GNO, Inc. 2019 State Legislative Priorities

• **Reform for Louisiana’s Future (RFLF) Legislative Package** – Promulgate Top Ten key reforms, especially to legislative and gubernatorial candidates (gnoinc.org/reform):

  1. **Tax Structure** – Lower and flatten personal income taxes by a) eliminating the state deduction for federal taxes; (b) capping excess itemized at 50% (revenue neutral)
  2. **State Structure** – Constitutional Convention for reform; devolve power to parishes
  3. **Economic Development** – Protect and promote a positive business environment, in both perception and reality
  4. **Education** – Support for quality and accountability, from Pre-K to Higher Education
  5. **Workforce** – Support “demand-driven” programs, like GNOu
  6. **Infrastructure** – Support State Gas Tax and Federal infrastructure dollars; leverage opportunity zones and asset recycling
  7. **Litigation Environment** – Establish a Louisiana Business Court, like 23 other states
  8. **Coastal Restoration** – Support Coastal Master Plan and protect funding
  9. **Pension Reform** – Move to a hybrid defined contribution / benefit system
  10. **Criminal Justice** – Ensure reforms are paired with community reinvestment

• **Economic Development** – Generally, defend incentives that create permanent jobs, and enable us to remain competitive regionally and nationally. These include: Extending the 2022 sunset of the **Historic Tax Credit** until 2026 [HB83 Rep. Harris]; Return refundable or transferable component to the **Research & Development Tax Credit** and restore to 40% for participants w/under 50 employees [HB480 Rep. Davis]; extend 2021 sunset of **Angel Investor Tax Credit** to 2023 and change payout to 3 years instead of 5 [SB124 Rep. Walsworth]. Also, **reduce blight** by reducing overly burdensome notice requirements for tax sale [HB466 Rep. Davis]; Support legislation that encourages growth in distressed areas such as Opportunity Zones [HB274 by Gary Carter and HB549 Rep. Jefferson].

• **Infrastructure** – Create exemption from Civil and State Civil Service personnel for employees of the SWB [SB135 Sen. Appel]; Support increase to **gas tax**, with revenue for specific projects across state [HB542 Rep. Carter]

• **Sales Tax** – Define “marketplace facilitators” who serve as third-party platforms for online vendors, and establish a framework for their collection [HB524 Rep. Foil]

• **Local Autonomy** – Allow local governments, with voter approval, to **lower homestead exemption** [HB12 Rep. Carter]

• **Tax Structure** – Lower and flatten personal income taxes and eliminate deductibility of federal taxes [HB260 Rep. Stokes]; Phase out corporate franchise tax over 5 years [HB31 Rep. DeVillier]

• **Legal Reform** – Establish a **Business Court** [SR Sen. Donahue]; Support omnibus **Premium Reduction Act** including lowering jury trial threshold, collateral source rule and direct action [HB372 Rep. Talbot]; Allow evidence of failure to wear a seat belts in order to establish negligence and damages [SB148 Sen. Hewitt]
• **Workforce.** Develop statewide framework for dual enrollment to increase participation [SB194 Blade Morrish] Establish the **Work-Based Learning Commission** to address workforce shortages and poverty by developing a statewide model for work-based learning experiences focusing on apprenticeships. [SCR Sen. Appel]

• **Education**
  - **Higher Ed** – Support for greater autonomy (curricula, tuition, admission)
  - **K-12** – Support for JumpStart, and other “career pipeline” programs
  - **Early Childhood** – Prioritize funding for Child Care Assistance Program, which provides birth-age 3 education; estimated need of $85 million initial investment

• **Criminal Justice** – Assurance that savings from reforms are **reinvested in support programs**

• **Coastal Restoration** - Support for the **Annual Master Plan** and the projects therein, as well as protecting coastal dollars for their intended uses

• **Pension Reform** – Move to a **hybrid defined contribution/benefit system** for rank and file employees [HB28 Rep. Ivey]