



Friends of Cameron Henry
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Honorable Kathleen Blanco
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Blanco,

As candidates for the next Legislature, we strongly urge you to reduce the amount of new recurring spending in next year's budget (HB 1). We share the concerns expressed by economists who project that the hurricane-recovery-induced surplus will not be able to sustain this level of spending in future years.

As a result of term limits as well as the traditional turnover that occurs each election cycle, more than half of the next Legislature could be composed of new members. It would be unfair for the new Legislature to be burdened with \$1.2 billion in recurring new spending that cannot be sustained by existing revenues. While we support a number of the new initiatives proposed, specifically bringing teacher pay to the southern average and increasing supplemental pay for police officers and firefighters, we feel these priority items can be funded at far less than \$1.2 billion. The proposal by many current legislators to cap new recurring spending at \$850 million seems to be a much more fiscally responsible approach to take.

If we are blessed enough to be elected by the voters this fall, we do not want to spend part of our first term fixing the budgetary problems of the previous administration. When you announced you would not seek re-election, you said you were declining so you could focus on doing what is best for the state. We are asking that you honor that pledge by refraining from imposing \$1.2 billion of new recurring spending in next year's budget. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our priorities to help you achieve a more fair and reasonable approach to spending. Thanks in advance for your consideration to this request.

Jack Causey
Candidate HD 30

Raymond "Lala" LaLonde
Candidate HD 39

Wallace Ellender
Candidate HD 53

Brian McNabb
Candidate HD 69

Kirk Talbot
Candidate HD 78

Tony Ligi
Candidate HD 79

George Brannigan
Candidate HD 79

Glenn Lee
Candidate HD 80

Cameron Henry
Candidate HD 82

John Lavarine III
Candidate HD 92

Brian Trascher
Candidate HD 98