



## Office of the Mayor-President

City of Baton Rouge  
Parish of East Baton Rouge

222 St. Louis Street  
Post Office Box 1471  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

225 389-3100  
Fax 225 389-5203

**SHARON WESTON BROOME**  
Mayor-President

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To whom it may concern,

A community is only as strong as its youth are equipped to succeed. As Mayor-President, one of my top priorities is stabilizing the youth, family and community of Baton Rouge. Through my commitment to uplifting and empowering youth voices, I am proud to announce my office's partnership with Baton Rouge Alliance for Students for the Baton Rouge Youth Voice Initiative.

This initiative is a collaborative project of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, Baton Rouge Alliance for Students and Safe, Hopeful, Healthy BR. Through this initiative, the groups will be guided by national best practices as we conduct a comprehensive listening series resulting in a student-driven report on education in Louisiana's capital city. The Baton Rouge Youth Voice Initiative will tell the real stories of education in our city by amplifying the voices of those directly impacted by policy. Our coalition of partners hope that the Initiative will help to:

- Identify the highest areas of need in the community from a student's perspective
- Elevate student voice in K-12 education policy
- Develop a pipeline for student engagement at all levels of EBR government systems

The Initiative kicks off with engaging members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council as social media ambassadors, focus group participants and youth liaisons. These student leaders will participate in a listening series, conduct peer interviews and focus groups while encouraging students across our city to take the online survey that will collect their responses for a final report to be produced this spring. Additionally, my office is eager to support the live, interactive "Truth Booth" experience where students can share their insights via pop-up events at various locations across the city.

I encourage all Baton Rouge students to use their voice by taking the online survey and participating in one of the Truth Booth experiences. I look forward to connecting with and listening to the youth in our community through the duration of this initiative and into the future. It is my hope that their input will not only positively influence our present, but that in sharing their stories and truth, these student voices will ignite long-lasting change for generations to come.

For more information about The Baton Rouge Youth Voice Initiative or to take the survey online, parents and students can visit [www.batonrougestudents.org](http://www.batonrougestudents.org)

Sincerely,

Sharon Weston Broome  
Mayor-President  
City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge