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REPUBLICAN DELEGATION RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR BLANCO'S ANNOUNCEMENT

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA--Governor Blanco's announcement earlier this evening that she is withdrawing from the Governor's race drastically changes the dynamics of the upcoming legislative session. Operating as a lame duck Governor will undoubtedly weaken the position of her supporters who wish to spend all of the State's surplus.

With this change, the goal of this upcoming session should be to do no harm. To that extent, the Legislature should succumb to fiscal responsibility by living within its means, working within a realistic expenditure cap, and minimizing recurring expenses. Without this type of discipline, long term budgetary/fiscal disaster certainly looms.

Now, the Governor's race is a proper venue to publicly debate how much of the surplus should be spent by the government and how much of the surplus should be returned to the private sector through tax cuts. A new governor should not be hamstrung with unrealistic commitments of the past.

The Republican Delegation calls on members of the Legislature to work together to maintain budgetary discipline and fiscal responsibility this session. The Delegation understands this was a difficult decision for the Governor and wishes her and her family the best in future endeavors.

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