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CRCL to host forum on coastal issues for gubernatorial candidates

Event will be held at the conclusion of the State of the Coast conference

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana will host a Coastal Issues Candidate Forum for gubernatorial candidates on June 2, with the major contenders answering questions about coastal land loss and the state's restoration program and plans. The forum, which is open to the public, will be held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans at the conclusion of the [State of the Coast](#) conference.

The gubernatorial candidate forum is the latest in a series of candidate forums hosted by CRCL, the first statewide nonprofit dedicated to confronting coastal land loss in Louisiana. Several of the leading candidates have already accepted invitations to participate. The forum will be live-streamed.

"Coastal land loss is an issue that's d the voters of south Louisiana, and because of the cultural and economic implications, it's something that affects our entire state," said Kim Reyher, the executive director of CRCL. "Our Coastal Issues Forums have become an essential stop for political candidates. With major coastal restoration projects on the horizon and an overwhelming number of voters focused on coastal management, the need for this forum is greater than ever."

[Recent polling](#) conducted by Global Strategy Group indicates that support for large-scale coastal restoration is growing across the state and that voters are more likely to support candidates who embrace bold action to restore and protect Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

The Coastal Issues Candidate Forum will be modeled on the forum CRCL hosted for gubernatorial candidates in 2015. Information on that forum and other candidate forums can be found [on CRCL's website](#). CRCL, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, does not endorse candidates for office.

The forum will be open to media as well as members of the public. As many as 700 people are expected to attend. The forum will be promoted to State of the Coast participants, but registration at the conference is not required to attend the forum. The conference, which begins on May 31, is hosted by CRCL along with the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, The Water Institute of the Gulf and Louisiana Sea Grant.

The primary in the Louisiana gubernatorial election is scheduled for Oct. 14.

About 2,000 square miles of Louisiana's coastal wetlands have vanished in less than a century, threatening the state's culture, communities and economy. CRCL became the first statewide nonprofit dedicated to restoring Louisiana's coast when it incorporated in 1988. The group, which is a member of the [Restore the Mississippi River Delta](#) campaign, is known for its Native Plants Program through which volunteers plant grasses and trees along Louisiana's coast; for its Oyster Shell Recycling Program, which has returned more than 13 million pounds of oyster shell to the water to help slow coastal erosion; and for its advocacy for large-scale coastal restoration projects that will reconnect the Mississippi River to adjacent wetlands.

To learn more about the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, visit the organization's [website](#).

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[The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to unite people in action to achieve a thriving, sustainable Louisiana coast for all.