

## BRAC Releases Positions on Statewide Ballot Referendums

With early voting starting last week, BRAC announced positions on two of the six constitutional amendments that will be appearing on the November 6th statewide ballot. BRAC is neutral on the other amendments. BRAC encourages voters to support both amendments.

### Proposed Constitutional Amendments

BRAC supports both Amendment No. 2 and Amendment No. 4. As the Capital Region's lead economic development organization and as an advocacy voice for the business community, BRAC has long supported policies that impact economic competitiveness and quality of life in the Capital Region and the state. Amendment No. 2 will overturn a policy that uniquely lowers the burden of proof for Louisiana citizens and contributes to the state's overincarceration problem. Amendment No. 4 removes state police from eligible Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures. Louisiana residents expect TTF dollars to go exclusively towards transportation needs, which this amendment ensures.

### Amendment No. 2 – Require a unanimous jury verdict in all felony cases

#### ★ BRAC Recommendation: Yes

Louisiana and Oregon are the only states in the nation that do not currently require a unanimous jury for all felony cases, and Louisiana is the only state that only requires a unanimous jury for capital punishment trials. This law, which explicitly and disproportionately impacts African-Americans, is bad policy and contributes to Louisiana's expensive and unsustainable over-incarceration problem. Louisianans deserve the same protection under the law that states all over the country provide for their citizens, which includes the same presumption of innocence and the same burden of proof.

### Amendment No. 4 – Prohibit using money in the Transportation Trust Fund by state police for traffic control purposes

#### ★ BRAC Recommendation: Yes

The dollars deposited into the TTF from the state gas tax are to be used for transportation-related infrastructure needs. Governor John Bel Edwards took the appropriate step of stopping the long-running transfer of money from the TTF to state police when he took office. However, there is nothing in the law to prevent a reversal of that policy; this amendment would permanently remove the state police from eligible TTF expenditures. Like the 2017 constitutional amendment that created the TTF's construction sub-fund, Amendment No. 4 is an important step towards ensuring that existing gas tax dollars are used appropriately while we work to right-size gas tax revenues to meet the state's infrastructure needs.

For more information about these and other statewide proposals on the November 6th ballot, BRAC encourages voters to review [PAR's Guide to the 2018 Constitutional Amendments](#).

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