



5 things to watch in Kiffin's first spring with Tigers

SPORTS, 1B

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LA ranks 21st for tax burden

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Taxes are due every April, and it's around this time many people receive their tax returns.

However, how much citizens pay in taxes and receive in returns can vary greatly, especially depending on where

you live.

In order to determine which states have the biggest tax burdens, WalletHub compared states based on property taxes, individual income taxes, as well as sales and excise taxes.

Tax burden refers to a measure of the proportion of total personal income that residents pay toward state and local taxes.

What is the overall tax burden in Louisiana? What WalletHub says

Louisiana ranks 21st for overall tax burden, ranking 39th for individual income tax burden, according to WalletHub.

The state has a flat state income tax rate of 3%. Previously, Louisiana had a top marginal rate of 4.25, but as of Jan

2025, three individual income tax brackets were converted into a single rate of 3%, according to the Tax Foundation.

Louisiana ranks 45th for property tax burden, as the state has some of the lowest property taxes in the U.S., with a property tax rate of approximately

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Louisiana Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement member LaJon Wright takes notes as Carlos Floye shares with his child in his arms at a Task Force listening session in Hammond. DANIELLE MILES/LOUISIANA POLICY INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN

Fatherhood task force seeks new resources

Gracie Thomas and Izzy Wollfarth
LSU MANSHIP SCHOOL NEWS SERVICE

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Fatherhood Task Force on Wednesday proposed bipartisan recommendations to address challenges to fatherhood, including modifying the state's child custody laws and instituting paid family medical leave for educators.

Bills have been filed in both the Senate and the House to modify child custody laws to emphasize the importance of shared legal and physical custody and establish paid family medical leave for teachers.

A future bill will seek to establish a standing Commission on Fatherhood Engagement, which would advance fatherhood legislative agendas.

The task force addressed fatherhood engagement in children's and partner's lives and the lack of overall support from the state.

"Louisiana faces significant challenges because in more than a third of Louisiana households with children, there's no father present," Gov. Jeff Landry said at a news conference. "This absence harms our children and harms our state.

"When fathers are involved in the

lives of their children, those children are more likely to graduate high school, enter college, or find a stable job."

Two Senate bills were mentioned at Wednesday's news conference. One, by Sen. Gregory Miller, R-Norco, would allow for the modification of custody agreements within five years of the date of the original agreement based on parental fitness and the safety of the child or children.

The second bill, proposed by Sen. Samuel Jenkins, D-Shreveport, would create the Paid Parental Leave for

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Bill to criminalize deepfake images advances

Izzy Wollfarth
LSU MANSHIP SCHOOL NEWS SERVICE

BATON ROUGE — Rep. Bryan Fontenot, R-Thibodaux, proposed a bill on Wednesday making it a felony to possess, sell and distribute artificial intelligence-produced nudity of a minor.

The bill received unanimous support from the House Criminal Justice Committee, and it now advances to the House floor.

House Bill 119 introduces a new statute for the possession of artificial intelligence nudity and increases the penalty of distribution from a misdemeanor to a felony charge. The penalty would amount to five years in prison, with at least one year served without the possibility of parole or probation.

"Today's bill is a new battle that we are on the forefront of: It is artificial intelligence," Fontenot said.

The bill also received support from Kevin Cobb with the Louisiana Sheriff's Association.

Joseph Daniels, whose then 13-year-old daughter was a victim of a pornographic deep fakes, detailed his and his daughter's experience. In 2025, Ivy Daniels's likeness was used for a pornographic deep fake that Joseph says caused irreparable damage.

"As a parent, it's incredibly difficult to watch your child go through something like that and feel like the system doesn't take it seriously enough," Joseph said.

Joseph expressed his frustration with the lack of initiative by the school system toward a solution or preventative measures. He explained further that artificially generated images are difficult to remove from the internet

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Louisiana targets 19 sites for economic development

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana has targeted 19 locations in 16 parishes as turn-key sites to attract economic development projects as part of its FastSites program.

The state is investing \$150 million

from an infrastructure fund created by Act 365 of the 2025 Legislature to make the sites development ready.

"This isn't economic development as usual," Gov. Jeff Landry said in a statement. "FastSites turns site preparation into a revolving investment and ensures public dollars don't disappear, but instead work, return and work again.

"That approach allows us to continually reinvest in Louisiana's growth and strengthen our competitive position. Louisiana is not waiting for opportunity. We are preparing for it."

Sites are located throughout the state from Caddo-Bossier to Acadiana to Monroe.

As sites are sold or leased, the state

recovers its investment and invests those funds into future projects designed to make the program self-sustaining.

The initial 19 FastSites include: Acadiana Regional Airport, Iberia Parish; ARQ Red River, Red River Parish;

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