

UWSELA PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED 2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
“UNITED FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY”

Ron McClain, Public Policy Chairman

The **2024 First Extraordinary Session** was held January 15th and adjourned January 19th. Governor Jeff Landry signed the following legislation into law:

ACT 2 (SB 8) by Sen. Glen Womack - <https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1340757>

CONGRESS: Provides for redistricting of Louisiana congressional districts. (Item #1)(See Act) (EN INCREASE GF EX See Note)

- **ACT 2** - A map creating a second majority-Black congressional district, passed in the Louisiana Legislature after a week of the Redistricting Special Session. The state was granted a final opportunity to pass a map before the deadline of the Federal court trial of Robinson v. Landry.

The **2024 Second Extraordinary Session** convened on February 19th with final adjournment no later than 6:00 pm on March 6th. This second special session is focused on tackling the issue of crime.

https://house.louisiana.gov/Agendas_2024/Governor's%20Call%202024%202nd%20ES_Final.pdf

The 2024 Regular Legislative Session will convene at noon on Monday, March 11th with final adjournment no later than 6:00 pm on Monday, June 3rd.

United Way of Southeast Louisiana Public Policy 2024 State Legislative Agenda, **United for a Safe and Prosperous Community**, will continue to advance our fight to eradicate poverty in Southeast Louisiana through the [Blueprint for Prosperity](#) and support [ALICE](#) (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households. ALICE represents the growing number of hardworking individuals and families across our state who are employed but unable to afford the basic household necessities (including housing, child care, health care, food, and transportation) that undergird economic stability. According to the United Way ALICE Report, over half of households in our state are living in poverty or struggling to make ends meet.

Our Community Impact team received input from our UWSELA-funded agencies on public policy issues impacting our region. View the results here: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:ceccc81f-8dd2-40fc-9fad-7caae595e5e8>

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

UWSELA Public Policy meets each year, prior to the start of the session to prepare our State Legislative Agenda. We held two Educational Sessions this year to help engage our collaborative partners and our funders, which included subject matter experts who shared their knowledge to assist us in creating a robust 2024 State Legislative Agenda.

View a recording of UWSELA Public Policy Educational Sessions 1 and 2 here:

<https://www.unitedwaysela.org/advocate#events>

EDUCATION

Advocating for governmental action in wide range of supports necessary for young people to pursue meaningful and fulfilling futures, including: early childhood and K-12 educational policies, protecting the rights and well-being of students, and investment in educational professionals to enhance student achievement and well-being.

- **Early Childhood Education (ECE) (Ages 0-3)**
- **Increase Investment in Ages 4-Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Higher Education**
- **Campaign for Grade Level Reading**

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Encouraging increased governmental support for evidence-based programs and policies that undergird economic stability and financial empowerment for all, including: workforce development, emergency assistance, and the establishment of a living wage.

- **Earned Income Tax Credit**
- **Living Wage Increase**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Eliminate Predatory Lending** (Monitor legislation that may hinder positions we have taken in the past that will further negatively impact our ALICE community)

HEALTH

Inspiring governmental action to ensure that all Louisianans have access to equitable health services that protect and improve mental and physical well-being, including: trauma-informed care, mental health services, paid family leave, Medicaid, maternal child health, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

- **Trauma Informed Care/ACEs**
- **Mental Health Services**
- **Paid Family Leave**
- **Human Trafficking**
- **Sexual Assault**
- **Maternal Child Health**
- **Medicaid Service Reimbursements**

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

Championing policies that increase equity and eliminate barriers to opportunity for vulnerable individuals and families, including: access to affordable housing, protection from insurance exploitation, and prevention of discriminatory and exclusionary practices.

- **Louisiana Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (LAPRI)**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Fortified Roofing**
- **Homeowners Insurance**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Promoting and campaigning for policies and procedures that protect and support survivors of domestic violence, including: increased access to shelter and emergency services, increased protections for survivors, domestic violence training for system actors, intervention programs for perpetrators, and awareness-building efforts.

- **Maintain \$7M in HB1 for Safe Housing and Trauma Informed Care**
- **Access to Shelter Services**
- **Protection for Survivors**
- **Training for Comprehensive System Integrations**
- **Housing**

United Way of Southeast Louisiana

*serving Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard
St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes*



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Supporting the development of policies that provide comprehensive, holistic supports to young people to ensure they can pursue stable, healthy, meaningful futures, including: the provision of high-quality extracurricular, cultural, and recreational services, leadership support programming, and safe, neighborhoods for youth.

- **Workforce Training**
- **Afterschool Programs**
- **Recreational Enrichment**
- **Leadership Training**
- **Summer Feeding Programs**