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WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025 | HOUMATODAY.COM

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Cassidy’s campaign



U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., right, speaks with committee chairman Senator Bill Cassidy, Republican from Louisiana, before the start of a Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing on the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., May 14. JIM WATSON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Senator builds massive war chest to defend seat against MAGA opponents

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy continues to build a mountain of money to defend his seat in 2026 against at least two GOP opponents who question his MAGA credentials. Cassidy’s campaign announced Louisiana’s senior senator will report \$9 million cash on hand after raising \$2.1 million more in the second quarter. Second-quarter campaign finance

reports aren’t due until July 15, but Cassidy’s campaign announced his haul early to flex the candidate’s financial muscles. “I’m grateful for the outpouring of support from many who want proven conservative leadership,” Cassidy said in a statement. “I am proud to have worked with President Trump to pass the One Big Beautiful Bill and will continue to deliver real results that put Louisiana First.” Cassidy has aligned himself closely

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How Cassidy supports rural Louisiana hospitals

Ian Robinson
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy knows the importance of rural hospitals, having treated patients in Louisiana’s charity hospital system for 20 years. This experience has led to efforts to keep them operating, including a \$50 billion fund in Congress in to protect healthcare in rural Louisiana. Cassidy said that Louisiana, with only 1 percent of the nation’s popula-

tion, will receive about 2 percent of the \$50 billion in rural hospital funding in Trump’s One, Big, Beautiful Act. Criticism of the president’s law, which makes cuts to Medicaid, is that it could threaten the operation of rural hospitals in addition to the people who could lose their health insurance. However, Cassidy stated he helped the state qualify for additional Medicaid dollars. “There’s also something where the

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How the cost of child care in LA compares to other states

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Child care can be quite expensive in the U.S., with a married couple potentially spending over 13% of their income on care and a single parent possibly spending roughly 51% of their income, according to WalletHub. Despite child care being expensive, it

is often an essential service for both single and married parents, as both parents are employed in 66.5% of families with children, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In order to identify the states with the highest and lowest child care costs, WalletHub analyzed the prices of family-based, as well as center-based child care, and adjusted them by the median income.

Louisiana ranks for childcare

On WalletHub’s list of states with highest and lowest cost of child care for married couples, Louisiana ranked number 45. On WalletHub’s list of states with the highest and lowest cost of child care for single parents, Louisiana ranked number 17. In Louisiana, the average cost of child care varies but, according to illumine,

the average annual cost ranges between \$7,500 and \$9,500. Although, this can fluctuate based on factors such as a child’s age, the type of care and location. When it comes to center-based care in Louisiana, child care may cost around \$10,101 annually for infants, \$9,183 annually for toddlers and \$5,934 for school-age children, according to

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Volume 147 | No. 166
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