



## Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CRCL to Hold First-of-its-Kind Coastal Issues Governor's Forum

*All Four Candidates to Discuss Plans for Restoring Coastal Louisiana*

**(Baton Rouge, LA –August 5, 2015)** Louisiana is facing a land loss crisis that will require bold, science-based action by our next governor. In an effort to highlight the importance of this critical issue, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) has organized a Coastal Issues Forum with this year's candidates for governor at Nicholls State University on Aug. 18, 2015, at 4:00pm. This will be the first time that a gubernatorial forum deals exclusively with coastal issues.

"The next Louisiana Governor has an unprecedented opportunity – and responsibility - to address the land loss crisis that threatens the very future of our state. It's critical that we know where the candidates stand on coastal restoration and how they plan to tackle this issue," said Kimberly Davis Reyher, CRCL's Executive Director. "Saving our coast requires unprecedented leadership, coordination, and political resolve."

"CRCL organized the Coastal Issues Forum, in partnership with 26 other organizations, to highlight the critical importance of coastal issues in this race and learn firsthand how our next governor plans to deal with the challenges and opportunities related to coastal land loss," said Reyher. "The diversity of partners in this effort – ranging from business and economic development interests, to Catholic Charities, to sports fishing and hunting groups – demonstrates the breadth and depth of concern about this issue."

The 26 partners promoting this event to their members and associates: America's WETLAND Foundation; Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana; Assumption Chamber of Commerce; Audubon Louisiana; Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program; Bayou Industrial Group; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux; Center for Planning Excellence; Coast Builders Coalition; Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana; Ducks Unlimited; Greater New Orleans, Inc.; Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce; Lafourche Chamber of Commerce; Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Louisiana Wildlife Federation; Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana; Restore the Mississippi River Delta Campaign; Restore or Retreat; South Central Industrial Association; South Louisiana Economic Council; Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance; St. Mary Chamber of Commerce; The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana; Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce; and Vanishing Paradise.

All four candidates—Scott Angelle, Jay Dardenne, John Bel Edwards and David Vitter—will attend. The Forum will be 90 minutes, consisting of five questions asked by a panel of experts. CRCL Board Chair, Pierre Conner, will serve as the moderator. The panelist are: Rob Gorman, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux; Simone Maloz, Executive Director, Restore or Retreat; Allyson Marcel, a nursing student at Nicholls State University; and Dickie Brennan, Owner and Managing Partner of Dickie Brennan and Company.

The Coastal Issues Forum will examine the major topics that our next governor will have to address, including funding, science-based solutions, harnessing the power of the Mississippi River for restoration and building partnerships for a restoration economy.

*Our Coast, Our Future*

[www.CRCL.org](http://www.CRCL.org)

The Coastal Issues Forum will be streamed live on the CRCL website, [www.crcl.org/candidate-forum](http://www.crcl.org/candidate-forum). It will also be re-broadcast in its entirety on Cox4 in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, New Orleans; Eatel 4 in Ascension and Livingston Parishes; and Vision Communications Channel 5, Matthews-Grand Isle. Dates and times can be found at [www.crcl.org/candidate-forum](http://www.crcl.org/candidate-forum). The Forum will also air in an abbreviated format on all public radio stations throughout the state on Aug. 19 at 7:00 pm.

The Coastal Issues Forum is being hosted by Nicholls State University and will be held in the Peltier Auditorium. The Forum is open to the public and no ticket or RSVP is required. Doors open at 3:00 pm. Please plan on being in your seat by 3:45 pm.

**Media Logistics:**

- All media are welcome and encouraged to attend. This will be only forum of its kind in the state this election cycle.
- Reserved seating will be available for members of the working press.
- A designated camera area will be set up in Peltier Auditorium with a “mult box” for clean audio on a first come first served basis.
- You are asked to arrive no later than 3:00pm so you can get set up and be ready for 3:45 pm. The Forum will begin promptly at 4:00 pm.

**About CRCL:**

Founded in 1988, The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is the longest-standing statewide non-profit organization driving bold, science-based action to rebuild Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration and advocacy. With the support of members and volunteers, CRCL advocates strong coastal policies and implements restoration projects across Coastal Louisiana.

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