

HB 800

Sponsored by Representative Beau Beaulieu



2024 Louisiana Constitutional Convention

Power Coalition and our partners are concerned that with a conservative supermajority in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and with a conservative Governor, that many of our priority, and critical programs and protections will be under attack if a Constitutional Convention is rushed.

Louisiana has one of the longest Constitutions in the nation. It is three times the length of the average state constitution and is regularly updated. Most recently, the Louisiana Constitution was rewritten by a Constitutional Convention in 1974. In the 50 years since then, it has been updated over 200 times. **We know from the last constitutional convention that it takes at least two years to plan an effective convention with citizen voice and transparency.**

In the past few years, there have been multiple attempts by legislators to call a Constitutional Convention to amend the Louisiana Constitution. A Constitutional Convention is a gathering of elected delegates who propose revisions and amendments to a state constitution. At the state level, this is not uncommon. As of 2023, there have been 233 constitutional conventions on state-level constitutions throughout the nation and Louisiana has had numerous conventions to rewrite its constitution.

This time, their priorities are:

- ➔ Updating or removing the Public School Funding Formula (MFP) from the State's Constitution, and **if it is removed, it would be easier to reduce school funding.**

- ➔ **Removing the constitutional protection of the following entities:** the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the Board of Regents, the Judiciary, and revenue sharing between the state and municipalities (this disproportionately impacts majority Black municipalities).

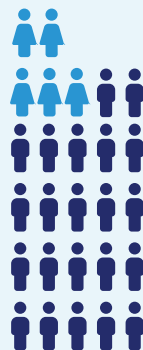
Opening up these, and other, sections of the Constitution **may create dangerous opportunities to reduce critical government services, or protect essential functions of the government by one party of the Government.**

Women are over half of Louisiana's population

There are only 39 women vs. 132 men who would get to review Louisiana's constitution (22.8%)

Delegate Breakdown

5 out of 27 are women (18.5%)



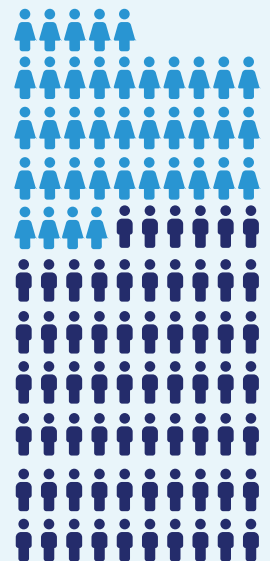
Governor Appointment Delegates

5 out of 39 are women (12.8%)



Senators Serving as Delegates

29 out of 105 are women (27.6%)



Representatives Serving as Delegates

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Talking Points

- ➔ This **proposal to rewrite Louisiana's constitution is happening too quickly**, and **the process needs to be slowed down**. Legislators are appointing themselves as the delegates and **shutting voters out of the process**.
- ➔ The proposal calls for a re-write of our state constitution **without any input from the voters**. This is a **power grab** by the **politicians in Baton Rouge**.
- ➔ A **constitution for the people** must be **written by the people**.
- ➔ The **special interests** who are **bankrolling the proposal to rewrite the constitution** are clear about what they want. They've been trying for years to **cut funding for our local schools**, but voters have stopped them by adding protections for education funding to our constitution. **They want to rewrite our constitution so that they can finally cut education funding and give more tax cuts to big corporations**.
- ➔ The last time Louisiana rewrote its constitution, **the process took several years** and **voters elected the delegates** who rewrote the constitution. But this time, **the politicians in Baton Rouge are trying to push through a rushed process in just a few weeks - and they want to appoint themselves as the delegates** who will rewrite the constitution **without letting the voters choose**. Even worse, they'll be able to raise money from special interests at the same time that they are rewriting the constitution.
- ➔ **If the special interests get their way**, they will change the constitution to eliminate the state's Public Service Commission which regulates electric utilities, and **monopoly utilities would be allowed to hike rates as much as they want without any oversight**.
- ➔ **Lawmakers need to do their jobs** and **fix the insurance crisis** before they start messing with the state constitution.

Contact your legislators today and tell them that you do NOT support a Louisiana Constitutional Convention in 2024!



**Take
Action
Now**

