

It's time to make "Better Choices for a Better Louisiana"

Every choice has a consequence. Too many choices made by our leaders have had bad consequences for our schools and our state.

Our state budget is in a crisis.

Partly because of the recent recession, but also because of poor choices made when the budget was in good shape, our state is facing its biggest budget crisis since the Great Depression.

In the coming year, we face a \$1.6 billion deficit. Our leaders must make choices to ensure that the budget is balanced.

So far, they are only talking about cuts to education, health care and other public services that the families of Louisiana depend on. That risks serious, long-term damage to the state and our people.

There are better choices! We can create a sound economic basis for Louisiana, grounded in a transparent and balanced mix of responsible revenue measures and common-sense savings.

Public education is in turmoil.

The state seized control of many Louisiana schools, with little gain to show for the upheaval. Teacher tenure is at risk. Retirement, health insurance and other important benefits are at risk. Privatization threatens the livelihoods of school support staff.

We are faced with untested evaluation systems that overemphasize test scores, larger class sizes and the devaluation of teacher credentials.

It seems that some of our leaders believe that schools can only be improved by blaming educators and tearing down the profession of teaching.

There are better choices! We can have an education policy that is based on reliable research and respects the professionalism and judgment of teachers and school employees.

What can YOU do about it?

- **Visit** the LFT Web site at <http://la.aft.org> and click on "Better Choices for a Better Louisiana" for more information about the Better Choices campaign.
- **Sign** a "Better Choices" commitment card, stating your support for a rational, fair budget policy and a sane, research-based education policy. Get a card from your building LFT building rep or local president.
- **Join** the LFT Action Center at <http://la.aft.org>. Get updates on important education issues, and let officials know how you feel about things that matter to our schools.



Louisiana Federation of Teachers

Steve Monaghan, President

9623 Brookline Avenue • Baton Rouge, LA 70809 • <http://la.aft.org>
(225) 923-1037 • LA WATS 800-634-5089