



2026 RSEA CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026, 9:30 AM. SHREVEPORT – LA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM,
3015 GREENWOOD ROAD**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026, 9:30 AM. ALEXANDRIA - KEES PARK COMMUNITY CTR, 2450
HWY 28 EAST**

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 9:30 AM. BATON ROUGE - EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
LIBRARY, MAIN BRANCH,
7711 GOODWOOD BLVD.**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026, 9:30 AM. LAKE CHARLES – TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH, 1800
COUNTRY CLUB RD.**

**THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026, 9:30 AM. ACADIANA - CECIL PICARD CTR, 200 E. DEVALCOURT
ST., LAFAYETTE**

**TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026, 9:30 AM. NORTH SHORE - BOGUE FALAYA ROOM-GREATER
COVINGTON CTR,
317 N. JEFFERSON AVE., COVINGTON**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026, 9:30 AM. NEW ORLEANS - MILNE RECREATION CENTER,
5420 FRANKLIN AVE.**

**TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026, 9:30 AM. MONROE – LOUISE WILLIAMS BRANCH LIBRARY,
140 BAYOU OAKS DRIVE**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, 9:30 AM. COASTAL - TERREBONNE LIBRARY, MAIN BRANCH.
151 LIBRARY DRIVE, HOUMA**



**RSEA WILL AUCTION THE QUILT ON PAGE 2
TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM. READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 7.**

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RSEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Sunshines,

Welcome to our spring newsletter. We are pleased to announce that LASERS is currently working on legislation to grant a COLA to retirees. The COLA must be voted on and approved by our legislators in the upcoming session.

RSEA is ready to lobby for your interest in the proposed COLA and as always, we will need your help.

If you are not currently receiving emails for RSEA, please contact our office (225-930-0961) or visit our website www.rseala.org) to be added to our email listing. Email is the quickest means for us to contact our membership when your help is needed. We are in this fight together!

As always, Frank Jobert, RSEA Director of Legislative & Governmental Affairs, will have more details on the proposed COLA in this newsletter.

Dean Moberley
RSEA President

DIRECTORS MESSAGE



RSEA Foundation Scholarship Update

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Thanks to all of the RSEA members who have donated to the RSEA Foundation Scholarship Fund since our last Newsletter.

NAME

IN MEMORY OF

ROBERT FORE
CAROLYN TAYLOR KITCHIN
PAULA BRAXTON
LE'ANZA JORDAN
SHARON STREET
HARVINDER DALAWARI

NAME

IN MEMORY OF

ROBERT & SHARON
PARKER
ADRIAN DAIGLE
NANCY BEVINETTO
HADLEY
SHARON SHULTZ

ALLEN REYNOLDS

RUSSELL JOHN DAIGLE

Louisiana Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1

May 16, 2026, Statewide Election

Legislative Authority Over Unclassified Civil Service Positions

Overview

This amendment relates to the state civil service system, which governs employment for state classified employees who deliver public services on behalf of the people of Louisiana. Voters will consider a constitutional amendment that would authorize the Louisiana Legislature to add or remove officers, positions, and employees within the unclassified state civil service by law.

Ballot Language

“Do you support an amendment to allow the legislature to remove or add officers, positions, and employees to the unclassified state civil service?”

What a Vote Means

Vote FOR means:

- That by law, the Legislature may add additional officers, positions, and employees to the state unclassified service. That constitutional authority currently belongs exclusively to the State Civil Service Commission.
- That only the Legislature, by law, may remove from the unclassified state service the officers, positions and employees it adds to the unclassified service.
- That employees affected by the legislative action as described above will lose constitutional protections related to permanent status, due process and uniform classification and pay plans.

Vote AGAINST means:

- That the State Civil Service Commission will retain its exclusive constitutional authority to, by rule, add positions to and remove positions from the state unclassified service.
- Classified employees will retain constitutional protections related to permanent status, due process and uniform classification and pay plans.

Classified vs. Unclassified (At a Glance)

Area	Classified Service	Unclassified Service
Employment status	Permanent employees receive due process prior to dismissal. (Not at-will employment).	At-will employment. No due process.
Hiring status	Competitive and merit-based hiring. Public job announcements are required.	No competitive or public job announcements are required.
Pay structure	Formal pay plans and established salary ranges.	No formal pay structure.
Job qualifications	Applicants are required to meet established minimum job qualifications.	No minimum job qualifications are required.

2026 Spring-RSEA April Edition - Spring Legislation Guide

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a voter's guide to the five (5) proposed constitutional amendments on the May 16, 2026 statewide election ballot. This guide was prepared by the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office. Of particular importance to State classified employees is Proposed Amendment Number 1, Act 223 of the 2025 Regular Session. See "2026 Proposed Constitutional Amendments, May 16, 2026 Election."

This amendment relates to the State Civil Service System, which governs employment for state classified employees who deliver public services on behalf of the people of Louisiana. Voters will consider a constitutional amendment that would authorize the Louisiana Legislature to add or remove officers, positions, and employees within the unclassified state civil service by law.

The voting guide is meant to be an educational tool that one can read and then decide if they support or oppose the proposed changes by voting/casting their ballot on election day, May 16, 2026. Some of the changes, if passed by the majority of voters, are as follows: Classified employees will lose constitutional protections related to permanent status, due process, and uniform classification and pay plans. And, some property rights that accrue as employment benefits, such as pensions, sick and annual leave, health insurance coverage, and of course the income associated with being gainfully employed with permanent status. Please read the voter's guide and then head to the polls to cast your ballot.

2026 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION RETIREMENT/OTHER BILLS

The Louisiana 2026 Regular Legislative Session begins at noon on Monday, March 9, 2026 and ends no later than Monday, June 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm. There are currently twelve (12) bills of interest and are being tracked by RSEA.

HB 4 McMakin Constitutional Convention in December 2026. No Position

HB 8 Bacala Extends legislative staff authorization to attend executive meetings from one year to four years. Support

HB 23 Bacala Grants LASERS eligible retirees and beneficiaries a cost of living adjustment. Support

HB 27 McMakin Constitutional amendment removing the requirement to apply monies to the oldest outstanding UAL. Neutral

HB 32 Egan Provides technical changes to LASERS statutes. Support

HB 43 Bagley Allows LASERS rank and file members to retire with 35 years of state service regardless of age or first date of employment. Support

SB 15 Price Amends required reports retirement systems must submit to the legislature. Support

SB 16 Price Decreases the required educational hours for Pension Board trustees. Neutral

SB 19 Price Changes "State Employee Retired" license plate to "RSEA." Support

SB 21 Price Terminates amortization hurdles once original amortization base is liquidated. Support

HB 312 McFarland Makes supplemental appropriations for 2025-2026. Allocates \$59,986,989 to LASERS to apply to the system's Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL). Support

SB 47 Mizell Requires that an email address and direct phone number for each member of a Louisiana Board or Commission be posted on the official state Boards and Commissions website. No Position

RSEA FOUNDATION TO RAFFLE USA 250 Year Celebration Quilt

The RSEA Foundation will raffle off a beautiful 50” x 65” USA 250 Year Celebration quilt (Photo on Page 2) as a fundraiser for scholarships. The drawing will be held on Monday, October 8th, 2026 at the Grand Prize drawing during the closing ceremonies at the RSEA Annual Conference. The quilt was hand made and donated by Patsy Austin of Baton Rouge. Tickets are \$10 each and only 500 tickets will be available. The quilt will be on display at the 2026 chapter meeting locations. You may also visit our office at 9412 Common St., Suite 7 in Baton Rouge to view the quilt. Our office hours are 9 AM – 3:30 PM Monday thru Thursday.



SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

2026 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

May 16, 2026 Election

The constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot for the **May 16, 2026** election are listed below.

Click on the Act number link to read the complete text of the Act on the Legislature's Website.

Proposed Amendment No. 1

[Act 223 \(2025 Regular Session\)](#) - Proposing to amend Article X, Section 2(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to state civil service; to authorize additional positions in the unclassified state civil service by law; to prohibit the removal of such positions except by law; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition. *"Do you support an amendment to allow the legislature to remove or add officers, positions, and employees to the unclassified state civil service?" (Amends Article X, Section 2(B))*

Proposed Amendment No. 2 [Act 218 \(2025 Regular Session\)](#) - Proposing to amend Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to certain effects and purposes for the proposed St. George community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish which shall be regarded and treated as a parish and shall have the authority granted parishes with respect to operating a school system, including the purposes of certain funding and the raising of certain local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; to specify an election date for submission of the proposition to electors and to provide for a ballot proposition. *Do you support an amendment to grant the St. George community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish the same authority granted parishes for purposes of Article VIII, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana, including purposes related to the minimum foundation program, funding for certain school books and instructional materials, and the raising of certain local revenues for the support of elementary and secondary schools? (Amends Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1))*

Proposed Amendment No. 3 [Act 222 \(2025 Regular Session\)](#) - Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 10.8(A)(1), (2), and (4), (B), and (C)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to enact Article VII, Section 10.17, and to repeal Article VII, Sections 10(F)(4)(d), 10.1, 10.8(A)(3) and (C)(3), and 10.16(A)(9), relative to monies in the state treasury; to repeal the Education Excellence Fund within the Millennium Trust, the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund, and the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund; to apply monies held in those funds to liabilities of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana and to require local public school systems to pay a teacher pay raise with savings realized from payment of those retirement system liabilities; to require additional state general fund expenditures for the Minimum Foundation Program relative to such pay raises; to direct the state treasurer to take certain actions with respect to monies in repealed funds; to provide for calculation and transfer of such monies to the Overcollections Fund for use by specified entities pursuant to outlined restrictions; to execute technical changes; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters. *Do you support an amendment to fund a \$2,250 teacher pay raise and \$1,125 support staff pay raise by utilizing the remaining savings from paying down the debt of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana with monies from certain constitutional funds? (Effective January 1, 2027) (Amends Article VII, Section 10.8(A)(1), (2), and (4), (B), and (C)(1); Adds Article VII, Section 10.17; Repeals Article VII, Sections 10(F)(4)(d), 10.1, 10.8(A)(3) and (C)(3), and 10.16(A)(9))*

Proposed Amendment No. 4

[Act 221 \(2025 Regular Session\)](#) - Proposing to amend Article VII, Sections 10.15(F)(1) and 18(A) and (B) and to add Article VII, Sections 20.1, 20.2, and 21(P) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to ad valorem taxes; to authorize certain payments to certain parishes; to provide for the classification of certain property; to authorize the exemption of certain property under certain circumstances; to provide for effectiveness; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Do you support an amendment to allow a parish to reduce or exempt property tax on property held as business inventory and to provide for the classification of Public Service Property? (Amends Article VII, Sections 10.15(F)(1) and 18(A) and (B); Adds Article VII, Sections 20.1, 20.2, and 21(P))

Proposed Amendment No. 5

[Act 219 \(2025 Regular Session\)](#) - Proposing to amend Article V, Section 23(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the mandatory retirement of judges; to provide that a judge shall not remain in office beyond his seventy-fifth birthday; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Do you support an amendment to change the mandatory retirement age for judges from seventy to seventy-five, provided that a judge may continue to serve to complete a term of office? (Amends Article V, Section 23(B))

OGB Update

A Quick Update on Your Pharmacy Benefits

As of January 1, 2026, the Office of Group Benefits (OGB) made a change to its pharmacy benefit manager for active employees and retirees and their dependents who are not enrolled in Medicare. Pharmacy benefits for these members are now administered by Liviniti.

If you're in this group, you should have received a new Louisiana Blue (BCBS) Health ID card in the mail. This card includes updated pharmacy information your pharmacist needs to process prescriptions under Liviniti. The card was mailed by BCBS in a plain white envelope, so it may be easy to overlook.

If you haven't received your new card, believe it may have been discarded, or need a replacement, please contact Louisiana Blue (BCBS) Customer Service at 800-392-4089.

Need a prescription filled before your new card arrives? Your pharmacy can still process your prescription. Simply let them know that OGB's pharmacy benefit manager is Liviniti and ask them to use the following RX BIN: 025945. If you have questions about your Liviniti coverage, you can also call Liviniti Customer Service at 833-925-2770.

OGB UPDATE CONTINUED

Frequently Asked Questions Who is affected by this change?

Active employees and retirees without Medicare and their dependents enrolled in an OGB health plan.

Who is not affected?

Members who have Medicare and their dependent spouses enrolled in Medicare and are enrolled in a BCBS health plan through OGB. Their prescription drug coverage will continue through SilverScript.

What if I didn't receive my new Health ID card?

Contact Louisiana Blue (BCBS) at 800-392-4089 to request a replacement.

Can I still fill my prescription without the new card? Yes. Your pharmacy can use the Liviniti RX BIN number (025945) to process your prescription until you receive your new card. For questions about Liviniti coverage, call 833-925-2770.

LASERS TRACKING RETIREMENT BILLS IN 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A comprehensive list of retirement-related legislation in the 2026 Legislative Session is available on the LASERS website at www.lasersonline.org. The LASERS staff will closely monitor relevant legislation and attend committee meetings throughout the Session to ensure the interests of our members are well represented.

One bill of particular interest is House Bill 23 by Rep. Bacala, which would authorize a 2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees. To qualify, regular retirees must be at least 60 years old and have been retired for one year by the anticipated COLA date of July 1, 2026. For survivors, eligibility is based on the age the retiree would have reached by that date. Disability retirees have no age requirement. These rules were set by the Legislature in 2009.

Under Louisiana law, COLA legislation must receive a two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate and is subject to gubernatorial approval. Additional information about COLAs is available at www.lasersonline.org/retirees/colas.

Members are encouraged to stay informed throughout the Legislative Session by signing up for email updates from LASERS. The email sign-up box is conveniently located on the homepage at www.lasersonline.org.

For in-depth legislative details, including daily schedules and live-streamed committee meetings, visit the Louisiana State Legislature website at legis.la.gov.

1099-R Tax Forms Available in myLASERS

Tax Form 1099-R for 2025 was mailed to retirees in January. You can also access and download your 1099-R information online via myLASERS.

Additional information and answers to your frequently asked questions regarding 1099-R forms can be found at www.lasersonline.org/retirees/1099r.

To report an error or request a mailed duplicate, contact LASERS at 225.922.0600 or 1.800.256.3000. If you have any questions about the details of your 1099-R, we recommend consulting your tax advisor.



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