

Gov. John Bel Edwards



Biography

Democrat John Bel Edwards was born on Sept. 16, 1966 in Amite, Louisiana. Edwards was elected governor of Louisiana on Nov. 21, 2015 after a heated four-way primary against three Republicans and a runoff election against former Republican Sen. David Vitter. Vitter’s campaign was dogged by a prostitution scandal earlier in his career and Vitter was attacked by both his Democratic and Republican opponents over the matter during the primary, which aided Edwards in the runoff. Edwards was also buoyed by the unpopularity of outgoing two-term Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal, who left the state with a large budget deficit and had become personally unpopular due to his interest in a 2016 presidential run. Before Edwards was elected governor, he served four two-year terms in the Louisiana State House and served as chairman of the house Democratic caucus. Edwards is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and served eight years in the U.S. Army before attending law school at Louisiana State University. Edwards’ unique blend of military experience and cultural conservatism allowed him to make a moral case against Vitter in the 2015 governor’s race and win over enough independents and Republicans to handily win the runoff. Edwards is currently the only Democratic governor in the Deep South and plans to run for reelection in 2019. He has expressed willingness to work with President Trump’s cabinet on Medicaid expansion and federal infrastructure projects.

Biography

Currently: Governor of Louisiana
Elected: 2015

Education:
US Military Academy, B.A. 1988;
Louisiana State University, J.D.
1999

Religion: Roman Catholic

Family: Married (Donna Hutto), 3 children

Contact: (225) 342-7015
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Stance on Issues

- Pro-life
- Pro-gun rights
- Supports LGBT antidiscrimination legislation

Election Results

2015 General		
John Bel Edwards (D)	Votes: 646,860	Percent: 56.1%
David Vitter (R)	Votes: 505,929	Percent: 43.9%

Sources: National Journal Almanac, 2017.