

BETTER CHOICES *for a* **BETTER LOUISIANA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TAX EQUITY COALITION TO ANNOUNCE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN STATEWIDE MEETINGS

Better Choices for a Better Louisiana, a growing coalition of nonprofit, business, community and consumer groups supporting an equitable state tax structure, will announce its legislative agenda in press conferences across Louisiana on April 18, 19, and 20, 2011.

The coalition, supported by all 36 members, calls for a balanced, transparent approach to solving Louisiana's fiscal crisis rather than relying solely on cuts to services needed by working families.

Following the series of April press conferences, coalition members will gather at the State Capitol at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, to urge lawmakers to adopt a budget that includes new revenues. Better Choices for a Better Louisiana contends that a budget based solely on cutting education, human services, health care, and other vital services risks serious long term damage to the state and its people.

Among those to speak at the April press conferences will be Steve Monaghan of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, Eddie Ashworth of the Louisiana Budget Project and Ann Silverberg Williamson of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations.

- **Steve Monaghan:** "Doing more with less' is a hollow promise. The current budget proposal sacrifices fundamental life support for services that provide a better future for families in our state."
- **Edward Ashworth:** "If the tax exemptions that cost Louisiana \$7.1 billion a year actually grow our economy, create jobs and help families, we have no problem with them. But we shouldn't support any tax loophole unless we're confident it creates real opportunity for hardworking Louisiana citizens."
- **Ann Silverberg Williamson:** "A balanced approach means holding tax exemptions to the same high standard of scrutiny our policy makers give to annual appropriations. Both sides of the spending equation deserve deliberate and honest accounting."

Better Choices for a Better Louisiana (BCBL) represents a growing number of environmental, business, faith-based, labor, health, education, community, and consumer groups from throughout Louisiana that want to invest in Louisiana's future. For more information, visit www.betterchoicesla.org.

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BCBL Legislative Agenda Press Conference Schedule

MONDAY, APRIL 18	NEW ORLEANS	9:00 A.M.	LANO Office, 1824 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd
	Baton Rouge	12:00 Noon	Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd
	Lafayette	3:00 PM	Clifton Chenier Center, 220 West Willow Street, Auditorium, Building C
TUESDAY, APRIL 19	Lake Charles	10:00 AM	Library, 301 W. Claude St
	Alexandria	2:00 PM	Arts Council, 1101 4th Street, Second floor, Classroom C
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20	Shreveport	10:00 AM	Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center, 820 Clyde Fant Parkway
	Monroe	2:00 PM	Saul Adler Recreation Center 3900 Westminister Avenue

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