

## 2019 Legislative and Gubernatorial Elections Platform

Time and again, the Baton Rouge Area economy has shown its ability to flourish and grow in spite of a sometimes-negative environment. Over the last five years, household income has risen in the region. Our gross regional product outperforms most of our peer cities. Thousands of new residents are choosing to make the region home.

Nonetheless, key components of a negative environment persist, whether in the form of congested transportation infrastructure, non-competitive tax policies, poor flooding mitigation, and more. The regional business community faces many challenges that must be overcome, because robust economic development benefits everyone; it's truly a tide that raises all ships.

Those who represent the people in the Capitol, who have chosen and been elected to the leadership of Louisiana, are keenly responsible for creation of a pro-growth environment. The decisions made by those who take on these roles will resonate in positive and negative consequences for years.

BRAC's 2019 elections platform is informed by direct input from BRAC's investors, board of directors, and regional economic and policy partners. BRAC urges all candidates for legislative and gubernatorial races to consider and adopt the following platform.



- Call a special session on **transportation and infrastructure** in 2020 to both raise the gas tax and index it to inflation. Additionally, support passenger rail between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, connecting the super-region economy and providing a key evacuation route for natural disasters.
- Pursue aggressive **economic development and entrepreneurship** activities, including strengthening the predictability and transparency of incentives, and developing a strong statewide innovation framework that fully supports research universities' pursuit of national competitiveness.
- Invest in **workforce development** at all levels by funding universal access to high-quality early childhood education for students in-need ages birth to 3, holding districts accountable for enacting ESSA plans focused on dramatically improving low-performing schools, and developing a statewide framework for youth and adult apprenticeships, particularly for non-traditional industries.
- Create a **budgetary and fiscal environment that will make Louisiana competitive** with other states for both new business investment and new talent, and fairer and less complex for existing businesses and residents by implementing the recommendations of the 2017 Structural Changes in Budget and Tax Policy, including calling a constitutional convention to review each constitutional dedication.
- Focus on **quality of place** to drive talent recruitment and retention by enforcing state-level "complete streets" policies, implementing higher standards for interstate and prime corridor infrastructure maintenance and repair, and developing an aggressive statewide policy and action plan for flood mitigation.