



## Public Policy Positions & Legislative Priorities 2018-2019

### Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce

[janet@iberiachamber.org](mailto:janet@iberiachamber.org)  
[www.iberiachamber.org](http://www.iberiachamber.org)

337-364-1836  
111 West Main Street  
New Iberia, LA 70560

**GREATER IBERIA**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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# TO OUR MEMBERS & STAKEHOLDERS

## A Message from Leadership

A strong working relationship between government entities and the business community in Iberia Parish is essential to the growth, economic prosper, and quality of life in the parish. The Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce (GICC) is committed to being the bridge between government entities and the business community in Iberia Parish. The GICC Public Policy & Legislative Committee works diligently with local, state and federal elected officials to ensure that the concerns of the business community in Iberia Parish are carefully considered when weighing legislation and decisions that could impact business growth, job creation, taxes, commerce and regulatory statutes.

The Public Policy & Legislative Committee is comprised of local business owners and executives who strive to be both liaison and a resource center for chamber members and for the government officials who represent us. As business leaders, the committee members offer firsthand knowledge and insight into the daily needs and demands of business owners and work toward the common goal of a stronger, more prosperous community.

The chamber offers a 'sane-center' for civil discussion around any issue that impacts the business community and general quality of life. As an organization, the chamber seeks information from source documents/organizations and strives to bring all facets of an issue forward prior to a vote by the board of directors on any topic.

The Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce advocates for the business community and also aligns itself with governmental entities when the 'greater good' can be impacted in a positive way.

Denise Broussard  
GICC Chairman of the Board

Kevin Romero  
GICC Public Policy & Legislative Committee Chair

Janet Faulk-Gonzales  
President/CEO

## MISSION

The Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce exists to improve the business environment so members can grow and prosper.

## PLATFORM

Above all else, the Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce (GICC) advocates fiscal reform at all levels of government and expects federal, state and local governmental entities to be accountable to the corporate and private tax payer by getting spending under control.

Transparency in processes and spending is an indicator of accountability.

Tort Reform in Louisiana is an indicator of fiscal accountability.

Boundary-spanning consideration is included in expanding existing and developing new projects with impact beyond political jurisdictions part of serious deliberation, as well as, return on investment and 'greater good'.

## Chamber's FOCUS and VALUES

- Member representation and advocacy
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Outcome based planning and execution for greater good
- Boundary-spanning reach
- Desirable Community & Quality of Life
- Accountable Leadership

*In the current climate, above all else, we expect state government to be accountable to taxpayers by getting the state budget under control.*

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce is advancing a set of legislative priorities, developed through our legislative and public policy committees and adopted by our Board of Directors. These priorities reflect Louisiana's urgent need for fiscal stability and sustainability.

### Fiscal Reform

Seek long-term fiscal sustainability and stability through cost-containing measures and reform, including Tort Reform, of the budget process while adequately funding key priorities like PreK-12 and higher education, health care, and transportation infrastructure.

Local levels of government seek fiscal sustainability and stability through cost-containing measure and reform of budgeting processes, including transparency.

### Transportation Infrastructure

Support efforts to increase transportation infrastructure investments, with I-49 South, intermodal connections to Acadiana Regional Airport and Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel as top priorities, while strengthening transparency and accountability for how transportation revenues are spent.

### Workforce Development

Promote demand-driven workforce programs, advocate for sufficiently funding early childhood care and education, support increased autonomy for higher education institutions, and support regional higher education capital outlay priorities.

### Public Education

Protect and advance gains made in pre- K-12 education by maintaining rigorous academic standards matched with fair, robust accountability system designed to increase student achievement.

### Economic Development

Maintain and advance industry-based competitiveness, including key economic development incentives proven to generate return on public investment.

Diversify the economy bringing more quality jobs to Iberia Parish, all the while, supporting the oil and gas industry that has supported our communities for so long and contribute to preserving local culture and environment.

## ENGAGEMENT & ACTION

### FEDERAL

Topic/Legislation	Sub-Committee Chair	Status
National Flood Insurance Program	Wendell Verret	
Fresh Water Locks	Wendell Verret	

**STATE** State Legislative website/bill search for 2018 Regular Session:

[www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx?sid=LAST&e=P1](http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx?sid=LAST&e=P1)

Topic/Legislation	Sub-Committee Chair	Status
<b>Louisiana Checkbook</b> (spending transparency) HB 510 (Barras) and similar bills	Kevin Romero	Letter of support to legislators and media 3.28.18; High Priority; Monitoring
<b>Business Incentives</b> (Provides relative to uniformity in local administration of industrial tax exemption program.) HB 371 (Cortez)	Pat Norris	High Priority; Monitoring for bill that will create a standardized process
<b>Healthcare</b>	Dionne Viator	Placeholder
<b>Public Access to tidally influenced waters</b> HB391	Wendell Verret	Placeholder (Note: GICC members have heard a presentation by the Louisiana Sportman's Coalition.)

## REGIONAL

Topic/Legislation	Sub-Committee Chair	Status
Regional Drainage Plan	Joe Judice	Allocation from xx through xx for xx in Iberia Parish
Infrastructure and regional economic development		

## LOCAL

Topic/Legislation	Sub-Committee Chair	Status
Revisit Parish Infrastructure Masterplan	Joe Judice	
Transparent funding process for City of New Iberia Police Department		
<b>Workforce Development &amp; Education</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Accessing a work ready labor force through ACT WorkKeys programming</b></li> <li>2. <b>Directing business taxes back to Iberia Parish for School Readiness</b></li> </ol>	Denise Broussard (in collaboration with IDF and LED, and Iberia Parish School System)  Rachel Segura (in collaboration with Volunteers of America)	Event for hiring managers set for April 17, 2018

## FEDERAL OFFICIALS

<p><b>Bill Cassidy</b> U.S. Senator 101 La Rue France Suite 505 Lafayette, LA 70508 337-261-1400</p>	<p><b>John Kennedy</b> U.S. Senator 101 La Rue France Suite 503 Lafayette, LA 70508 337-269-5980</p>	<p><b>Clay Higgins</b> U.S. Congress, 3rd District 600 Jefferson Street Suite 808 Lafayette, LA 70501 337-703-6105</p>
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## STATE OFFICIALS

### Governor John Bel Edwards

Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
[www.gov.louisiana.gov](http://www.gov.louisiana.gov)

### Lt. Governor William "Billy" Nungesser

Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 4423  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
225-342-7009  
[www.ltg@crt.la.gov](http://www.ltg@crt.la.gov)

<p><b>Taylor Barras</b> Speaker of the House P.O. Box 94062 Baton Rouge, LA 70804 225-342-7263</p> <p><b>Fred H. Mills Jr.</b> State Senator, District 22 800 S. Lewis Street Suite 203 New Iberia, LA 70560</p> <p><b>R. L. Bret Allain, II</b> State Senator, District 21 600 Main Street Franklin, LA 70538</p>	<p><b>Terry C. Landry, Sr.</b> Representative, District 96 800 South Lewis Street Suite 201-B New Iberia, LA 70560</p> <p><b>Blake Miguez</b> Representative, District 49 410 N. Broadway Street Erath, LA 70533</p>
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PARISH OFFICIALS : [www.iberiaparishgovernment.com/council.asp](http://www.iberiaparishgovernment.com/council.asp)

	PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS
M. Larry Richard PARISH PRESIDENT	"Tommy" Pollard, Sr. District 1
M. Bofill Duhe District Attorney	Michael R. Landry District 2
Louis Ackal Sheriff	Thomas Landry District 3
Ricky J Huval, Sr., CLA Assessor	Lloyd Brown District 4
	Warren P. Gachassin, Jr. District 5
	Natalie Broussard District 6
	Paul Landry District 7
	Ricky Gonsoulin District 8
	Joel Dugas District 9
	Eugene A. Oliver Sr. District 10
	Brian P. Napier District 11
	Berwick Francis Jr. District 12
	Marty Trahan District 13
	Chad Maturin District 14

## MUNICIPALITIES

Mayor Freddie DeCourt  
**City of New Iberia**

Mayor Aprill Foulcard  
**City of Jeanerette**

Mayor Brad Clifton  
**Village of Loreauville**

Mayor Pam Blakely  
**City of Delcambre**

