

2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP



GREATER NEW ORLEANS
INC

The 2026 Regular Legislative Session was defined by a fast-moving agenda focused on economic competitiveness, infrastructure delivery, workforce alignment, energy stability, and education-to-career pathways. As lawmakers moved through the session shaped by budget negotiations, redistricting, and major policy debates, GNO, Inc. remained actively engaged at the Capitol to advance priorities that strengthen the Greater New Orleans region and support Louisiana's ability to compete for jobs, investment, and talent.



HIGHLIGHTS GNO, Inc. was directly involved in developing and delivering the following accomplishments:

✓ Co-led the establishment of the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank with the Office of Gov. Jeff Landry, creating a new financing tool to deliver more infrastructure projects, leverage public and private dollars, and stretch state resources further

✓ Supported a comprehensive aerospace economic development package to position Louisiana for future aerospace investment, including, but not limited to:

- Aerospace sales tax rebates tied to job creation and capital investment
- Expanded manufacturing property tax exemptions for aerospace facilities
- Public records protections for sensitive aerospace facility information
- Liability and nuisance protections for aerospace activities

✓ Delivered state funding for a strategic plan for the Violet Action Committee in conjunction with the development of the Louisiana International Terminal

✓ Championed continued investment in the High Impact Jobs Program, including a \$125M budget allocation to support high-wage job creation and \$50M for the Louisiana Site Development Fund

✓ Hosted a sold-out Legislative Luncheon and NGC Day at the Capitol, connecting regional business leaders and young professionals directly with legislators and agency leaders — including Senate President Cameron Henry, Secretary Susan Bourgeois, and more than 25 legislators in attendance

✓ Partnered with industry leaders to defeat over 20 anti-carbon capture proposals that would have fractured Louisiana's statewide energy framework into a parish-by-parish patchwork of rules and endorsed the Louisiana Energy Protection Act

✓ Supported major workforce and education wins, including:

- Workforce Instructor Capacity Investment Program
- Youth Apprenticeship program eligibility standards
- Bayou Works employer training grants
- Office of Business Workforce Solutions
- Female re-entry pilot creation

✓ Promoted coastal and flood resilience through providing job numbers for the annual coastal protection plan, supporting rural infrastructure revolving loan expansion, and executive participation in Coastal Day at the Capitol

✓ Elevated the business community's lens on homelessness supporting the creation of a homeless diversion pilot program and the crime of public encampment

✓ Championed Orleans Parish school system overcapacity legislation, creating a path to address declining enrollment and potentially redeploy up to \$30M across the district

✓ Secured \$2M for regional economic development organizations statewide to further economic growth across the state

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OVERVIEW

State legislative progress was impacted by legislation supported or monitored by GNO, Inc.:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Louisiana advanced several measures aimed at strengthening economic competitiveness, project-readiness, and business recruitment. Key wins included re-creation of Louisiana Economic Development ([Act 351](#)), LED program fee adjustments to support incentive administration ([HB 618](#)), and a major aerospace package that included sales tax rebates, property tax exemptions, public records protections, and liability protections for aerospace investment ([Act 188](#), [Act 189](#), [Act 101](#), [Act 190](#), [HB 1098](#), [Act 343](#), [HB 1103](#), [HB 1175](#), [Act 102](#)). The Legislature also advanced blighted property redevelopment incentives ([HB 214](#) / [HB 217](#)) and the Pilot Innovation Hub Program ([SB 384](#)).

INSURANCE

Although insurance reform was not a headline issue this session, legislators delivered a meaningful win through [Act 416](#), which channels approximately \$50 million in excess Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Company emergency assessment monies into the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program Fund, which will accelerate residential mitigation and resilient building across the state. The Legislature also adopted [HR 369](#), urging the United States Congress to pass legislation allowing taxpayers to establish tax-advantaged catastrophe savings accounts for disaster-related expenses.

ENERGY

Energy policy was one of the defining issues of the session, particularly around carbon capture, statewide permitting authority, and Louisiana's all-of-the-above energy strategy. GNO, Inc. joined industry partners in defeating over 20 anti-CCS measures, while supporting the Louisiana Energy Protection Act ([HB 804](#)), legislation preserving statewide Department of Conservation and Energy jurisdiction over natural resources and permitting ([HB 595](#)), and critical infrastructure protections for oil and natural gas facilities ([HB 429](#)).

WORKFORCE

Workforce development saw major progress through legislation strengthening Louisiana Works, employer training, apprenticeships, and regional coordination. Key measures included re-creation of Louisiana Works and reauthorization of the Incumbent Worker Training Program ([Act 68](#)), IWTP modernization ([Act 18](#)), Bayou Works employer training grants ([HB 549](#)), youth apprenticeship eligibility and credential standards ([Act 490](#)), WIOA waiver authority with regional consultation requirements ([Act 313](#)), the Office of Talent Accelerator / Business Workforce Solutions framework ([HB 951](#)), the Workforce Instructor Capacity Investment Program ([HB 807](#)), and a female reentry pilot program supporting structured workforce transitions for women returning from incarceration ([Act 290](#)).

EDUCATION

Education legislation focused on stronger education-to-career pathways and better alignment between schools, postsecondary institutions, and workforce needs. Major measures included the Career Alignment Dashboard ([Act 99](#)), the Learn While You Earn Act allowing high schools to host on-campus career practicums with business partners ([Act 100](#)), vocational charter school reforms ([Act 393](#)), vocational training in graduation plans and IEPs ([Act 523](#)), statewide dual enrollment access ([HB 649](#)), and TOPS-Tech eligibility expansion through dual enrollment ([HB 325](#)). Lawmakers also advanced two postsecondary financial aid measures — raising the minimum age of eligibility for the M.J. Foster Promise Program to 21 for the next two award years ([HB 407](#)), and a statewide data administration system to track outcomes and effectiveness across Louisiana's financial aid programs, including TOPS ([HB 1058](#)). Separately, legislators passed [HB 1003](#), granting the Orleans Parish School Board authority to adopt a systemwide overcapacity policy that could redeploy up to \$30M across the district.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE & PORTS

The Legislature advanced port, maritime, and trade-related measures supporting freight movement, infrastructure investment, and international competitiveness. Key measures included Port Construction and Development Priority Program reforms ([HB 776](#)), port container permit extensions through 2030 ([HB 745](#)), waterway project application timeline changes ([HB 1232](#)), and expansion of port rail project eligibility ([HB 345](#)). GNO, Inc. also monitored foreign adversary and critical infrastructure measures, including the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act ([SB 251](#)).

TAXES

Tax legislation included local fiscal flexibility, competitiveness, and reporting reforms. GNO, Inc. supported local millage flexibility measures ([HB 521](#) / [Act 167](#)) allowing taxing authorities to reduce millage rates without permanently losing the ability to return to prior authorized maximums. Other key measures included permanent homestead exemption registration ([Act 34](#)) and tax exemption reporting reforms ([Act 270](#)).

COASTAL-FLOOD

Coastal and flood resilience remained core priorities, with lawmakers approving the state's annual integrated coastal protection plan ([HR 1](#) / [SR 7](#)). GNO, Inc. also monitored watershed restoration and conservation funding ([HB 802](#) / [SB 367](#)) and flood mitigation liability protections ([Act 366](#)).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure legislation focused on financing, procurement, utilities, project delivery, and local government capacity. GNO, Inc. championed the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank ([HB 1157](#)), creating a new financing tool to support transportation and public infrastructure projects. Other key measures included DOTD ID/IQ contracting authority ([HB 856](#)), professional services contract threshold increases ([Act 260](#)), broadband program modernization expanding administrative flexibility and authorizing GUMBO 3.0 and 4.0 grant rounds ([SB 80](#)), and a comprehensive overhaul of the state's underground utility damage prevention law — adding new coordination, notice, mediation, and marking requirements for broadband and other excavation projects, alongside enhanced enforcement authority ([SB 469](#)).

CRIME & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Public safety and quality-of-life measures intersected with economic development priorities throughout session. GNO, Inc. supported the statewide homelessness court and public camping framework ([HB 211](#)), which pairs enforcement standards with designated camping areas and related services, as well as the Orleans Parish Homeless Diversion Pilot Program ([HB 823](#)), which focuses on treatment, housing, and workforce support in lieu of prosecution.

OTHER KEY AREAS

Additional measures addressed government modernization, local governance, financial regulation, and fiscal administration. GNO, Inc. supported Downtown Development District governance updates ([Act 595](#)), S&WB procurement threshold alignment ([HB 893](#)), and Sewerage and Water Board governance reform ([HB 1243](#)), which expands City Council oversight of rates, budgets, contracts, and board operations.