Maya Screen

Professor Lair

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Government Paper

Topic #22: “Profile the candidates running in the Louisiana gubernatorial election in 2019. Who is expected to win and why?”

Since the late-1800s, nearly every Louisiana governor to date has been a democrat, from Francis T. Nicholls in 1887, up to the current governor, John Bel Edwards. It’s important to note that in that time there has been a rise of red in Louisiana. In the most recent presidential election, 58% of the state voted for ultra-conservative republican nominee, Donald Trump, and that raises a question for Louisiana’s citizens amidst their upcoming gubernatorial election: Who’s going to be the next governor of Louisiana?

Current governor and running for re-election is John Bel Edwards, a democrat. Edwards, a born and raised Louisiana citizen, served in the state’s House of Representatives prior to taking office in November 2015. Prior to that, he served for the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. As the child of a sheriff and a nurse he said he “understood the importance of serving others from an early age.” He’s dedicated his time in office to helping the citizens of Louisiana. Under his administration, the state shed its title of the most incarcerated state in the country and extended Medicare to over 400,000 uninsured people. Accordingly, his campaign slogan is “Putting people first” and he’s been endorsed by former president, Barack Obama.

Another leading candidate for Louisiana’s gubernatorial election is Ralph Abraham, a republican. Abraham, also a born and raised citizen of the state, associates himself strongly with familial values and his Christianity. Abraham, an army veteran, likes to spend his free time volunteering for the Coast guard as a pilot. A licensed veterinarian and doctor, Abraham is dedicated to helping as many as possible. For the past five years, Abraham has served in congress representing Louisiana’s 5th district. His campaign slogan is “Putting Louisiana families first” and he’s being endorsed by current POTUS, Donald Trump.

One more leading candidate for the state’s governorship is Eddie Rispone, a republican. Much like Abraham, Rispone is an avid Christian family man, though he identifies more with the ultra-conservative beliefs shared by our president, claiming he’s “pro-life, pro-family, and pro-Second Amendment”. Rispone has experience, not as a politician, but as a businessman. Rispone and his brother, Jerry, founded ISC constructors in 1989, which grew into one of the largest specialty contractors in the U.S., creating over 3,000 jobs. His campaign slogan is “Eddie is Ready”, and to no avail, he’s also endorsed by Trump.

Polls by JMC Analytics, Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, and We Ask America, all predict that current governor, John Bel Edwards, will receive most of the votes4, which makes sense. Incumbent politicians are generally more likely to win in re-elections due to prior experience in the office and more access to government resources. However, considering more than half of Louisiana voted for Trump in the last election, I predict that Edwards will struggle to win the gubernatorial vote by more than 50%, though it is possible.

* <http://gov.louisiana.gov/>
* <https://abrahamforgovernor.com/>
* <https://www.eddieforgovernor.com/>
* [https://ballotpedia.org/Louisiana\_gubernatorial\_election,\_2019#Polls](https://ballotpedia.org/Louisiana_gubernatorial_election,_2019)