

2026 Legislative Priorities

K–12 Education

- Fully fund the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) and include a 2.5% increase to address inflation and years of stagnant state support; request timely submission by BESE.

Workforce & Technical Education (Fletcher Technical Community College)

- Support \$12M in funding for Fletcher’s Maritime & Shipbuilding Facility to expand maritime and shipbuilding training capacity.
- Support \$1M in supplemental appropriations for Fletcher to expand workforce training programs.

Higher Education & Workforce Alignment (Nicholls State University)

- Nicholls State University requests continued support for the creation of a Maritime Academy and Engineering Program.
- Additionally, Nicholls requests \$5M to fund construction of a Maritime Wing onto the Al Danos College of Business Administration.

Insurance Affordability

- Advance legislative solutions to reduce homeowner’s insurance costs, recognizing that rising premiums undermine housing affordability, workforce retention, and economic competitiveness while limiting Louisiana’s ability to recruit and retain talent.

2026 Legislative Priorities

Transportation & Infrastructure

- The LA 1 Coalition requests that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development include funding in the Preliminary FY 2026–2027 State Highway Program to overlay old LA-1 from Golden Meadow to Leeville, meeting binding transfer terms upon opening of the new elevated LA-1.

Ports

- Maintain and increase funding for the Port Priority Program.

Coastal Protection & Resiliency

- Support the Morganza Action Coalition in securing the maximum allowable capital outlay funding for the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Risk Protection System.

COLAB is the regional economic development organization serving the Bayou Region of South Louisiana, encompassing Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Terrebonne Parishes. COLAB exists to champion collaboration and long-term economic resilience by aligning business, workforce, infrastructure, and community priorities. Through strategic partnerships with industry, education, and local leadership, COLAB works to attract investment, support entrepreneurs, strengthen workforce development, and advocate for policies that position the region for sustainable growth.

The **Bayou Region** is a cornerstone of Louisiana's economy, anchored by energy, maritime, agriculture, seafood, and logistics industries. With a skilled workforce, critical Gulf Coast access, and deep cultural roots, the region plays an essential role in driving growth, resilience, and opportunity across South Louisiana.