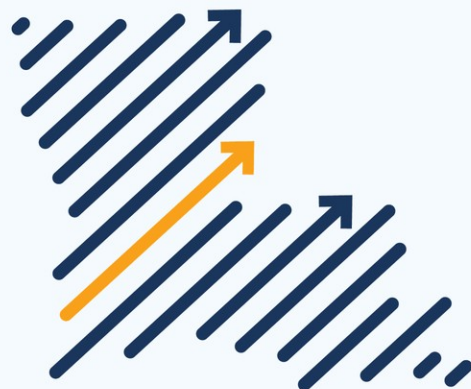




RECOMMENDATIONS

2026 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS



2026 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Introduction

On November 3 voters will consider ten amendments to the Louisiana Constitution. This particular election is notable for a couple of reasons. One, is that this is the most amendments voters have had to weigh in on since 2014.

Another is that it comes on the heels of two straight elections where voters rejected every amendment on the ballot, something that rarely occurs.

Whether that is the result of voter fatigue with constitutional amendments or a political statement citizens are making, constitutional amendments are still an important part of the process of governing. Better Louisiana believes each should be considered based on their merits.

To that end we have analyzed all of the amendments and offered our recommendations on several of them. In developing its position on the amendments, Better Louisiana has established a framework for analyzing them based on four basic principles:

1. **Treat the constitution as a framing document for governance.** Louisiana's constitution should set structure and rights, as the federal constitution does. Most policy details belong in statute, where they can more easily be revised as needed.
2. **It is better to take things out of the constitution than unnecessarily add things to it.** Removing provisions, particularly overly prescriptive tax policy, generally strengthens the document and returns decisions to the legislative process.
3. **Clear the way for good policy.** Sometimes the existing constitutional language blocks sound policy that cannot be addressed in statute without a constitutional change.
4. **Resist new restrictions.** Refrain from adding constraints that do not need to be placed in the constitution, especially measures that restrict the flexibility of local governments to manage their fiscal affairs. Once added to the constitution they can be difficult to adjust or remove.

It is understandable that voters might tire from the constant slate of amendments they are asked to consider each year. Still, some of them represent smart policy choices that can only be enacted by changing the constitution. We hope voters will consider each amendment carefully and use our analysis along with other available resources to make informed decisions when they cast their ballots.



AMENDMENT 1

Expansion of Property Tax Exemption for Spouses of Disabled Veterans

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: Allows the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran receiving a special property tax exemption to transfer that tax exemption to another residence.

Background: Over the years voters have approved constitutional amendments creating and expanding property tax exemptions for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. As it stands now, disabled veterans can qualify for additional property tax exemptions above the Homestead Exemption depending on the disability rating they receive from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

Disability Rating	Additional Exemption	Exemption + Homestead Exemption
100%	Full Value of Home	No Parish Property Taxes
70%-99%	\$45,000	\$120,000
50%-69%	\$25,000	\$100,000

The constitution allows the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran to retain that exemption if the veteran dies, as long as that spouse continues to live in the same residence. This amendment would allow a surviving spouse a one-time transfer of the exemption to another property, not to exceed the amount of the original exemption.

Comment: While we are wary of placing additional property tax exemptions in the constitution, this one makes only a small adjustment to an exemption voters have already approved. As of 2025, there were 229 surviving spouses of disabled veterans claiming this tax exemption with the estimated amount of foregone tax revenue to local governments of only \$168,000 across the state. That means the fiscal impact of this amendment on local government revenues would likely be extremely small.

One of the reasons given for bringing this amendment is that the surviving spouses of disabled veterans sometimes lose other federal benefits when that veteran dies. That might make the spouse's current home less affordable and lead to downsizing. This amendment would allow that spouse a one-time move into another home without losing the existing tax exemption, something that seems aligned with the intent of the current constitution.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT

AMENDMENT 2

Flexibility in Property Tax Adjustments

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: Allows a taxing authority more discretion to maintain millage rates for property taxes below their authorized maximum level.

Background: This is an amendment that voters have seen and rejected twice before: once in 2022 and then again as part of the sprawling Amendment # 2 in 2025. That probably doesn't make it any easier to understand.

Some of the laws involving property tax millages can be complicated and this one falls in that category. So, let's start with an example of how this might work.

Let's say voters approve an annual property tax of 2.5 mills to support a local fire district. Current law requires property values in every parish to be reassessed by the parish assessor at least once every four years. Historically, in most jurisdictions, that reassessment finds property values have increased, and when values go up, so does the revenue the millage brings in.

When this happens, the constitution generally requires millage rates to be adjusted so that taxing authorities do not automatically receive a windfall simply because property values were reassessed at higher levels.

So, let's say the 2.5 mills tax was passed in 2025 and when property is reassessed in 2028 those values go up. Since the tax would now be bringing in more than what was originally authorized, the local taxing district reduces the millage to maybe 2.0 mills to keep the revenues the same.

But the constitution seems to recognize that there are emergencies or other circumstances when the local taxing authority might need the full 2.5 mills approved by voters, so it allows them a way to go back up to that maximum millage voters originally approved. To do so requires a two-thirds vote of the governmental body that receives the tax in a public meeting. But, there is a catch. In order to maintain that full taxing authority, the local entity must exercise it at least once between reassessments or permanently lose it.

This creates an incentive for taxing authorities to periodically roll their millage back up, not necessarily because they need the additional revenue at that moment, but because failing to do so could permanently reduce their future taxing authority. This amendment would eliminate that requirement and allow a taxing authority to maintain a lower millage rate without forfeiting the ability to return later to its maximum authorized rate.

Comments: Local governments understandably do not want to give up taxing authority they have been granted, even when they do not immediately need the additional revenue. They want the flexibility to respond to emergencies, unexpected costs, or other future needs.

But the current system creates an odd incentive. If a taxing authority keeps its millage below the maximum authorized rate for too long, it can lose the ability to return to that higher rate. As a result, a taxing authority may have reason to raise its millage at least once during a reassessment cycle simply to preserve that authority—even if it does not otherwise need the additional revenue at that time.

This amendment would eliminate that "use it or lose it" feature. Increasing the millage would still require a two-thirds vote of the taxing authority in a public meeting.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT

AMENDMENT 3

Prohibits Post-Conviction Bail for Certain Crimes Against a Minor

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: Prohibits persons convicted of an aggravated offense against a minor from being released on bail while pursuing appeals or engaging in other judicial proceedings.

Background: The constitution appears to specifically allow someone convicted of a crime to be released on bail if the maximum sentence the person could receive is five years or less. If the possible sentence is more than that, the judge in the case has the discretion to grant bail or not. That provision would remain in the constitution if this amendment passes, except to say that it would not apply to aggravated offenses committed against a minor.

Those particular offenses are specifically defined in statute but generally include various sexual offenses, kidnapping of children, human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation. The crux of the change is that the bail rights a person convicted of these crimes might have now, and the bail discretion given to judges for serious offenses of this nature would both be removed.

Comment: The provisions of this amendment are pretty narrow in the sense that it only prohibits bail on these offenses after conviction. Following arrest and during trial, alleged offenders could still be released on bail, but not while pursuing post-conviction appeals.

It is interesting to note that during the same 2026 legislative session, lawmakers also passed [HB 58](#) by the same author which statutorily accomplishes the same thing as this amendment. While it is not unusual to pass companion legislation that implements the provisions of an amendment, it usually includes language saying the statutory law will only take effect upon passage of the constitutional amendment. HB 58 does not include that language.

That fact was not discussed in committee, but it would appear that the language currently in the constitution would render the statute unconstitutional if the amendment fails to pass. That point would have to be definitively decided by the courts following a legal challenge, but it is highly unusual for the Legislature to take this approach.

The practical question at the heart of this issue seems to be whether judges should have the leeway the constitution currently allows them to make post-conviction bail determinations on serious crimes against a minor based on the particular circumstances, or if that discretion should be completely removed.

Since this is not an area where Better Louisiana has a specific policy perspective, we have no recommendation.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

NO POSITION

AMENDMENT 4

Places a Lifetime Term Limit for Governor

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: Prohibits a person who has served as governor for more than one-and-a-half terms from being elected to another term in the future. Stated another way, a person can serve no more than two terms as governor during their lifetime.

Background: What the constitution basically says today is that a person can serve two back-to-back terms as governor but cannot seek re-election again without sitting one term out. There is, however, no limit to the number of times one can be elected governor over the course of a lifetime, as long as those rules are followed. This amendment would change that to no governor can serve more than two terms total.

That is different from what it has been over the course of most of Louisiana history. For 150 years governors were prohibited from serving any back-to-back terms, though they could run again for another term after sitting one out. That happened with governors like Earl Long and Jimmie Davis who were elected twice, but not-back-to-back.

This changed in 1966 when Gov. John McKeithen successfully pushed a constitutional amendment to allow the chief executive to serve for two consecutive terms. But there was never a lifetime term limit, which is why Gov. Edwin Edwards was able to serve four terms as governor over the course of 24 years. This amendment effectively places a lifetime term limit for governors of two terms.

According to the [Ballotpedia](#) website, states across the country differ widely on this issue. About three-fourths of states have some form of term limits, while 23 of them have the same two-consecutive-term limit as Louisiana. Thirteen have no term limits at all, and nine have a form of lifetime term limit like Louisiana is seeking with this amendment.

Looking regionally, Louisiana follows the same term limit rules as most southern states. That said, our immediate neighbors Arkansas and Mississippi have a lifetime term limit, while Texas has no terms limits at all. Passage of this amendment would also make Louisiana substantially similar to term limits for the President at the federal level.

Comment: Where Louisiana stands now appears to be in the mainstream when it comes to gubernatorial term limits. Practically speaking, this amendment prohibits two-term governors from ever seeking re-election. The arguments for and against generally fall along the same lines as the general term limit debate.

- Pros: Leadership change is healthy, eight years is enough to accomplish an agenda, and politicians should not become permanent political fixtures.

- Cons: Voters should decide who they want to elect as governor, former governors have experience and expertise that could later be of service to the state, and our current system has been in place for 50 years and it has not been a big issue with citizens.

This is a variation of an issue that has been debated in Louisiana for many years. What it has generally shown is that the value of term limits is basically in the eye of the beholder. Historically, Better Louisiana has not taken a position on term limits.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

NO POSITION

AMENDMENT 5

Flexibility In Paying Off Retirement System Debt

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: Allows the Legislature the discretion to pay off debt in state retirement systems based on what it deems the most financially advantageous way instead of the requirement that it make payments on the oldest debt.

Background: In 2023 voters approved a constitutional amendment requiring the Legislature to direct at least 25% of any non-recurring revenues recognized by the state's Revenue Estimating Conference to payments to reduce debt in the state's four public retirement systems. This was an increase over the previous requirement of at least 10% for retirement system debt.

Originally the payments went to the state's two largest retirement systems based on the proportion of the debt they owed. The amendment in 2023 opened it to all four retirement systems and also created a requirement that the state must make payments toward the oldest debt first. Passage of this amendment removes that requirement and would provide the Legislature more flexibility to pay off debt schedules based on other factors that might be more effective in saving the state dollars.

Comment: In many ways, the notion of paying off the oldest pension debt first made intuitive sense, because you were retiring long-term obligations that had cost the state billions of dollars. But the oldest debt is not necessarily the most expensive debt or the debt that can free up the most recurring dollars for return to the State General Fund. Pension fund debt can be extremely complicated because it is broken down into many separate buckets created in different years with each carrying different interest rates, term lengths, and repayment schedules.

Just as it might make more sense for an individual to pay off high-interest credit card debt before a lower-interest mortgage that is winding down, the state might also want to be able to consider similar types of options.

It is worth noting that the Legislature's efforts in recent years to reduce retirement debt have paid off. A decade ago, the debt of the four state retirement systems was more than \$19 billion. Recent estimates peg the current liability at something over \$13 billion. To some degree that is a result of market gains, but also prudent investments made by lawmakers. Passage of this amendment would give the state an additional tool to continue the progress we have seen.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT

AMENDMENT 6

Increase Property Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What it Does: Authorizes local governments, with voter approval, to provide an additional property tax exemption, in addition to the Homestead Exemption, for certain homeowners age 65 and older based on their income.

Background: Generally, Louisiana's current Homestead Exemption exempts the first \$75,000 of a home's market value from parish property taxes. This amendment would give local governments the option of adding a much more lucrative exemption above the Homestead Exemption, for seniors age 65 or older who qualify for the existing special assessment of property taxes.

The special assessment freezes the assessed value of a home at the time it is applied, but only for seniors with an adjusted gross income of no more than \$100,000. Another amendment on the ballot would increase that income level to \$150,000.

The amount of the additional exemption increases as the homeowner ages:

Age	Market Value of Exemption
65-68	\$60,000
69-72	\$120,000
73-76	\$180,000
77-80	\$240,000
81 +	\$300,000

No local governments are required to offer this exemption. Governing authorities in both parishes and municipalities would have the option of placing it on the ballot to allow voters to decide whether to approve or reject this additional exemption. If they do approve it, local governments would be required to absorb the loss in tax revenue and it could not be passed along directly to other property owners.

The amendment allows the exemption to be passed on to the surviving spouse if that spouse is no more than five years younger than the deceased homeowner. It cannot be passed on to other heirs, though there are provisions for passing it on to some trusts.

Comment: There are several things to consider with regard to this amendment. On the one hand it would potentially create a significant tax break for many seniors. As stated elsewhere, about 36% of homeowners already qualify for the special assessment. That number could rise significantly if Amendment #9 passes and the income eligibility requirement increases from \$100,000 of adjusted gross income to \$150,000.

That in turn could help more senior citizens stay in their homes if they choose to do so and stave off some of the tax consequences of rising property values. It would also enhance Louisiana's standing as an attractive place for retirees in parishes that opt in to this proposal.

On the other hand, while this exemption is optional and no local government is required to offer it to homeowners, very little flexibility comes with it. Essentially the amendment establishes this exemption in the constitution in the form that it is laid out. Local governments cannot change the age categories or the amounts of the exemption.

There is also no language specifically allowing local governments to rescind the exemption if at some point later they find it to be too costly.

In addition, as exemptions are expanded more property is effectively taken off the tax rolls. And while local governments have to absorb the immediate loss of revenues, other taxpayers will eventually have to pay more if new millages are passed to make up for the fact that the tax base is shrinking. That impacts businesses, renters, and other homeowners.

While we like the idea of shielding senior citizens from taxes they have no control over, and the fact that this is optional, we wish it provided more flexibility for local governments to tailor tax breaks in a way that might be more suited to their individual goals and situations. As we have stated elsewhere, the better approach would be to untie the hands of local governments with regard to property taxes, rather than putting more rules in the constitution.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

OPPOSE

AMENDMENT 7

Use of Public Funds to Replace Lead Water Pipes on Private Property

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: Creates a constitutional exception to allow local governments to spend public funds to identify and replace hazardous drinking water lines located on private property.

Background: In 2024 the federal Environmental Protection Agency passed new safe drinking water rules that require water systems across the country to inventory water lines to determine if they contain lead or other harmful materials and then replace those that do by 2037. New Orleans has some of the oldest water pipe infrastructure in the country. About one-third of the city's pipes are more than 100 years old, dating back to a time when lead piping was commonly used to connect the city's main water lines to homes. Current estimates suggest about 85,000 New Orleans residences are serviced with lead pipes.

To deal with that issue, the city has been awarded \$152 million in federal loans and grants to begin addressing the problem. The pipes in the city's main water lines are apparently not the primary concern. Instead, the focus is on pipes that connect the main water lines to homes. The new federal regulations require replacement of hazardous pipes not just on the public side that the city maintains, but also on the private property where the pipe runs from the main line to the house.

The federal funding can be used to replace both sets of pipes. The problem is that the Louisiana constitution generally prohibits state or local governments from loaning, pledging, or donating things of value to any person or company. Since the public funding the city has received to replace the pipes includes improvements on private property, concerns have been raised that the use of those funds for that purpose could violate the constitution. This amendment seeks to address that.

It provides a constitutional exception to allow the use of public funds to do the inventory and replacement work on private property needed to comply with the new federal regulations. Though this amendment was sought by the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, if passed it would apply statewide. A [companion bill](#) provides rules and guidance for implementing the process of replacing the pipes.

Comment: The Louisiana Attorney General has issued an [opinion](#) that says the use of these public dollars to replace hazardous water pipes on private property does not violate the constitution because it serves a public purpose and enhances the quality of life and health of those served by the Sewerage and Water Board. Supporters, however, say this amendment is still needed out of an abundance of caution and to ensure that the issue is clearly addressed in the law.

Given the Attorney General's opinion, it is unclear whether it is necessary to add this exception to the constitution. Nevertheless, it appears narrowly tailored to apply only to replacing the pipes required by the federal regulations. This project in New Orleans has already been slowed by various administrative delays. This amendment would seem to ensure that it could now proceed forward without legal challenges.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT

AMENDMENT 8

Prohibits Expropriation of Property by Foreign Adversaries

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: This constitutional amendment prohibits any private entity that is a foreign adversary or an agent of a foreign adversary from taking or expropriating land in Louisiana.

Background: Expropriation, or eminent domain as it is sometimes called, refers to the right of the government or another authorized entity to take someone's property without their consent. Legally, it has to be for an important public purpose, and the owner must receive fair compensation.

People usually think only a government can expropriate property, most often in terms of acquiring rights-of-way for roads, bridges, levees, or drainage. But the Louisiana constitution also allows private entities to take property if the purpose is specifically authorized by state statute. Common purposes include land needs around utilities, pipelines, telecommunication, water and sewerage, railways, and carbon storage.

A piece of companion [legislation](#) passed in conjunction with this amendment defines foreign adversaries. It specifically links that definition to a list of countries on a list compiled by the federal government. Those countries are China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and what was the Maduro regime in Venezuela.

Comments: This amendment seems pretty straightforward on the surface. No one wants hostile nations to have the power of eminent domain to seize property in Louisiana. But the amendment not only mentions foreign adversaries but also "agents" of foreign adversaries, which raised concerns for a number of business associations and economic development organizations.

Because global financing involves complex webs of investors, pension funds, and international banks, some fear that even a single participant in a major project could be considered an "agent" if it has some tie to a foreign adversary nation. They worry that if this amendment passes it could open the door for lengthy and expensive legal challenges to major economic development projects, derail them, or shy investors away from even considering Louisiana, when there may actually be no threat to the security of the state.

Generally, business groups would prefer to have this issue handled at the federal level. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a panel made up of nine major federal cabinet agencies, already deals with some aspects of this. It is authorized to review foreign investments, corporate mergers, and real estate acquisitions in the United States to determine whether foreign financial transactions pose a threat to U.S. national security.

In looking at other states, Louisiana seems to be somewhat unique in a) dealing with the issue of expropriation involving foreign adversaries, and b) trying to place such a prohibition in the constitution. Instead, most states have tackled the issue of foreign adversaries by passing statutory provisions prohibiting them from owning or acquiring land in general.

As it turns out, Louisiana does this, too. [RS 9:2717.1](#) states that "No foreign adversary or person connected with a foreign adversary may purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire immovable property in this state." And this year it added statutory provisions that:

1. Prohibit foreign adversaries from directly or indirectly owning property within 25 miles of military installations. [HB 816](#)
2. Prohibit foreign adversaries from expropriating property within 50 miles of a military base. [SB 466](#)
3. Allow the Louisiana Military Department to expropriate property connected to a foreign adversary if it is within 50 miles of a military base and deemed a threat to public health or safety. [SB 200](#)

Considered as a whole, it would seem that Louisiana is well protected by laws restricting landownership by foreign adversaries or individuals or companies associated with them.

Today, Louisiana receives a huge amount of global investment in areas such as oil and gas, chemical manufacturing, and pipelines. Administration officials have clearly signaled they want to receive more. But due to the complex nature of global financing, one could see how the passage of this measure could cause unintended consequences and perhaps hurt economic development efforts. If that happens it would be difficult, if not almost impossible, to change the constitution again to deal with whatever problems arise.

While we are supportive of efforts to protect Louisiana from foreign adversaries, we believe this particular issue requires more review and discussion than it received during the session. As we have suggested on other issues, we are wary of adding new dictates to the constitution when they can be made more appropriately in statute. In this case we have many property restrictions involving foreign adversaries already in statute. For this and other reasons mentioned, we believe voters should oppose this amendment.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

OPPOSE

AMENDMENT 9

Broaden the Special Assessment Which Freezes Property Taxes for Some Homeowners

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What It Does: There is currently a special property tax assessment that protects some homeowners, primarily senior citizens, from property tax increases triggered by increases in the assessed value of their property. It applies to homeowners whose adjusted gross income does not exceed \$100,000. This amendment would increase the allowable income to receive the special assessment to \$150,000. It would also require local governments to absorb any subsequent loss in tax collections without passing any increase on to other property owners.

Background: The special assessment was originally created through a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2000. The net effect was that it protected homeowners age 65 or older from property tax increases caused by increases in the assessed value of their property if they had an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less. It does not apply to tax increases resulting from additional millages approved by voters.

Over the years the special assessment has been expanded to include members of the armed forces with a specified service-related disability, other citizens with a permanent disability, and spouses of military personnel killed or missing in action while in service. The allowable income level was also raised to \$100,000 and a provision was added to index that amount to inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index beginning with the 2026 tax year.

The original intent of the special assessment was to help ensure senior citizens on fixed incomes could remain in their homes even in the face of higher property values. Later it has been touted as an incentive to make Louisiana more attractive to retirees.

Comment: Better Louisiana has been supportive of tax policies that make Louisiana more competitive, and arguably this one might, too. But we have also been wary of constitutional amendments that mandate more or broader property tax exemptions across the board.

Property taxes are local taxes, and every local jurisdiction is different. If a local governing authority wants to give a tax break, it should be up to them to decide, not a mandate placed in the constitution. Sadly, our current constitution doesn't give them that flexibility. It's almost entirely prescriptive. That is why we have advocated taking much of the language about local property taxes out of the constitution.

Another thing worth noting is that about 422,000 residences are currently utilizing the special assessment. That is about 36% of households with a Homestead Exemption. While it is unknown how many additional homeowners will become eligible, it's likely a significant number. Since local governments will have to absorb the cost, it will impact their tax bases. And that's not just sheriffs and police juries, but also libraries and local schools.

While we value our senior citizens and want to encourage them to retire in our state, we are also cognizant of the mounting pressures on many local governments, particularly in rural areas. Perhaps instead of passing this amendment we should consider one that gives local governments the flexibility to offer additional property tax breaks, but doesn't mandate that they do so.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

OPPOSE

AMENDMENT 10

Tax Break to Encourage Rehabilitation of Blighted Properties

[Read the full text of the amendment](#) ›

What it Does: Allows local governments to establish a property tax exemption, if they choose to do so, to help rehabilitate blighted or derelict property, based on requirements and procedures determined by the Legislature.

Background: Parishes and municipalities across the state all have problems with blighted properties. Besides simply being a nuisance they bring with them a number of significant issues including lower property values, health threats, and public safety concerns. This amendment seeks to address the problem by giving local governments the option of creating a tax exemption as an incentive for property owners or developers to rehabilitate the blighted property and return it to commerce. The amendment is only a mechanism to allow for such exemptions. How the process would actually work is spelled out in companion [legislation](#) passed by lawmakers during the 2026 regular session. It only goes into effect if this amendment passes.

Under that legislation, local governing authorities would be able to voluntarily decide to grant the exemption within certain parameters:

- For residential property the tax break could be no more than 75% of its assessed value for up to 20 years.
- For unimproved land, the exemption can be up to 25% of assessed value for no more than ten years. It must be adjacent to property with a residential or commercial structure and no more than two lots of unimproved land can qualify.
- The property must be rehabilitated before the exemption is allowed to take effect.
- The tax exemption stays with the owner of the property, meaning that if a developer buys a blighted property, rehabilitates it, and sells it to someone else, the purchaser of the property gets the tax break, it does not stay with the seller.

This part of the law envisions someone rehabilitating individual pieces of property to established standards in exchange for a limited tax break over a defined period of time.

But another section also allows local governments to provide a much broader property tax break within a designated redevelopment area or an area subject to an existing redevelopment plan. This could include much more than individual tracts of property. It could encompass any geographic area the local governing authority designates for redevelopment purposes including the entire boundaries of the parish or a municipality.

Under this provision the local governments would not be limited to the time limitations prescribed in the other part of the law, nor the percentages of assessed value. They could make those determinations themselves. This would give them increased flexibility to deal with much bigger redevelopment initiatives, presumably those that are more costly and complicated than the typical blighted properties one sees in some neighborhoods and downtown areas.

It also allows them to partner with other public entities, nonprofits, or qualified developers to undertake these larger rehabilitation efforts and includes mechanisms for financial oversight.

Comments: This bill originally began as an effort to deal with blight on relatively small-scale individual properties. But amendments were added that greatly increased the potential scope, size, and duration of both the projects that could be eligible and the tax breaks themselves. This part of the legislation received relatively little discussion or scrutiny.

That said, blighted and derelict properties are big problems in many areas and local governments have struggled finding ways to deal with them. While we are usually wary of property tax breaks, especially ones as potentially large as these could be, this one is a little different in two respects.

One is that it is permissive. It does not require local governments to do anything, it simply gives them an option that they can utilize if they choose. Second, the constitutional amendment itself does nothing more than allow for this option, leaving all the rules, requirements, and other details to be determined by legislative statute. That means all of those things can be changed by the Legislature if need be. It would not require another constitutional amendment to adjust the program or fix any problems that might arise.

Given these provisions, and the allowances for financial oversight we hope local governments will use, we believe this approach could assist communities in dealing with the pervasive problem of blight.

BETTER LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATION

SUPPORT

FALL 2026 BALLOT

Constitutional Amendments At a Glance

Get our full analysis at betterla.org

LEADERS FOR A
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LOUISIANA



1 SUPPORT	2 SUPPORT	3 NO POS.	4 NO POS.	5 SUPPORT	6 OPPOSE	7 SUPPORT	8 OPPOSE	9 OPPOSE	10 SUPPORT
AMENDMENT 1 OUR RECOMMENDATION SUPPORT Allows surviving spouses of certain disabled veterans to transfer an existing property tax exemption to another home one time. Main consideration: The fiscal impact appears small, and the proposal extends an existing benefit.					AMENDMENT 6 OUR RECOMMENDATION OPPOSE Allows local governments, with voter approval, to provide increasingly larger property tax exemptions for qualifying seniors as they get older. Main concern: Though participation is optional, the Constitution would establish specific benefits while giving local governments little flexibility to adjust them.				
AMENDMENT 2 OUR RECOMMENDATION SUPPORT Gives local governments more flexibility in managing voter-approved property tax millage rates. Main consideration: The amendment could eliminate an unnecessary cycle of tax increases and reductions.					AMENDMENT 7 OUR RECOMMENDATION SUPPORT Allows public funds to be used to identify and replace hazardous water pipes on private property. Main consideration: Provides clear constitutional authority to help replace lead water lines on private property and comply with federal requirements.				
AMENDMENT 3 OUR RECOMMENDATION NO POSITION Prohibits post-conviction bail for people convicted of certain aggravated crimes against minors. Main consideration: The key question is whether judges should retain discretion to consider individual circumstances in granting post-conviction bail in cases involving minors.					AMENDMENT 8 OUR RECOMMENDATION OPPOSE Prohibits foreign adversaries and their agents from using expropriation to acquire property. Main concern: Broad language could create uncertainty for major economic development projects with international financing and similar prohibitions on property ownership and expropriation are already in statute.				
AMENDMENT 4 OUR RECOMMENDATION NO POSITION Limits a governor to two terms during their lifetime. Main consideration: The debate centers on leadership turnover versus allowing voters to elect an experienced former governor.					AMENDMENT 9 OUR RECOMMENDATION OPPOSE Raises the income limit from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for senior citizens to receive a freeze on their property taxes. Main concern: Local governments would have to absorb lost revenue without the ability to opt out.				
AMENDMENT 5 OUR RECOMMENDATION SUPPORT Gives the Legislature more flexibility in deciding which retirement debt to pay off first. Main consideration: Different retirement debts carry different costs and repayment schedules and the Legislature currently has little flexibility on what debt to pay off first.					AMENDMENT 10 OUR RECOMMENDATION SUPPORT Allows local governments to offer property tax breaks to encourage rehabilitation of blighted property. Main consideration: Blight is a major issue in communities. While the tax breaks could be substantial, participation is optional and the Legislature can change the specifics of how the program operates.				