



LSU football veteran cornerback leaves team

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Who is largest private landowner in Louisiana?

Roy O. Martin III owns 582,000 acres

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The state of Louisiana spans approximately 28.6 million acres, including both land and water. As for Louisiana's land, approximately one third of Louisiana's land is used for agricultural purposes and 15 million acres, nearly half of the state's land, is used for timber. However, one timber and land management company in particular is the largest private land owner in Louisiana.

Roy O. Martin III is the largest private landowner in Louisiana, owning 582,000 acres

Roy O. Martin III is the largest private landowner in Louisiana, owning approximately 582,000 acres, according to World Population Review. Martin is chairman and chief executive officer for RoyOMartin, a company that manages timberlands and manufactures wood products like plywood, oriented strand board and timbers. The business began with Roy O. Martin Sr. who opened a small sawmill in Alexandria in 1923. Today, the company is one of several subsidiaries of Martin Sustainable Resources LLC., which is a mid-sized equity investment company pri-

vately held by multiple generations of the Martin family, according to RoyOMartin. This family-owned business has been acquiring timberland since its founder bought the first tract in 1923. Through a century of strategic land and timber management, the company has become the biggest private landowner in Louisiana. The RoyOMartin company focuses on long-term sustainability and forest stewardship, including reforestation efforts, which ensures timber supply and regenerates new acreage of forests. *Presley Bo Tyler is a reporter for the Louisiana Deep South Connect Team for Gannett/USA Today. Find her on X @PresleyTyler02 and email at PTyler@Gannett.com*

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WHITE HOUSE VISIT



President Donald Trump celebrated the twin national championships of the LSUS and LSU baseball teams at the White House on Oct. 20. PROVIDED BY LSU SHREVEPORT

LSU-Shreveport, LSU baseball champions hailed by Trump

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Trump celebrated the twin LSU-Shreveport and LSU baseball national championships in the White House, hailing the teams' historic 2025 seasons as the players and coaches from both squads surrounded him in the East Wing. "Louisiana is a special state, and it's an honor to celebrate two college baseball national champions from that great state," Trump said during the Oct. 20 event. "Both teams brought incredible pride, grit and glory to their schools and their state, and they are bringing that same Louisiana spirit to a place called the White House. "It's rare for two teams from one state to be in one room, but these are incredible teams who had amazing seasons." "Both of these programs made history together and dominated two leagues." The LSUS Pilots are the first unde-

feated college baseball team in history, going 59-0 in winning the NAIA National Championship while the LSU Tigers won their ninth Division I title. Trump and the players were joined by Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, U.S. Sens. Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy and others during the celebration in which Trump was presented a jersey from each team with No. 47 as the 47th president. "Louisiana is the heart of college baseball," Landry said in a post on X. "Proud to celebrate @LSUbaseball and @lsus_baseball at the @WhiteHouse today! Thank you @realDonaldTrump!" LSUS baseball Coach Brad Neffendorf and LSU Coach Jay Johnson led the two title teams. "We're extremely honored and excited to be here, and our guys were jacked up to be together one more time as I know LSU's guys are, too," Neffendorf said in an LSUS press release. "There's no better place than the state of Louisiana for baseball." Speaker Johnson grew up near the

LSUS campus. "I played ball on that baseball field, and it's a great day when we can recognize champions from North and South Louisiana," Johnson said. "We want to thank (Trump) for being a gracious host and having us out to recognize this excellence. "Louisiana is punching way above our weight limit. This is a prideful state, these guys work so hard and did it with class, grit, determination and integrity." Cassidy tweeted his congratulations from the event in a post on X. "It was an honor to be invited to the White House today to celebrate two GREAT national championship baseball teams from Louisiana," Cassidy said. Trump even jokingly suggested the two teams play each other: "I want these two teams to play," Trump said. "You want to do it? We'll do it." *Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.*

Government shutdown now one of the longest

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The federal government shutdown is already one of the nation's longest at 23 days with no end in sight, as Democrats and Republicans in Congress remain locked in a bitter stalemate. The shutdown has placed 750,000 federal workers on furlough, forced air traffic controllers and other essential workers to work without pay and closed national parks, federal offices and museums. In an escalation from past shutdowns, President Donald Trump has also laid off thousands of government employees and paused infrastructure projects in Democratic-led cities to try to pressure Democrats to act. Democrats continue to demand the extension of expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies and the reversal of Republicans' recent Medicaid cuts be included in a funding measure to reopen the government. Republicans insist the government should reopen with a "clean bill" that keeps spending levels the same.

A handful of Senate Democrats have broken with their party to vote for a Republican-backed bill to fund the government, but not enough of them to reach the 60-vote threshold to overcome a Democratic filibuster. Here are key dates to watch as the shutdown marches on: **Oct. 24:** Federal workers are set to miss their first full paychecks if the government remains closed. Depending on their agencies, federal workers' next paychecks are scheduled for Oct. 24, Oct. 28 or Oct. 30. In all, more than 1.8 million paychecks will be withheld from civilian employees of federal agencies if the shutdown lasts through October, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center. Federal workers received their Oct. 10 paychecks, but it was only their partial salaries because the pay period included three days of the shutdown, Oct. 1-4. **Oct. 25:** Trump is set to depart Washington, DC, for a multiday, multi-country visit to Asia. That means if a deal to reopen the government is not reached by then

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