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**SENATOR HEATHER CLOUD FOCUSES ON ELECTION INTEGRITY
AND STATE BUDGET AS 2021 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS**

District 28 State Senator Heather Cloud (R-Turkey Creek) and her colleagues in the Legislature began their work today, April 12, as the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature commenced.

“I look forward to tackling many important issues over the next two months,” Senator Cloud said. “From crafting our state budget to meaningful election integrity reforms, I will fight every day for the people of District 28.”

This session, as the state constitution requires in odd-numbered years, is a fiscal session focused on the discussion of certain tax and spending issues with limited consideration of other general issues.

Cloud pre-filed bills to address election integrity and, as Vice-Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, is focused on being good stewards of our taxpayer dollars, as she and her colleagues work to create a balanced state budget.

Senate Bill 219 requires each registrar in a parish with a publicly owned utility to canvass registrants living in the utility service area using customer information provided by the public utility.

Senate Bill 220 will require performance based auditing of our elections.

“Most Louisianans would be surprised to hear we haven’t had an actual audit of our elections in over 20 years,” Senator Cloud said. “This is one basic step we can take to ensure we have a safe and secure election system. As a victim of voter fraud, I believe election integrity is a fundamental principle we must work to protect.”

As vice-chairwomen of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Cloud will play an integral role in crafting Louisiana's state budget.

"In crafting the state budget, we are tasked with looking for areas of waste that we can cut and re-allocate to more meaningful programs," Sen. Cloud said. "The Completers Fund caught my eye in a recent committee meeting as one such opportunity. We do not need to spend \$30 million to encourage students to finish college. Another area I will focus on is how money is being spent in Department of Corrections and making sure those dollars that are being allocated for educational and job training are being utilized for that purpose."

To view Senator Cloud's bills, please visit www.legis.la.gov.

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