that expand access to lifesaving cancer screenings, recognizing early detection as one of the most effective tools to reduce cancer mortality and improve outcomes. Expanding coverage for screenings, including prostate and colorectal cancer, should be a key priority this session. Removing barriers to timely and appropriate screening ensures more individuals are diagnosed earlier, when treatment is most effective, ultimately saving lives and reducing long-term healthcare costs.

Biomarker Testing & Clinically Guided Care

Ellevate Louisiana supports access to biomarker testing as a critical component of modern, evidence-based cancer care. These tools enable physicians to match patients with the most effective, targeted therapies based on the biology of their disease. Coverage policies should align with established clinical guidelines and preserve physician decision-making, ensuring that insurance determinations do not override medically appropriate care. Patients should have access to the right treatment at the right time, guided by science and their healthcare provider.

Ensuring Equitable Access to Oral Anti-Cancer Treatments

Policies that support equitable coverage for orally administered anti-cancer medications represent another important advancement for patients. As cancer care continues to evolve, many effective therapies are now available in oral form, allowing patients to receive treatment while maintaining their daily routines and quality of life. Ensuring that oral therapies are covered on a basis no less favorable than infused medications helps ensure that treatment decisions are guided by medical evidence rather than insurance design.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Cancer Advocacy

Compassionate Care for Patients Facing End-of-Life

Legislation addressing access to physician-recommended therapies for terminally ill patients reflects Louisiana's commitment to compassionate, patient-centered care. Providing thoughtful guidelines that allow patients to pursue comfort-focused therapies while receiving care in healthcare facilities respects the dignity and autonomy of individuals facing life-limiting illness.

Transparency & Accountability for PBMs

Ellevate supports reforms designed to bring greater transparency and accountability to the prescription drug supply chain, particularly the role of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Patients, employers, and healthcare providers increasingly recognize the need for greater visibility into how prescription drug prices are determined and how rebates and fees flow through the system.

Measures under consideration would strengthen oversight, require transparency in PBM business practices, prohibit spread pricing, ensure rebates are passed through appropriately, and expand the authority of state regulators to audit and verify compliance. These reforms represent meaningful steps toward restoring trust and ensuring that savings in the drug supply chain benefit patients and plan sponsors.

Reducing the Burden of Medical Debt

Ellevate supports policies that protect patients from the financial harm of medical debt, particularly when driven by serious health conditions outside of an individual's control. In Louisiana, medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy and can delay care and destabilize families. We support preventing predatory collections practices, capping interest rates, prohibiting wage garnishment for lower income patients, and limiting foreclosure risk.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Taxation & Economic Development

Sales Tax Centralization

Ellevate Louisiana supports efforts to centralize and streamline Louisiana's state and local sales and use tax collection systems. Louisiana's fragmented structure creates unnecessary complexity and barriers to investment. Establishing a unified system for sales tax collection and administration will improve efficiency, enhance transparency, reduce administrative costs for businesses and governments alike, and strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness for economic development. Ellevate supports legislative initiatives that advance centralized collection while preserving appropriate local authority and ensuring fairness for taxpayers across jurisdictions.

Economic Development & Workforce Incentives

Ellevate Louisiana supports targeted economic development and workforce initiatives that strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness for business investment and job creation. Programs that nurture innovation, workforce training partnerships, and employer-driven skill development help align Louisiana's talent pipeline with industry needs while encouraging high-quality job opportunities for residents. Strategic investments in initiatives such as workforce training expansion and talent development programs can play a critical role in attracting businesses, growing wages, and fostering long-term, sustainable economic growth across the state.



ELLEVATE

LOUISIANA

2026 Policy Positions

Workforce & Higher Education

Workforce System Optimization & Cradle-to-Career Alignment

Ellevate Louisiana supports strengthening the state's workforce strategy through a coordinated, forward-thinking approach that optimizes Louisiana Works and aligns education with workforce demand. We support workforce agency efforts to streamline operations, better leverage state assets, and create a more responsive, employer-driven workforce system. As part of this strategy, we support policies that increase economic mobility for working families, including raising the minimum wage and expanding investment in the MJ Foster Promise Program to meet growing demand for workforce training. We also support strengthening Louisiana's cradle-to-career pipeline by expanding access to dual enrollment, TOPS and TOPS-Tech opportunities, and high-quality work-based learning experiences that connect students to in-demand careers and support long-term economic growth across the state.