



LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEERS

April 18, 2017

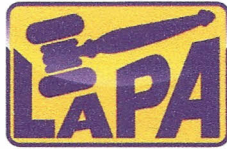
Rep. Steve Carter
3115 Old Forge Drive
Baton Rouge LA 70808

Dear Rep. Carter:

Enough with all the taxation! I think the recent incredible success of U. S. Sen. John Kennedy, in which he captured nearly 61% of the vote, speaks volumes of Louisiana voters' resounding endorsement of his core theme: "Louisiana does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem."

Under the current administration, we have seen already-exorbitant salaries of cabinet members under Gov. Bobby Jindal increased! We have seen the following pork-barrel projects funded at a time that the State is supposedly "flat broke:"

- \$9,236,300 for a soccer stadium in Algiers
- \$1,100,000 for the C.C. Antoine Park in Shreveport
- \$60,900 for a junior golf course in Shreveport
- \$66,600 for a farmer's market in Westwego
- \$1,450,000 for parks in Westwego
- \$1,004,400 for an arts and community center in Westwego
- \$203,800 for a farmer's market in Winnsboro
- \$971,200 for a sports complex in Youngsville
- \$1,500,000 for Tulane University, which last time I checked was private
- \$700,000 for the Baton Rouge metro airport, which no one uses
- \$13,928,100 for the National World War II Museum, a NGO
- \$4,117,900 for Kingsley House, another NGO
- \$15,000 for Efforts of Grace, a NGO
- \$100,000 for the McKinley High School Alumni Association
- \$2,850,000 for Lighthouse For The Blind
- \$100,000 for the Baton Rouge YMCA
- \$300,000 for the Archdiocese of New Orleans
- \$55,000 for Reconcile New Orleans, Inc.
- \$200,000 for the Louisiana Association For The Blind
- \$405,000 for the Opportunities Industrialization Center
- \$35,000 for the Boys and Girls Club



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We have seen one article after another of state employees in whom we have placed our trust engage in rampant payroll fraud. Meanwhile, we've seen **no effort whatsoever** to undertake actions such as the following:

- ** Reduce state consulting contracts across the board by 10-15%.
- ** Eliminate NGO funding in its entirety.
- ** Zero out budget expenditures for entities such as LPB which should have lost taxpayer funding long ago.
- ** Insist upon targeted budget cuts at Higher Ed institutions for programs such as interior design.
- ** Institute a patient navigator program such as that deployed at Hermann Hospital in Houston to drastically lower the state's Medicaid costs by steering non-emergency care patients away from high-cost emergency rooms.

The temporary sales tax increase was supposed to provide a "bridge" to **structural spending reforms** such as those itemized above and **NOT** so that lawmakers could claim they were providing voters with a "tax cut" by not renewing it, only to then have the tax increases they imposed shifted to other means of revenue increasing measures such as the proposed gasoline tax. Furthermore, the so-called "tax reform" being bantered about among supporters of the Gov. Edwards assert that a tax break will transpire to 90% - 98% (depending on whom is making the assertion) of taxpayers at the expense of the remainder.

That "remainder" are folk typically having the capability to relocating to Texas to reduce their tax burdens, and that fact never seems to be factored in when all these revenue measures are proposed. Once those folk relocate to Texas, it makes the problem the next fiscal year that much more difficult to solve through yet more tax increase. In short, these measures are economic death spirals, and all one must do is ask the Governor of Connecticut, Daniel Malloy, if that is not the case. Gov. Edwards is running on a parallel course to Gov. Malloy merely running about two years behind him. Unlike Gov. Malloy, however, Gov. Edwards doesn't even have large corporate taxpayers like GE, which relocated to Boston upon Malloy's massive tax increases.

Enough is enough! Stop the fixation on raising taxes and begin implementing structural spending reforms such as those outlined in this letter, and get Louisiana's fiscal ship sailing in smooth waters.

Sincerely,

Robert Edwin Burns