



FIGHTS
for *You*



Urban League
of Louisiana

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

IN THIS AGENDA:

- Leadership Statement
- Policy Priorities
- About Legislative Agenda
- Legislative Agenda
- Act Now!

Dear Community and Allies,

The political environment we find ourselves in requires organizations like the Urban League of Louisiana, its partners, and valued constituents to be clear-eyed, collaborative, and consistent in our efforts to combat all political assaults against Black and marginalized communities. In this moment we are facing a governor, statewide elected officials, and legislative super-majority pushing an extreme conservative agenda that is a part of a national agenda versus rooted in the needs of the people of Louisiana. In just the first three months, many in the majority have hurried a special crime session heavy on rhetoric and revenge, but light on safety. We are in the midst of a regular legislative session where logic rejected by the majority in the past session, is now being used by the majority to block most common-sense legislation. And if that wasn't enough, the governor and some of his allies are threatening a Constitutional Convention that is rushed, ill-conceived, and facing public opposition from all parts of the political spectrum. All of this and more underscores the urgency proponents of people-driven policy prescriptions must continue to advance. As such, the Urban League of Louisiana announces its 2024 Legislative Policy Agenda with a singular focus – to deliver for our people!

This year's agenda features proposed legislation that is the **direct result** of what our constituents in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport, told us required immediate attention during our 2023 Listen & Learn Tour executed in partnership with the **Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus** and **Southern Poverty Law Center**. This agenda delivers on our promise to fight for what our people told us they wanted to see. Our agenda supports and seeks bold policy changes concerning: **Food Deserts**; Community Policing & De-Escalation Training; **Law Enforcement Reporting & Transparency**; Minimum Wage; and **Gun Safety Warning Labels**. Additionally, we're working with legislators to gain additional insight to strengthen apprenticeships and procurement laws in the future. The proposed laws in our Agenda are meant to improve the quality of life of Louisianans! We are excited to partner with smart and dedicated state legislators who are committed to authoring data-driven solutions and best practices to our laws.

Our organization will continue the important work of understanding the lived experiences of communities of color so that we may advocate for the reforms required to lift all Louisianans. We will utilize every tool and platform at our disposal to aid in the empowerment of communities that some in the political class would rather see disenfranchised.

We are thankful for all of the community, advocacy, civic, philanthropic and elected leaders who work with and support our policy and advocacy work. We are especially grateful Chairman Rep. Edmond Jordan and the entire Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus for their continued partnership.

Yours in Service,



Judy Reese Morse
President & CEO



Tyrone B. Walker
Vice President for Policy, Strategic
Partnerships and Development

POLICY PRIORITIES

The Urban League of Louisiana's Policy Priorities aim to profoundly affect Black and Brown communities within the League's seven target cities and Louisianans as a whole. ULLA continues to develop and implement a multifaceted approach of impacting the following Policy Priorities - **Criminal Justice Reform**, where we're addressing structural and historic issues within the criminal justice systems; **Closing the Racial Wealth Gap**, via the SEE Change Collective which is a catalyst focusing on Blacks, Hispanics, and Latinos; **Education Equity**, focusing on student access to fair learning environments and teacher resources; **Health Equity**, through work to ensure that underserved communities have access to quality healthcare; **Safety**, programs protecting citizens from causes of danger, risk, or injury; **Voting Rights**, combating disenfranchisement and promoting uninhibited, informed participation in our democracy; and **Workforce & Economic Development**, strengthening minority businesses and Louisiana's economy through increase access to capital and the expansion of apprenticeship programs that lead to careers.

“We need a long-term strategy to beat back extreme policies in the state that negatively impact the Black community.”

Shreveport Resident

ABOUT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Urban League of Louisiana's 2024 Legislative Policy Agenda is a nonpartisan account of proposed legislation within the 2024 Louisiana Legislature Regular Session. ULLA's Legislative Agenda is informed by its constituents residing within the League's seven target cities - Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Monroe, and Shreveport - via its 2023 policy cycle. This includes featuring a statewide listening tour, policy conference, and policy work groups; Wake Up Geaux Vote; the production of education equity reports; health equity initiatives; criminal justice reform efforts; and a legislative agenda during the Louisiana legislative session.

Urban League of Louisiana's Policy and Social Justice team have worked with legislators, advocates and stakeholders to draft constituency focused policy prescriptions into filed legislation. These proposed laws aim to impact - **Food Deserts**; Community Policing & De-Escalation Training; **Law Enforcement Reporting & Transparency**; Minimum Wage; and **Gun Safety Warning Labels**. In addition to filed legislation, ULLA is examining the impact and utilization of current law. ULLA is working with agencies to provide updates concerning the Louisiana Apprenticeship Tax Credit and Government Procurement laws.



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Urban League of Louisiana sponsored legislation includes the following filed bills and assigned committees:

- HB 431** *Committee: Labor & Industrial Relations*
- SB 173** *Committee: Labor & Industrial Relations*
- HB 670** *Committee: Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture & Rural Development*
- SB 287** *Committee: Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture & Rural Development*
- HB 820** *Committee: Criminal Justice*
- HB 894** *Committee: Criminal Justice*
- HB624** *Committee: Judiciary*

Authors of these proposed bills and descriptions of what each bill aims to accomplish can be found in the following pages.



URBAN LEAGUE OF LOUISIANA  SUPPORTS

INCREASING MINIMUM WAGE HB431 & SBI73

Establishes a state minimum wage rate starting in 2025 and increases every two years through 2029. Also requires each city, parish, and district clerk of court to maintain a docket of cases to be filed and submitted monthly to the LA Workforce Commission (LWC).



**HB431 AUTHOR
REP. DELISHA BOYD**



**SBI73 AUTHOR
SEN. GARY CARTER**

“More opportunities have to include a competitive financial wage to handle our many responsibilities.”

Monroe Resident



URBAN LEAGUE OF LOUISIANA  SUPPORTS

ELIMINATING FOOD DESERTS

HB670 & SB287

Amends the Healthy Food Retail Act to establish a financing program that provides grants and loans to healthy food retailers that increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other affordable healthy food in underserved communities. The Department of Agriculture must contract with qualified nonprofit organizations or community development financial institutions.



HB670 AUTHOR
REP. EDMOND JORDAN



SB287 AUTHOR
SEN. ROYCE DUPLESSIS

“Choices matter but we need access to healthy food options and fresh foods.”

Lafayette Resident





URBAN LEAGUE OF LOUISIANA  SUPPORTS

GUN SAFETY WARNING LABELS HB894

Defines the term “firearm manufacturer” and requires them to place warning labels on firearms and ammunition boxes. Proposed law aims to foster safer communities by requiring manufactures to place warning labels on firearms and ammunition. The propose bill also amends RS 2800.60(A) to identify the sale of firearms as lawful and dangerous.



BILL AUTHOR
REP. EDMOND JORDAN

“The most pressing need related to increasing safety in our community is regulating guns.”

Alexandria Resident



URBAN LEAGUE OF LOUISIANA  SUPPORTS

COMMUNITY POLICING HB820

Aims to increase community policing efforts and create safer communities by amending RS 40:2404. The proposed bill would modify the Council of Peace Officer Standard and Training by mandating the inclusion community stakeholders. The proposed bill also requires all law enforcement officers to participate in quarterly de-escalation trainings.




BILL AUTHOR
REP. JOY WALTERS

“We need more peer-to-peer mediation and conflict resolution and we need more methods that treat and address trauma.”

Baton Rouge Resident



URBAN LEAGUE OF LOUISIANA  SUPPORTS

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTING & TRANSPARENCY HB624

Requires law enforcement agencies statewide to publish crime data in concurrence with FBI standards, in order to improve community trust and assist with correctly identifying trends as they occur.



BILL AUTHOR
**REP. VANESSA
CASTON LAFLEUR**

**“Our community doesn’t understand the system,
we need to be educated and informed on how ‘the
system’ should be working.”**

New Orleans Resident



**“We are the majority in terms of the population,
but the minority when it comes to representation.”**

Lake Charles Resident

ACT NOW: HOW WE CAN ALL ADVOCATE

Urban League of Louisiana implores all residents to engage in the legislative process by contacting their legislators and bill committee members. **Residents are encouraged to submit five public comments in support of House Bills: 431, 624, 820, and 894 as well as Senate Bills: 287 and 173**, via the instructions below.

How can I submit a public comment?

Members of the public can appear in person to make a public statement during committee meetings. You will be asked to complete a color-coded witness card to indicate your support for an item (green) or opposition (red). You can submit a statement in advance by emailing members of a committee in advance. You can check the posted agenda for a meeting to find the exact deadline to submit a prepared statement in advance. Comments are typically due the day prior to the committee meeting in order to be distributed to the committee members in advance. To learn more about contacting your representatives [click here](#).

How can I see what bills are scheduled for a particular committee?

[Click here](#) to see the upcoming meetings schedule and click on the meeting to see the agenda that will include the bills that will be heard.

How can I see who serves on a committee and find their contact information?

[Click here](#) to see what legislators are on each committee. It lists the members and links to their individual pages and also includes their contact information.

How can I advocate alongside the Urban League of Louisiana at the State Legislature?

[Join our coalition here](#).

Social Media Action

Post about your support or opposition to a bill on your social media accounts, tagging the appropriate legislators. You can also write a Letter to the Editor or submit an op ed to your local newspaper.

Additional Questions?

[Click here](#) to visit the official LA Legislative FAQ page.

GET IN TOUCH:

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