



Louisiana Budget Project

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

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Governor Jindal's Executive Budget: Continuing to do less with less

(Baton Rouge – April 11, 2011) A new report by the Louisiana Budget Project reviews and analyzes Governor Bobby Jindal's proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Executive Budget.

Despite Louisiana's \$1.6 billion shortfall in revenue projected for this year, the governor again refuses to consider increasing revenues, either by increasing taxes or eliminating or suspending any of the 441 tax exemptions costing the state over \$7 billion annually. Instead, the governor chooses to cut spending for vital public programs such as human services, health care, higher education, and public safety.

These drastic cuts are causing severe damage to programs essential to working families of Louisiana. Without adequate state funds, agencies are unable to meet the growing demands for services.

"Continuing to cut services important to the future of Louisiana families and the state, as the governor proposes, will ensure that Louisianans maintain their status as the second most unhealthy, uneducated, and poorest population in the United States," said Edward Ashworth, Director of the Louisiana Budget Project.

The report addresses the following highlights from the governor's proposed budget:

- 2,000 state workers losing jobs
- Cutting funding for charity hospitals
- Charging Louisiana families more for a college education
- Making financially strapped local school districts pay more to run their schools
- Raiding the Millennium Trust Fund (tobacco settlement money) to pay for TOPS, the state's merit-based college scholarship program that primarily benefits students from families making \$75,000 or more
- Charging state employees 37.5% more for their pension plan
- Privatizing several state prisons

"Louisiana needs a balanced approach to resolving its fiscal crisis," said Edward Ashworth. "When addressing state needs and state revenues during these tough economic times, everything, revenues as well as expenditures, needs to be on the table for use in balancing the budget."

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The Baton Rouge-based Louisiana Budget Project provides independent research and analysis of Louisiana fiscal issues and their impact on low and moderate income residents.

For a copy of the full report and more information on LBP, visit www.labudget.org and read [Governor Jindal's Executive Budget: Doing Less with Less — Again](#).

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