



RESET Team Summary of 2023 Activities

The RESET team has largely completed an ambitious program of work to develop a forward-looking policy agenda for Louisiana and share that with candidates and the public. As we had done previously, we focused our efforts on four major policy areas: **Education, State Fiscal Policies, Public Safety and Infrastructure.**

The purpose of this collaboration was to:

- Advocate an election agenda based on issues critical to the future of the state.
- Introduce the RESET organizations and issues to legislative and gubernatorial candidates.
- Educate and inform candidates on key issues.
- Raise awareness of these issues with the general public and the news media.
- Provide reliable data and information to serve as a ready resource to candidates, other organizations and the news media, both during the campaign and in the future.



To that end, highlights of our work to accomplish this are outlined below. It should be noted that these efforts will continue through the aftermath of the election and the transition period for the new governor and legislators.

Policy & Development

- Conducted extensive research in the four major policy areas.
- Design and layout for production of a 40-page briefing booklet plus website content on nine issues within our overall policy framework: Early Childhood Education, K-12 Education, Postsecondary Education/Workforce, Tax Structure, State Budget, Pension Reform, Constitutional Reform, Public Safety and Infrastructure.
- Developed 55 recommendations within these issue areas.
- Raised \$89,750 in support of the RESET initiative.

Candidate Outreach

- Shared the comprehensive policy briefing and shorter summaries with major gubernatorial candidates and all candidates for the Legislature.
- Held day-long RESET forum with all major candidates for governor asking them to describe their positions on RESET issues (July 26).



- PAR (September 7) and CABL (September 28) co-sponsored statewide televised gubernatorial debates. Questions posed to the candidates on RESET issues included: strengthening the workforce, early childhood education, public safety, transportation infrastructure, diversifying the economy and coastal master plan funding.
- Held legislative candidate briefings in Lafayette, Northshore, Baton Rouge, Alexandria and Shreveport. The locations were chosen based on the number of competitive races in those areas.

- Conducted five webinars to reach candidates in other regions.
- A total of 60 legislative candidates participated.

Public/Media Outreach

- RESET guest column in *Advocate/Times-Picayune* newspapers. News stories including two *Advocate/Times-Picayune* editorials, *Baton Rouge Business Report*, *LA Politics Weekly* and *Louisiana Illuminator*.
- In-depth discussion of RESET issues on several segments of LPB's "Louisiana the State We're In" news magazine and the hour-long "Louisiana Spotlight" program.
- Interviews on "Louisiana Considered" and "Talk Louisiana/Jim Engster" radio programs (WWNO-New Orleans and WRKF-Baton Rouge), as well as numerous other individual news stories.
- Multiple speaking engagements including Shreveport Rotary, Ellevate statewide conference in New Orleans, Alexandria Rotary, Monroe Rotary, Lake Charles Kiwanis, Hammond Kiwanis, Board of Regents conference in Lafayette, and CABL *Leadership Louisiana*.
- Organizational endorsements from: Baton Rouge Area Chamber, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, GNO, Inc., Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Southwest Louisiana, Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, and the Regional Economic Alliance of Louisiana.



Next Steps

RESET will continue to reach out to legislators after the election and work with the new governor's transition team to participate in various transition panels. In many ways, the RESET work provided a foundation for the LABI LA23 initiative and the election efforts of other like-minded statewide organizations. To that end, we have already begun meeting with some of these groups on strategies going forward. The intent is to compare and analyze our various policy ideas and look for areas of agreement, shared values, and overall alignment to put forward a legislative plan that would already have wide support from key groups. Ultimately, the goal is to do this over a multi-year period to increase the likelihood of securing legislative wins in as many issue areas as possible.

