

## Contract With Louisiana

*We deserve to know what type of person our candidates will be in office, so, I'm laying it all out there. Now, I'm sure the media and many in Washington will mock some of these proposals. But, if elected, my life won't be nearly as cushy as some of the other Senators - but that's okay. As long as our troops are living in tents in the desert, as long as our kids can't find jobs in this stagnant economy, and so long as our veterans are denied proper military care - the cushy life of a politician is the last thing I'll seek. The Bible tells us: Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves (Philippians 2:3). So this contract is about us, for us - and something I want you to hold me accountable for! If I don't live up to it - fire me, or call me home.*

As your U.S. senator, I will always remember that I work for you - the people.  
This is my pledge to you:

- 1) I will follow the Constitution as my guide in all I do and in every vote I cast.
- 2) I will champion the message of liberty, prosperity, and certainty to grow our economy, protect our culture, and defend our homeland.
- 3) I will live in Louisiana, not Washington, D.C.
- 4) During my first hour in office I'll pop the door off the hinges. Too many crooked deals happen behind closed doors in Washington. I will maintain an open office - accessible to Louisianans over lobbyists.
- 5) Each year, I'll visit all of our 64 parishes.
- 6) I will not become a career politician, limiting myself to two terms.
- 7) I'll provide a weekly update on how I'm serving you and fighting for our values. I will give you the unvarnished truth about what really goes on in the Capitol - the good, the bad, and the ugly. We deserve honesty and accountability from our elected officials.
- 8) I will not spend more than 80 percent of the budget for my congressional office. I know it's your money -- not mine -- and I know the economy is not booming like it should be. So, I'll make sure to save taxpayer money everywhere I can.
- 9) I won't forget where I came from, and I'll make sure other senators know who Louisianans really are.
- 10) I will live by the laws Congress passes for others. Congress should not exempt themselves from the requirements they impose on the people.
- 11) I will be an independent conservative voice for Louisiana. I will not be beholden to any party machine, party leader, or special interests.
- 12) I'll never ask you to put your faith in me. Faith should be reserved for the Almighty, not politicians. I will ask for your prayers, and together we can restore the principles of our Republic and get it back working for us.

## Freedom For Veterans Plan

*President Abraham Lincoln summarized our nation's commitment to our veterans: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." A proper role of the federal government is fulfilling the promises made to our service men and service women - those who have defended us from enemies, foreign and domestic. However, it is abundantly clear that today's massive, out-of-touch Department of Veterans Affairs cannot successfully provide appropriate care to those who have risked everything for our freedoms.*

*The Department of Veterans Affairs was created to ensure that veterans receive the care and support they earned through their service, but it has become an impediment that keeps veterans from their earned care and support. In light of recent revelations that veterans have been woefully neglected while executives awarded themselves bonuses, Congress needs to consider new ideas for the delivery of care to our veterans. It's time to re-commit to our veterans and give them the freedom to make decisions for themselves - after fighting so hard for our right to do the same.*

- 1. Dismantle VA Bureaucracy** - Eric Shinseki shouldn't be replaced; he should be the last Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The VA's annual budget is a staggering \$152 billion for a bloated bureaucracy and often-duplicative infrastructure. Eliminate the VA bureaucracy and move administrative roles to the Department of Defense, making veterans freer to access the care they've earned.
- 2. Abolish VA Medical System** - Approximately one-third of the Department of Veterans Affairs' budget is spent on the Veterans Health Administration Department. Our veterans get trapped in bureaucratic, inefficient, top-down, government-run system with government-paid doctors, nurses and staff. Instead, let's eliminate all spending on duplicative infrastructure, overhead, and personnel. Put veterans and their family members in control of the resources they need to receive quality care.
- 3. Secure Benefits** - Enact legislation to protect access to the care earned by our veterans for themselves and for their families. Make disability and benefits decisions at discharge and immediately issue a simple medical identification card that can be presented to a wide range of care providers.
- 4. Keep it Competitive** - Introduce and promote grants to incentivize private sector companies which specialize in medical care especially important to veterans - like prosthetics, physical therapy, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and post traumatic stress (PTS) care - to continually innovate and develop new therapies and treatments that will serve our veterans after they are discharged or retire.
- 5. Reduce Suicides** - We must embrace our veterans with open arms. Every day, 22 veterans commit suicide. There is no better reminder that their fight continues off the battlefield. The military should adopt innovative active duty programs such as the proposed US Special Ops Command PTS program to facilitate the seamless transition of vets into civilian life with continued access to similar transitional programs to help veterans and their families cope with returning to life at home.
- 6. Housing** - The US Department of Housing estimated there are approximately 57,000 homeless veterans on any given night. The FY 2015 VA budget calls for \$1.2 billion dollars to be spent "combating" this epidemic - nearly \$22,000 per vet or double the estimated average cost of rental housing in the US. Get this money directly into the hands of those who need it most and eliminate the wasteful bureaucracy that allows so many vets to sleep on the streets each night despite a 10-figure budget.
- 7. In short, Keep our Commitment** - Always - Keeping our commitment to our veterans means ensuring that they have access to the best care possible without delays or impediments. This can be done without any new costs to our veterans.

## **Promoting Louisiana's Pro-Life Values to Protect Life Across our Country**

*"As the debate for and against life unfolds, I can't help but think of my youngest grandson who was born a few years ago, weighing only 2 lbs 5 oz at 28 weeks. After his birth, I spent time with him in the neonatal intensive care unit. Thanks to the medical professionals and - I believe - our prayers, Kellan grew stronger every day until he was finally able to go home with his family. Kellan, had the right to life as soon as he was conceived, and no government or law should deprive him of that right." - Col. Rob Maness, (USAF, ret.)*

**Promote the Beauty of Life** – Crisis pregnancy centers, adoption services, and education can all have significant roles in affirming the dignity and value of human life. Resources now directed to Planned Parenthood should be re-allocated to life-affirming causes and organizations.

**Protect the Consciences of Taxpayers** – No taxpayer money should be used to fund any procedure or drugs used to end the life of an unborn child. And, no organization that promotes these procedures or drugs should be funded, especially Planned Parenthood.

**Stop Infringing on Religious Liberty** – I will co-sponsor Sen. Fischer's Health Care Conscience Rights Act which will protect the rights of consumers and companies to offer insurance products and medical care that do not infringe on their religious liberties or moral consciences.

**Confirm Pro-Life Judges** – I will work to ensure that all judges and justices confirmed to the federal bench are strict constructionists who will not use the Constitution to create or justify laws that were never intended to exist.

**Protect All Pain-Capable Babies** - I support life from conception on, but it is especially heartbreaking that we cannot all agree that terminating an unborn pain-capable child should not be allowed. I will support and advocate for Senator Mike Lee's Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would prohibit any procedure that would end the life of a child over 20 weeks old, except where the mother's life is endangered by continuing the pregnancy.

**Oppose Discrimination on Life** - I will co-sponsor Senator Vitter's Prenatal Non-discrimination Act, to ban abortions on the basis of gender, race, or physical or mental characteristics.

**End Child Exploitation** – I will sponsor a bill to prevent the exploitation of children by precluding the transport of minors across state lines to secretly terminate pregnancies that their parents are not even aware of or by allowing any person or organization to perform a surgical or chemical abortion on a girl without the consent of a parent or guardian not present.

## **“Working for Us” Conservative Plan for Economic Freedom and Job Growth Getting Americans Back to Work**

*"Growth, economic freedom, and a booming economy would do wonders for our country," Maness said. "Crises like the national debt, our declining influence in the world, and many others would dissipate in a vibrant economy."*

*"Landrieu babies - people who were born when Mary Landrieu was sworn in as U.S. Senator 18 years ago - have the odds stacked against them. They face a 16.2% unemployment rate. Our children and grandchildren deserve a better future."*

*"Louisianans know what's wrong with the economy. Career politicians and bureaucrats in Washington are over-regulating and over-taxing us. We need the right conditions for the private sector to grow and flourish, creating more opportunities for us. That's why I am proposing the following solutions to improve opportunities for all Americans. Common sense #SolutionsForUs to America's stagnant economy will have positive effects across the board. The ideas in this plan will benefit everyone, but especially minorities, women, and young people suffering in the Landrieu-Obama economy."*

### **Unleash our Energy Sector**

Approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; fight from the beginning of my term until it's built, not just during an election year

Stop the Obama Administration from imposing more regulations on hydraulic fracturing and remove unnecessary regulations that prevent job growth

Prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from developing unnecessary regulations and becoming the Economic Punishment Agency

Move the Department of Energy to the energy capital of America, Louisiana

### **Cut Red Tape and Free Small Business**

Create a Senate committee to review regulations and repeal bad, contradictory, or overly restrictive regulations so that entrepreneurs can create new businesses across our country

Create permanent tax deductions for small businesses for purchasing new equipment and property to create more jobs, until there is a tax code overhaul that creates a drastically flatter and fairer system

### **Secure the Border and Stand Against Amnesty**

Secure the border to stop the flow of illegal aliens over our southern border, who are undercutting Americans for entry-level jobs, deflating incomes and prohibiting growth

### **Focus on Education**

Support the Conservative Reform Agenda that will allow all 50 states and the District of Columbia to develop new accrediting educational institutions, curricula, apprenticeships, programs, and individual courses to fit the needs of their students and the current job market

### **Give People a Second Chance for Youthful Non-Violent Offenses**

Increase access to jobs by freeing able-bodied workers from criminal records consisting of non-violent youthful offenses as minors, increasing their ability to find a secure job and live a normal productive life

### **Support Women in the Workforce and Families**

Until there is a tax code overhaul that creates a drastically flatter and fairer system, create tax incentives for companies to offer paid maternity leave, increasing employment stability

Until there is a tax code overhaul that creates a drastically flatter and fairer system, strengthen the tax credit for children to compensate for the increased cost of raising children, providing better financial circumstances for families

Enforce The Equal Pay Act of 1963, which prohibits pay discrimination based on gender.

## **“Opportunities for All” Education Plan: Reforming Schools by Removing Big Government**

*Thomas Jefferson understood that there is more value in a good education than just landing a good job: "The best means of forming a [...] virtuous and happy people will be found in the right education of youth. Without this foundation, every other means [...] must fail." For years American education did both: promoted a happy and virtuous people and equipped young people for the jobs and industries that made our country great.*

### **Us over Washington:**

Strip power from the federal government and return it to states and parents. Common Core is the most recent federal power grab in education. It violates states' powers and individual rights, and I oppose it.

Dismantle the Department of Education and redirect the funding now spent on the bloated federal bureaucracy to the states in the form of block grants. I will continue to stand against the federal government's attempts to impose a one-size-fits-all approach on today's students.

### **Reform Head Start:**

I will introduce legislation like the Head Start Improvement Act that Sen. Mike Lee introduced during the current Congress to empower local governments and parents with the flexibility needed to improve the Head Start Program so that we can achieve the goal of better education for all.

### **Special Needs Education:**

As the parent of a special needs child, I know very well the challenges special needs children will face in the future. Dismantling the Department of Education and redirecting resources now spent on the federal bureaucracy will free resources for states and parents to care for kids with special needs.

### **Focus on American History:**

America is the greatest nation on the face of the earth, but many in today's generation have not been taught about the sacrifices prior generations made to keep us free.

As the federal government rapidly unwinds its involvement in children's education by the dismantling of the Department of Education and by empowering states through block grants, let's set one - and only one - requirement on the recipients: that children learn civics and American history the way we did.

### **Support Home Schoolers:**

Over 20,000 Louisiana students are home schooled. Until there is a tax code overhaul that creates a drastically flatter and fairer system, we should give parents who home school the same tax relief as parents who pay for private schools.

I will introduce legislation to ease the financial burden of home schooling that comes from the current tax code. My legislation will lessen the challenge parents face paying for public schools in addition to their children's educations.

### **Expanding Opportunities:**

Support the Conservative Reform Agenda to improve the ability of students to pursue higher education that fits their goals. Allowing states to have their own accreditation systems will increase competition for education dollars, decrease costs, and create an environment that encourages the creation of new and innovative educational institutions, curriculums, apprenticeship programs, and individualized courses.

### **Student Loans:**

Economic growth and new job opportunities are the best way to lessen the burden of student loans. I've introduced the "Working for Us" Plan to do just that.

The Conservative Reform Agenda (see "Expanding Opportunities") will increase opportunities for students who have fewer resources to invest in education or who want to enter industries that require less expensive two-year degrees.

# **"Energy for Us" Plan: Securing America's Energy Independence**

For far too long, America has relied on foreign nations for our energy, undercutting our energy security. A 21st Century superpower should be in control of its own energy future. Louisiana can and should lead America to Energy Independence. Every day, the situation in the Middle East grows more volatile and unstable with no end in sight. A revitalized, expanding energy sector here in Louisiana will help America rely more on our energy resources and less on resources of war-torn countries. President Obama has used executive orders and agencies in his Administration to shut doors to economic prosperity for Louisiana. We need someone who will fight for us 100% of the time, not side with President Obama 97% of the time.

## **Make the Keystone XL Pipeline Happen**

I will make approving the Keystone XL Pipeline a top priority as Louisiana's U.S. Senator because I recognize the number of jobs it will create and the critical effects energy independence will have in our state and country.

## **Liberate America's Energy Resources**

As your Senator, I will reintroduce the Energy Production and Project Delivery Act so we can lift the barriers to federally controlled areas, onshore and offshore.

- Expand drilling in the outer continental shelf, especially in the Gulf of Mexico
- Expedite approvals of energy projects that have been stalled in Washington, especially for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities

## **Empower Louisiana to Lead America to Energy Independence**

I will work to empower the private sector to create good-paying, full-time American jobs that will set us on a long-term path of economic prosperity.

- Require Congress and the President to approve any new EPA regulations before they are implemented so we have representation rather than bureaucratic fiat
- End the EPA's regulatory overreach, which is suffocating job creators in the coal industry and in the entire energy sector
- Expand Louisiana's refining capacity by ending unnecessary and unreasonable environmental regulations
- Expand U.S. exports of LNG and other energy products
- Prevent the federal government from creating destructive regulation of hydraulic fracturing, and repeal the ones on the books
- Broaden energy development on federal land

## **Explore Responsibly**

Louisiana is blessed with an abundance of God-given natural resources and natural beauty. We can have a robust economy and maintain our beautiful state at the same time through the free market and conservation.

- Promote sensible regulations and hold companies accountable for actions that negatively impact our state, whether it is intentional or unintentional.

## **Move the Department of Energy to Louisiana**

Maybe some of our fresh air will help expand the thinking of the political class who has stifled the growth of the American energy sector and made us hostages to foreign interests. The jobs that could be created by an all-of-the-above policy would lead to explosive growth for our economy.

- Move the Department of Energy out of Washington D.C. and bring it here to Louisiana.
- Improve revenue sharing with states

## **Disaster Relief - No Pork, No Delay**

"Disaster relief is a real need that should be available the instant a disaster strikes," said Maness. "As your Senator, I will introduce legislation banning special interest pork spending from being put into disaster recovery bills. Localized disasters should not be used as a trough for spending that has nothing to do with disaster relief."

Maness's Disaster Relief - No Pork, No Delay proposal would:

- Develop a pre-funded disaster relief fund to allow money to flow to victims of natural disasters
- Eliminate the opportunity to add in unrelated pork barrel spending
- Provide transparency and accountability in spending

During the Republican Leadership Conference (RLC) earlier this summer, [Maness spoke-out](#) about the need for disaster relief without the pork:

"As a Christian nation we know that when natural disaster strikes, we must help our neighbors in need. "But if anyone has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" - 1 John 3:17

"I will fight for disaster relief funds for our state, but I will not go along with the Washington elites to use disaster relief to insert abusive pork-barrel spending. In the Hurricane Katrina relief bill, \$50 million was spent on an indoor rainforest in Iowa. \$50 million of our tax dollars. \$18,000 went for a smoking booth at a private airport in Teterboro, New Jersey. In 2005, the tsunami relief bill for Indonesia included \$25 million for a fish hatchery in Montana, and the Hurricane Sandy relief bill in New Jersey included \$150 million for fisheries in Alaska.

"Probably all great ideas, but not the right place to fund them. No more of that. I'll introduce legislation to end this practice, and I'll make famous the name of any politician who tries to abuse the system again and prevent our citizens from getting the disaster relief aid immediately."

## "Doctrine for Keeping America Safe"

- **Say what you mean and mean what you say:** Don't draw "red lines" unless you can make good on them. Empty words only undermine our credibility and signal weakness to our enemies.
- **Never underestimate the enemies of freedom:** "JV team." They have grown to represent what the Secretary of Defense calls an "imminent threat" to the United States. We cannot afford to underestimate our enemies or their resolve to perpetrate violence and harm on free societies.
- **Military action may be the last resort, but as President Reagan famously said, "don't mistake or reluctance for war for a lack of resolve."** Enemies of the United States cannot and should not be permitted to murder our citizens. Their evil must be met with our strength, and our strength should be mobilized when our national interests are at stake.
- **Always have a plan and an exit strategy:** Anytime the possibility of using U.S. military force is in play, there has to be a clear strategy and plan that details both the objective and defines success. Trust in the people begins with telling them the truth about what the real situation is, what threats we are facing, what actions we are considering and what risks lie ahead. It also means having a defined exit strategy so the mistakes made by President Obama in Iraq and Afghanistan that paved the way for today's current crisis with ISIS are not repeated again.
- **Engage Congress:** The use of force and risk of American lives must have the full support of Congress. The case to do so should be presented to Congress for approval, in a transparent way that provides policymakers and the American people with a plan of action. No rogue action by the president.
- **Be careful who we arm:** Sometimes the best of intentions results in the worst of outcomes. New reports have surfaced that "significant quantities" of U.S.-manufactured small arms have landed in the hands of Islamic State militants. The intention of the United States was to help Syrian rebels; the result has been arming the enemy. If we cannot guarantee that our resources will end up in the right hands, we shouldn't deploy them.
- **Honor our fallen heroes, our military veterans and their families:** The inefficacy of Washington and misplaced priorities of career politicians should never affect the commitment and debt we owe to those who have sacrificed to protect our freedoms. Permanently lock in benefits, look at modern solutions to healthcare through my "Freedom for Veterans" Plan, and peel back the bureaucratic obstacles so many of our veterans face.
- **Enemies of the United States Cannot Return to the State:** Any American citizen who goes to Iraq and Syria to fight alongside terrorists like ISIS, should never be allowed to return to the United States as a citizen. It should be treated as a renunciation of their citizenship and they should be treated as an enemy of the United States of America.