

Senator Nick Gautreaux's 2006 Legislative Report



During the years I've served as your Senator for Senate District 26, I've always stayed in touch with my constituents by being available for meetings, attending as many charitable and local events as possible and being accessible through my website, e-mail and telephone. I haven't been able to talk to everyone I represent this year, so I'd like to take this opportunity to report on the recent legislative session and to receive your valuable input on upcoming issues affecting our state.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita dealt our state and our district a devastating blow. The aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had a ripple effect for every parish in the state, due to the influx of people and the competition over state dollars for our roads, education and healthcare.

I've been working, and will continue to work, on behalf of the hard-working families in District 26 to make sure we have a strong voice working to secure the necessary state assistance for projects and recovery in our area.

Thank you for the honor and privilege to represent you in the state Senate. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (337) 740-NICK (6425) or at gautreauxn@legis.state.la.us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nick Gautreaux". The signature is stylized with a large initial "N" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

The Legislature has been working diligently

since the Hurricanes to address issues such as housing, insurance, property rights and child safety. We have made great strides on all issues affecting the state, and passed the state budget with enough revenue to restore past cuts and set aside \$150 million for future emergency response and evacuation. If not utilized during the hurricane season, the remainder of that \$150 million will be applied to Citizens' Property Insurance Co. assessments, giving taxpayers a break.



Penalized insurance companies for non-payment

The Legislature passed legislation to increase penalties for insurance companies who fail to pay claims. The new legislation doubles the penalty to 50 percent of the damages owed. The Legislature defeated a bill that would have repealed the flex-band rating system, which prohibits insurance companies from raising rates by more than 10 percent without prior approval from the

Insurance Rating Commission. Additionally, the deadline for filing insurance claims for damages from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has been extended until Sept. 1, 2007.

For bill info visit <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/GautreauxN/>

Protected home and property owners' rights

The Road Home program, created by the Louisiana Recovery Authority, was approved by the Legislature during the session. The Road Home is a housing development and recovery plan that awards grants to all homeowners up to \$150,000 for losses of underinsured or uninsured property.

One controversial issue during the session was eminent domain. The Legislature passed a constitutional amendment to prohibit the government from taking private land from individuals to transfer to a private company for economic development purposes.

For bill info visit <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/GautreauxN/>



Passed toughest sex offender laws in the nation

The Legislature this year passed a bill making the state's sexual offender laws the toughest in the nation. The legislation increased the penalty for sexual battery, second degree sexual battery, oral sexual battery, aggravated incest and molestation of a juvenile to a minimum of 25 years in jail and a lifetime of GPS monitoring.

For bill info visit <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/GautreauxN/>



Passed pay raises for Louisiana teachers and support workers

During the 2006 Regular Legislative Session, the Legislature approved \$1,500 pay raises for teachers, coupled with raises for school support workers and higher education faculty. Bills intended to undermine the TOPS scholarship program were defeated.

For bill info visit <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/GautreauxN/>



Citizen Survey: Tell Nick What You Think

This survey may also be completed online at <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/GautreauxN/>.

Please fill out this survey and return to:

Senator Nick Gautreaux; 209 E. St. Victor Street; Abbeville, LA 70510

Phone: (337) 740-6425 or Toll Free: 1-866-740-6425

E-mail: gautreauxn@legis.state.la.us

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Do you support putting money from the state general fund into Citizens' Property Insurance Co. to avoid assessments on all policyholders?

2. Do you support putting money from the state general fund into state highways?

3. Did you apply for the Road Home Program if your home was damaged by the hurricanes?

4. If you were eligible and did not apply for the Road Home Program, please state why. _____

5. Do you support consolidating the Charity Hospital System into a few regional centers?

6. If uninsured patients are unable to receive treatment at a Charity facility, do you support the state's payment of supplements to private hospitals for care?

7. Senator Nick Gautreaux would like to know how you feel about issues facing your neighborhood, city and state. Please rate below, in order of priority from 1 to 10 (1 being most important), the issues that most concern you. If there are other issues in which you have an interest, please write them in the allocated space.

- _____ crime
- _____ drugs
- _____ economic development
- _____ education
- _____ healthcare
- _____ taxes
- _____ protecting the environment
- _____ insurance
- _____ roads
- _____ other issues: _____

Age: _____18-30 _____31-50 _____51 and over Sex: _____Female _____Male

Your neighborhood/city: _____

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