


# CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

C. RAY NAGIN, MAYOR



**TO:** Orleans Parish Delegation  
**FROM:** C. Ray Nagin, Mayor   
**SUBJECT:** Regular Legislative Session  
**DATE:** April 21, 2009  
**cc:** New Orleans City Council

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Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the City of New Orleans and our recovery. Though our city has faced extraordinary challenges since Hurricane Katrina, we have made great strides. Your dedication to the citizens of New Orleans has helped keep us moving toward a full recovery and as New Orleans has recovered, the entire state has benefitted.

New Orleans, along with our state and country, now faces an economic crisis that could threaten the progress of our rebuilding. We look forward to working in partnership with you during the Regular Legislative session scheduled to begin April 27, 2009 to keep the momentum of our recovery on track.

Though this legislative session is a fiscal session, we appreciate your ongoing interactions with our state team to identify and propose action on other key issues needing immediate attention as well. We have developed a targeted agenda focusing on those issues: Protecting and Enhancing the Recovery, Ensuring Access to Physical and Mental Health Services, Expanding Economic Development Opportunities and Prioritizing Public Safety. While we are still reviewing the complete universe of proposed legislation for additional initiatives that might help advance this agenda, we thank you for working with our team to pre-file bills that address these priorities. We also look forward to working with you on other bills that you have filed that are important to our community.

Again, thank you for your work and diligence.

## Attachment

**CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**  
**2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR RECOVERY**

New Orleans is progressing toward a full recovery, but continues to need support from state partners to ensure continued forward movement. The City supports legislation and initiatives that will facilitate the rebuilding of public infrastructure. The City also supports efforts that protect the needs, rights and opportunities of citizens working to rebuild their homes and lives and help New Orleans as a community to build smarter and stronger.

We support the following:

**Design-Build Contract Option for All Rebuilding; Rep. G. Jackson**

- HB 354- Extends the length of time relative to the utilization of design-build contracts.

**Uniform Public Bid Form Changes; Sen. Murray**

- SB 73 - Exempts the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans from the requirement to use certain bid forms in the bidding process for public work contracts.
- SB 134 – Requires bid form to include evidence of compliance with agency’s disadvantaged business enterprise program.

**American Recovery and Reform Act Support; Rep. Abramson and Rep. Badon**

- HB 304 (Rep. Abramson) – Authorizes a tax credit for the cost of increased unemployment insurance contributions attributable to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- HCR 2 (Rep. Badon) – Invokes the Clyburn Amendment of the American Recovery and Reform Act to maximize recovery benefits to the city and state.

**Contractor Fraud Provisions; Rep. LaFonta**

- HB 147 – provides criminal penalties for certain actions committed by a contractor including fraud that causes substantial harm.

**Energy Efficiency Tax Credits; Rep. Leger**

- HB 51- Increases the amount of the individual income tax credit for the installation of a wind or solar energy system and authorizes the credit to apply to systems installed on commercial property.

**Wind and Solar Energy System Tax Credits; Rep. Ernst**

- HB 550 – Extends the wind or solar energy systems tax credit to commercial or business property.

**Hurricane Evacuation Support; Sen. Morrell and Rep. Arnold**

- SB 81 (Sen. Morrell) - Grants a refundable credit for 50 % of contributions made to an Emergency Evacuation Expense Savings Accounts for the benefit of certain individuals having a primary residence within a parish with a history of emergency evacuations, limited to \$250 per family member and \$5,000 per account.
- HB 200 (Rep. Arnold) – Encourages and supports evacuation by authorizing individual tax credit for certain expenses incurred during a mandatory hurricane evacuation.

**Lead Paint Encapsulation Tax Credit; Rep. Stiaes**

- HB 534 – Authorizes a tax credit for the purchase of encapsulating paint used in the remediation of lead-based hazards in residential and commercial structures.

**Redemption Certificates for Orleans Parish; Sen. Morrell**

- SB 149- Authorizes political subdivisions to adopt an ordinance to impose a fee to prepare redemption certificates for the redemption of tax sale or adjudicated property.

**LA DOTD Appropriation (Delegation)**

- Support a \$200,000 appropriation for LA DOTD to increase frequency of cleanings of Interstate 10 and provide signage in Orleans Parish.

**ENSURE ACCESS TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The continued growth and development of the City’s biomedical district is a key economic development initiative that will contribute significantly to the future of New Orleans, Louisiana, and the entire region. The implementation of planned projects in this district will transform employment and the economics of New Orleans for generations and make the city and Louisiana competitive with other leaders in medical treatment and research.

New Orleans faces significant healthcare needs that must be addressed simultaneous to the development of the new biomedical district. Since Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has lacked adequate medical and mental health infrastructure as well as a sufficient supply of medical professionals. This has led to an increased dependence on emergency room services for conditions that could normally be addressed more easily and with less expense by primary care physicians. It also has led to an overall decrease the access to services for our poorest citizens and residents without health insurance. Mental health services also are in critical need, since inadequate inpatient beds and supportive services are available for poor citizens

The City of New Orleans opposes both the closure of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital and the proposed reductions in staffing and services at the LSU Interim Hospital. These cuts would be a devastating blow to a system that is already under tremendous stress and struggling to recover. The City supports the constitutional and statutory changes that would give the Governor flexibility in cutting protected programs so that critical needs for healthcare and education are not sacrificed.

We support the following:

**Enhancing Healthcare Services for Uninsured and Medicaid Patients; Sen. Heitmeier**

- SB 51-Authorizes the Department of Health and Hospitals to accept intergovernmental transfers from local governing bodies for the purpose of enhancing the provision of health care services for uninsured and Medicaid patients.

**Capital Outlay support for the Orleans Parish Hospital Service District; A**

- Appropriate funding for construction of a Hospital facility in Eastern New Orleans.

**Greater New Orleans Biosciences Economic Development District.**

- Support administrative funding for the entity that provides critical economic and health benefits.

## **EXPAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

New Orleans must continue to advance strategies for economic development in order to be competitive today and in the future. The City must take advantage of current assets and must develop new opportunities. The City supports legislation designed to foster a more robust business environment and to enhance Louisiana's image, reputation and standing both nationally and internationally as a good place to do business. To that end, the City of New Orleans supports legislation that positions critical assets including port and the tourism sector to capitalize on the opportunities that exist now and those that will be presented during the next phase of the City's recovery.

We support the following:

### **Port Consolidation; Speaker Tucker**

- HB 779 - Consolidates the ports in the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines.

### **Tax incentives for shipping via New Orleans Port and others; Rep. Richmond and Rep. Hutter**

- HB 744 (Richmond) - Louisiana International Business Incentive and Retention Tax Credit.
- HB 215 (Hutter) - Creates the Ports of Louisiana Investor Tax Credit. Rep. Hutter.

### **Extend Film Tax Incentives; Rep. Henry and Rep. Richmond**

- HB 142 (Henry) - Provides relative to the maximum amount of the tax credit for state-certified productions and repeals the phase-down of such tax credits.
- HB 272 (Richmond) - Extends the deadline for issuance of motion picture investor tax credits for state-certified infrastructure projects.

### **Extend Sound Recording Tax Incentives; Rep. Richmond**

- HB 271 - Extends the date for issuance of the sound recording investor tax credit to January 1, 2011.

### **Provide Tax Credit for Digital Interactive Media; Sen. Duplessis**

- SB 277 - Will encourage development in Louisiana of a strong capital base for the production of digital interactive media products and platforms in order to achieve a more independent, self-supporting industry.

### **Essence Festival - \$100,000; (Delegation)**

- Requested annually to fund responsibilities related to hosting the Essence Festival in New Orleans.

### **Casino Support Services Contract - \$3.6 million; (Delegation)**

- Requested every year in order to reimburse the city for the costs of added police, fire and sanitation services to Harrah's Casino.

## **PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SAFETY**

The future of New Orleans depends on the recovery of the entire public safety system and investment in our children. Even as City of New Orleans experiences a declining crime rate, new legislation is essential to address critical concerns, such as access to assault weapons, workforce

preparation for former offenders, and special programs for at risk youth. In addition, the system will operate most efficiently when all sectors of it are financed at an adequate level.

We support the following:

**Assault Weapons Ban; Rep. Richmond**

- HB 387- Bans possession of certain assault weapons.

**Weapons and Firearms Control; Sen. Morrell, Rep. Ernst, Rep. LaFonta**

- SB 219, HB 523, & HB 44 criminalize the carrying and/or discharging of weapons at parades or public events.

**911 Emergency Telephone Service funding; Sen. Murray**

- SB 43 - Provides for the rate extension of the fixed rate for emergency telephone service charges in Orleans Parish that is scheduled to expire December 31, 2009.
- SB 255 - Provides for an emergency service charge on prepaid wireless services.

**Recidivism Reduction; Rep Richmond**

- HB 578 – Increases tax credits for employment of certain persons related to the prevention of recidivism by released from incarceration.

**Promote Witness Protection; Rep. Leger**

- HB 33 – Enacts the Witness Protection Act.

**Louisiana Youth Opportunity Initiative; Pro Tem Peterson**

- HB 809 – Creates a program within the Department of Corrections to provide positive intervention in the lives of adjudicated youth.

**Children’s Bill of Rights; Sen. Gray**

- SB 253 – Provides that all children in the custody of State have a safe and secure environment.

**Criminal Sentencing; Rep. Hines**

- HB 344 – Provides for sentencing for the crime of aggravated second degree battery which had not been in the statute.

**Indigent Defense Board Appropriation**

- Support adequate state funding of provision of indigent defense services.



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

**Listing of the 2009-10 State Capital Outlay Requests**

1.	Norman Playground Basketball Gym	\$ 3,960,000
2.	Emergency Operations Center	\$ 5,000,000
3.	Rosenwald Community Center	\$ 2,000,000
4.	Milne Boys Home Complex Planning and Construction	\$ 7,000,000
5.	St Anthony Avenue Walking Path	\$ 187,000
6.	Treme Center Improvements	\$ 3,000,000
7.	Main Library Historical Archives and Vital Records Facility	\$ 20,000,000
8.	Joseph Bartholomew Golf Course & Clubhouse Restoration	\$ 5,000,000
9.	Gravier Street Improvements to Serve the LSU and Veterans Administration Medical Complex, Planning and Construction	\$ 4,000,000
10.	Algiers Regional Library	\$ 7,000,000
11.	Historic Algiers Courthouse Renovation	\$ 5,000,000
12.	*Orleans Parish Hospital Service District, Area A	\$ 143,000,000

\* Denotes that this was not a request submitted by the City but is strongly supported.