

Why Constitutional Amendment 2 Matters

The November 8 ballot includes an important Constitutional Amendment to provide Louisiana's public colleges and universities—including the Bossier Parish Community College, Grambling State University, Louisiana Delta Community College, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, Louisiana State University Shreveport, Louisiana Tech University, Northwest Louisiana Technical College, Northwestern State University, Southern University at Shreveport, University of Louisiana at Monroe—greater control over their budgets and their future. Currently, the Louisiana State Legislature has more control over higher education institutions than most other state legislatures. Louisiana is the only state that requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature to adjust tuition. Constitutional Amendment 2 would shift college tuition and fee setting authority from the state legislature to the postsecondary education management boards (University of Louisiana board, LSU board, and Louisiana Community and Technical College System board), allowing higher-education professionals to focus on smart policy which supports student success.

So why is this issue so important to North Louisiana colleges and universities?

Colleges and universities understand what students and families need: Those who work in higher education have a better understanding about the cost of education and financial aid. Constitutional Amendment 2 allows our institutions to make the right decisions for students and families.

Louisiana needs to compete: State colleges and universities in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas are attracting some of Louisiana's best and brightest students because they have the flexibility to quickly adjust curriculum offerings and tuition rates without having to go to their state legislature. Constitutional Amendment 2 improves Louisiana's ability to compete with higher education institutions in other states by providing the freedom to adjust to student and workforce market demands.

Budget stability: Currently, Louisiana colleges and universities deal with budget uncertainty each year. Allowing higher-education professionals to determine tuition and fees will result in greater certainty about programs and the future of our institutions.

We are proud of our region's higher education institutions, and the services we provide students, families, and the regional business community. Given the importance of Constitutional Amendment 2 to the future of higher-education in North Louisiana, we ask for your careful consideration of this important information in advance of the election on November 8.

Sincerely,



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