

# Governmental and Public Affairs

## 2018 Update

### GOVERNMENT:

- Upcoming election forums will be held. Dates to be announced.
- November 2018 Election – Refer to this link for a listing of all candidates running for office: <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/candidateinquiry>
- Chamber supported the Oil and Gas Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control revisions.
- Joint Chamber luncheon on August 9<sup>th</sup> with U.S. Senator John Kennedy
- Legislative Breakfast on June 20<sup>th</sup>, featuring local representatives and senators
- Joint Chamber luncheon on March 8<sup>th</sup> with U.S. Representative Garret Graves

### EDUCATION:

#### Lafourche School Board

- Search for new Superintendent is underway
- Reducing the size of the board continues to be topic of discussion

#### Higher Education – Nicholls State University

- The University will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary the week of September 22 – 28, 2018 with various activities
- Freshmen enrollment has increased by 200 students
- The Manning Passing Academy held in June was successful again this year, impacting the economy of the area.

#### Higher Education – Fletcher Technical College

- The New Line Worker program interviewed 16 candidates for the upcoming January 2019 class
- Fall enrollment is up 7.3% and summer enrollment was up to 12.9%
- Trial run for Global Technology program with 8 students received good reviews.
- Notary Class had 9 students
- The first Line Worker program of 16 weeks with 9 students was completed on May 8<sup>th</sup> with 100% job placement.

#### K- 12

- The State is relaunching two programs that will allow teachers to enroll in college classes without paying tuition.
- Legislature reached an agreement arriving at a compromise on sales taxation and planned expenditures for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The compromise preserves critical education investments, including TOPS and pre-kindergarten, both of which had been slated for reductions in the school year to come.
- State Supreme Court ruled in favor of Type 2 charters.

## HEALTHCARE:

- CVS has purchased Aetna and still unclear as to the impact of the local healthcare facilities in the area
- Construction of the new Cancer Center of Thibodaux Regional Medical Center will begin in December of 2018
- Thibodaux Regional Medical Center has signed another Medical Oncologist that will join next summer

## TOURISM:

- Newly renovated tourism center will celebrate with a grand opening in September
- Food trail is going well, in promoting several restaurants within the parish.
- Three new members were added to the LA Cajun Bayou Tourism Board

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- New growth to the Thibodaux community with CC's Coffee, Orange Leaf and Popeye's on South Acadia Road
- New growth to the retail landscape on North Canal Blvd. to include Five Guys Burgers and a Smoothie King