

BRAC Releases Positions on Statewide Ballot Referendums for October 14 Election

With early voting starting tomorrow, BRAC today announced its support for two of three proposed statewide constitutional amendments. BRAC is neutral on the other amendment appearing on the October 14 ballot.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

BRAC supports both Amendment No. 1 and Amendment No. 3. As the leader of economic development for the nine parish Capital Region, BRAC has long championed policies that enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of our region. Amendment No. 1 will help protect individual property owners and business owners from burdensome and overreaching property taxing authority. Amendment No. 3 requires all new gas tax revenues be dedicated solely to the construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure projects — something Louisiana residents and legislators have long been asking for.

Amendment No. 1 — Prohibits the assessment of property taxes on any construction project while it is under construction

BRAC Recommendation: Yes

This constitutional amendment will codify what has long been common practice in Louisiana by prohibiting the assessment of property taxes against a construction project until the construction project is complete and can be used or occupied for its intended use. Passing this constitutional amendment would remove the blurred lines of the state's current law on the subject and would clearly define that no property tax can be assessed against a home or business owner until their construction project has been completed.

Amendment No. 3 — Protects revenue generated by a new gas tax by ensuring these funds are only utilized for costs associated with actual transportation project delivery, construction and maintenance

BRAC Recommendation: Yes

Louisiana's transportation infrastructure is crumbling and traffic congestion is negatively impacting economic growth in the Capital Region and throughout the state. Before residents and legislators can commit to an increased investment in our state's transportation infrastructure, they want to first know that additional revenue generated for transportation will be spent on roads and bridges. By creating a "Construction Subfund" within the Transportation Trust Fund where all new revenue generated by any future increased gas tax will be appropriated and dedicated solely to the funding of transportation project delivery, construction and maintenance, the passage of this amendment would give Louisiana residents the assurance their tax dollars will be spent on their intended purpose.

For more information about these and other statewide proposals on the October 14 ballot, BRAC encourages voters to review [PAR's Guide to the 2017 Constitutional Amendments](#).