

Louisiana Energy Resources

The Kerry-Edwards energy plan makes America more energy independent by focusing on areas of existing energy production, such as the central and western Gulf of Mexico, while diversifying energy sources. Louisiana can play an important role in both areas.

Oil and gas production in deep water fields off Louisiana's coast remain an important source of jobs and revenue, an infrastructure that is at growing risk from the deterioration of Louisiana's coast, where any disruption from hurricane damage could have an immediate negative effect on the national economy.

Kerry-Edwards will strengthen national security while growing our economy and protecting our environment, all of which are key concerns for Louisiana citizens.

The Kerry-Edwards plan to increase the use of domestically available renewable fuels such as ethanol also provides an opportunity for the state's sugar cane industry to expand the value of their crop.

John Kerry and John Edwards have a goal that 20 percent of America's electricity is produced from renewable sources by 2020. Louisiana's offshore waters are a major wind corridor in the U.S., and there is already an innovative project seeking funds to utilize obsolete oil platforms for wind energy production.

Treating our Military Families Fairly

John Kerry and John Edwards will enact the Military Families Bill of Rights including reasonable housing, education, dental and health care. 1/5 of America's veterans currently lack full health care coverage. Additional benefits include help for family members affected by extended deployment, increased financial commitments and a commitment to keep the faith with those who served and often bear the wounds of battle.

Educational Opportunities

No Child Left Behind gave states flexibility to use federal funds to address local needs, with extra aid to low income families, but this Bush administration cut funding and issued restrictive guidelines, preventing the goals from being met. Funding must be dependable for early learning programs like Head Start, the Early Learning Opportunities Act and Opportunities for At-risk youth in YouthBuild. College doors must be opened wider by reversing Bush's cuts in Pell Grants, and John Kerry will bring back Super-Pell Grants to counter the 35% increase in tuition at public colleges.

Voting for Louisiana's Future

These issues have serious implications for Louisiana's future, as well as that of the country. The fiscal policies of the Bush administration and GOP-led Congress have made funding national priorities much more difficult. Louisiana will have to make the case that our state's pressing problems must be addressed even as fiscal responsibility is restored to the federal government.

John Kerry will remove the tax cut George Bush gave the top 2% of Americans because John Kerry will reduce the deficit. He'll use the pay-as-you-go policy that helped create the budget surplus during the 1990's, close tax loop-holes for the wealthy, end a climate that encourages out-sourcing jobs, and give tax incentives to companies creating good jobs here at home.

John Kerry and John Edwards demonstrate the values and commitment to meet Louisiana's needs and help the state achieve a sustainable future.

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John Kerry & John Edwards... Good for Louisiana **STRONG** on Louisiana Issues:

- Restoring our coast to a sustainable condition.
- Increasing port security and cargo inspection.
- Saving our shrimp and sugar cane industries.
- Providing affordable health care for all.
- Creating energy independence for the U.S.
- Treating military families fairly.
- Funding No Child Left Behind adequately.
- John Kerry is the only Presidential candidate who can ensure a sustainable future for Louisiana.

Contact your local Louisiana Headquarters:

For more information go to: www.KerryRoots.com

Louisiana's Coastal Crisis

Louisiana faces a direct threat: the loss of coastal wetlands and the hurricane protection the wetlands provide. Our marshes are nurseries for seafood, and a major hurricane buffer for communities, industries, agricultural lands, and infrastructure whose value has been estimated at \$100 billion. The collapse of Louisiana's coastal system is a national catastrophe.

Total cost of restoring Louisiana's coast is estimated at \$14 billion spent over 20 years, but George Bush's Coastal Restoration package is only \$1.2 billion allocated within a 10-year window - not the comprehensive restoration program that is needed.

John Kerry pledged to make saving Louisiana's coast the national priority it deserves to be during a visit to Shell Beach in St. Bernard Parish, "Louisiana's coastal land loss is swallowing up the state's economy and its future," On Earth Day, he reminded the nation that "in Louisiana every 30 minutes a piece of land the size of a football field sinks into the Gulf of Mexico. Fishermen see their nets come up empty. Sportsmen watch entire habitats disappear. And families who live and visit those coastline towns fear that their homes or businesses may literally slip away.

"We can change this...because a secure coastline means security for the families who live there, the business owners who make a living there, and the sportsmen who hunt and fish there... there are no false choices to make between a clean environment and a strong economy we can and we will have both when I am president..."

John Kerry and John Edwards support giving Louisiana a "fair share" of the federal offshore oil revenues derived from our coast and offshore waters.



Homeland Security

The Kerry Plan for homeland security includes increasing port security by improving loading facilities inspections and securing information on container shipments and air cargo. By improving the ability to gather, analyze and share information, we can harden likely terrorist targets such as nuclear and chemical plants and establish new security standards. The Kerry Plan improves domestic readiness by supporting our first responders, police and fire fighters, and by fighting bio-terrorism as a specialized field.

John Kerry believes some provisions of the Patriot Act should be made stronger (money laundering, for example) and others must be made smarter (library and sneak & peek) to better protect privacy and freedom while allowing our government to do everything necessary to track down terror and defend America.

Accessible and Affordable Health Care

In Louisiana, health care costs and premiums are increasing faster than workers' earnings, family premiums have increased dramatically, and 10,000 people have lost health insurance since 2000.

John Kerry and John Edwards are committed to affordable health care for every American, particularly children, seniors, and veterans. Their plan includes cutting health care costs for small businesses, lowering prescription drug prices for seniors, legalizing Canadian drug purchases, ensuring quality care for veterans, and providing the opportunity for individuals to buy into large insured group plans at affordable premiums.

A Kerry-Edwards administration will address family issues, those of children, and of women - protecting individual equality and the right to choose. The Kerry-Edwards plan helps middle class families by providing tax credits to help pay for health care.

Louisiana Shrimp & Sugar Cane At Risk

John Kerry will renegotiate CAFTA...

Louisiana is the leading source of domestic shrimp in the U.S., and has one of the few highly productive wild coastal fisheries left in the world. But the state's coastal fishery is facing serious economic and environmental threats from cheap foreign imports and a massive summertime "Dead Zone".

Louisiana's sugar cane industry is a long-standing success story, producing approximately 20% of domestically grown sugar, employing 27,000 people in 15 sugar mills, two refineries, and hundreds of farms.

These industries are at risk by the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) negotiated by the Bush administration, allowing increased levels of foreign shrimp and sugar into U.S. markets, without American producers having a level playing field.

Louisiana's shrimpers and sugar cane farmers aren't "anti-trade", but they demand fair trade agreements that do not put American producers at a disadvantage when competing with heavily subsidized foreign imports.

Kerry-Edwards support "country of origin" and "truth in" labeling provisions to give consumers information about American agricultural and fishery products.

The Bush administration has made contradictory statements to Louisiana's Congressional delegation and sugar industry representatives about whether sugar would be included in the final CAFTA agreement. The Congressional vote on CAFTA, along with the final decision on the anti-dumping tariffs on some foreign shrimp, have been put off until after the election!