



Louisiana Budget Project

PROVIDING INDEPENDENT,
NONPARTISAN research and analysis
of Louisiana fiscal issues and their
impact on low and moderate
income residents.

STAFF

Edward Ashworth
Director
edwardashworth@lano.org

Teaway Zehyoue Collins
Analyst
teaway@lano.org

Tim Mathis
Analyst
timmathis@lano.org

Karen Miller
Communications / Public Relations
karenmiller@lano.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011
Contact: KAREN MILLER, 225.929.5266, x220

JINDAL'S POOR CHOICES: TAX BREAKS AND FREEZING STATE AID

(Baton Rouge – February 17, 2011) Despite Louisiana's \$1.6 billion shortfall in revenue projected for next year, Governor Bobby Jindal proposes to extend tax breaks for businesses. The day before announcing his support for these tax breaks for businesses, Jindal recommended a third consecutive freeze in state aid for public schools. "Because schools' costs go up each year, a freeze is, in effect, a cut. These poor choices are damaging our state by starving our public services such as education and health care," Louisiana Budget Project Director Edward Ashworth said today.

"The governor has choices," Ashworth said. "He is choosing to support tax breaks for businesses while reducing spending for public education, colleges and universities, healthcare, and other programs vital to Louisiana families and their future."

The Budget Project has called for a more balanced approach to solving Louisiana's fiscal crisis including a moratorium on passage of any new tax exemption and credits until the Legislature has reviewed and analyzed the over 440 exemptions already on the books. It supported legislation by Rep. Michael Jackson and Sen. Lydia Jackson passed in the last session that calls for a review of all existing exemptions and credits.

"We need better choices," Ashworth said. "We cannot solve our fiscal crisis by continuing to cut important services needed by working Louisianans. We need an honest examination of all tax exemptions, credits and deductions and eliminating those tax expenditures that serve no justifiable purpose before we add or renew any of them."

For a complete report of the "Louisiana's Hidden State Budget" go to www.labudget.org.

-30-



8281 Goodwood Blvd, Ste A
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

PO Box 66558
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

225-929-5266
225-925-2711 [fax]

In Partnership with LANO

Changing Policy. Improving Lives.