



# LOUISIANA SENATE

**Contact:**

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**STATE SENATOR J.P. MORRELL APPOINTED CHAIR OF LOUISIANA STATE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS**

**Also Named to Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations**

**Baton Rouge, La. ( January 13, 2016)** – District 3 State Senator Jean Paul J.P. Morrell (D - New Orleans) is the new chairman of the Louisiana Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs. The revenue and fiscal affairs committee is the senate committee with jurisdiction over the state’s construction budget as well as all taxation matters. Senator Morrell will be the first African American in two decades to hold the post.

“I am honored to have been entrusted with this great responsibility,” said Sen. Morrell, who previously served as member of the committee. “Following years of fiscal mismanagement and public asset fire sales, the budget crisis facing Louisiana cannot be understated. As Chair of the Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, I will help guide the Louisiana State Senate as we make the tough decisions necessary to right the ship.”

Sen. Morrell, who last session championed a series of reforms designed to fix the state’s highly-successful film tax credit program, will oversee this important committee leading into the upcoming special session as the legislature reviews the state’s numerous tax credit and exemption programs.

Legislative instruments and other matters referred to this committee encompass:

- Bond issuance, payment and retirement
- Bond portion of the comprehensive state capital budget
- Bonds and debt
- Department of Revenue and Taxation, Tax Commission and the Board of Tax Appeals
- Deposit and investment of public monies
- Economy and efficiency of government operations
- Revenue collection
- Revenue measures generally
- Taxes and raising of revenues

Sen. Morrell is also taking on new responsibilities as a member of the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations. In that role, he expects to examine living wage and pay equity issues.

“I look forward to fighting for a living wage across this state and to closing the equal pay gap in Louisiana. It is unconscionable that women are paid over 30% less for the same work done by their male counterparts. This is yet another embarrassing category in which Louisiana leads the nation. Equal pay for equal work is common sense,” Sen. Morrell said.

State Senator District 3 spans across parts of St. Bernard, Orleans, and Jefferson parishes. Morrell was first elected to public office as a state representative in 2006 where he served until joining the Senate in 2008. He is an advocate for well-paying jobs, quality schools, safe streets, and accountable government. One of his top priorities has been legislation to prevent sexual assault against women and children and to provide supports for the victims of abuse. As a member of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and a delegate to the Council for the United States and Italy, he has become a respected young leader and speaker internationally.

Sen. Morrell lives with his wife, Catherine, and their two children in New Orleans’ Gentilly neighborhood.

Sen. Morrell received a bachelor degree in Political Science from Spring Hill College. He later went on to Tulane University Law School, where he was elected as the first African-American President of the Tulane Graduate and Professional Studies Association (GaPSA), the student government organization with oversight of all Tulane graduate programs. He graduated from Tulane Law School with a Juris Doctorate and Certification in Civil Law.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Chairman, Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs  
Senate Labor and Industrial Relations  
Senate & Governmental Affairs  
Senate Judiciary B

## **NON-STANDING COMMITTEES**

Chairman, Entertainment Industry Development Advisory Commission  
Chairman, Orleans Justice and Rehabilitation Reform Commission  
Chairman, Pretrial Services Commission  
Select Committee on Hurricane Recovery  
Law Enforcement Management District of Orleans Parish

## **AWARDS**

- “Legislative Advocacy Award” by the New Orleans Family Justice Center

- Two time “Legislative Champion” by the United Way of Southeast Louisiana Women’s Leadership Council
- “Top Ten Legislator” by Blueprint Louisiana
- “Acclaim Award” by the Forum For Equality
- Two time Chamber of Southwest Louisiana “Business Champion”
- “Legislator of the Year” by the Alliance for Good Government
- Distinguished Legislative Services Award from the Louisiana Counseling Association
- Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana “Justice for Youth Award”
- Recognized as a “Top New Orleans Legislator” by Gambit Weekly
- Two time “Legislator of the Year” by Humane Society of Louisiana

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS HIGHLIGHTS**

- Secured millions of dollars needed to rehabilitate Methodist Hospital in New Orleans East
- Created the Non Flood Protection Asset Management Authority to re-open and revitalize the Lakefront of New Orleans
- Restructured the Sewerage and Water Board, New Orleans Lakefront Airport, and New Orleans Regional Business Park
- Fought for FEMA funding for Nunez Community College in Chalmette
- Fought to prevent the consolidation of University of New Orleans and Southern University at New Orleans as well as additional capital outlay dollars for upgrades and renovations at both campuses
- Led an investigation into law enforcement statewide that uncovered more than 1,000 untested rape kits across Louisiana
- Authored, supported, and passed numerous pieces of legislation supporting Equal Pay for Women
- Established Sexual Assault Working Group
- Fought for fair housing options for victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita
- Championed a package of legislation on sexual assault and domestic violence to protect victims and punish offenders
- Established the Pretrial Service Commission to assess the safety and flight risk of defendants
- Reduced penalties for marijuana possession to free up resources to fight violent crime
- Authored legislation that protects children who have witnessed violent crimes
- Helped lead the redevelopment of the Federal City site in Algiers as a member of the Algiers Development District
- Assisted in the redevelopment of the Milne Boy’s Home located in Gentilly in his role as Chairman of the Gentilly Development District
- Eliminated loop holes and expanded the penalties in regards to cock-fighting as well as additional initiatives to prevent cruelty to animals
- Created the rules in the Louisiana Senate and House requiring everyone testifying before a committee, including politicians and state department officials, to sign an oath that their testimony is truthful.

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