
NEWS RELEASE

**Louisiana
Department of State**



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SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FACING MILLIONS IN CUTS

BATON ROUGE, La. – Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler says a proposed \$3.8 million mid-year budget reduction by the Jindal administration will force him to implement an agency-wide employee furlough as early as next week. Schedler has been advised to prepare an impact statement to the Division of Administration by Friday outlining how the reduction would be realized.

“This level of reduction this late in the fiscal year is truly daunting,” said Secretary Schedler. “After holding the largest election our state has seen in decades just this past fall, my office’s resources are down to the bone. The administration is asking for us to give up bone marrow, and it is extremely painful. You can’t cut enough pens, pencils and travel allowances to get to this number,” said Schedler.

Schedler shared the budget numbers with his senior staff this morning and alerted them that if the agency receives an Executive Order calling for the cuts, he will immediately seek Civil Service approval for a furlough to begin Tuesday, January 20, 2015 or soon thereafter. Once approved, all Secretary of State employees, both classified and unclassified (including Secretary Schedler), will be required to take one day off per pay period through the rest of the fiscal year. Furlough days will be staggered throughout the agency so that office hours can be maintained for the public.

Through the one day furlough, the Secretary of State’s Office anticipates a savings of \$1.1 million through June 30th. Additionally, the Jindal administration has requested \$2.6 million in state general funds used for elections. The remaining balance will be achieved from various savings in operational costs.

“I recognize that this kind of reduction is unsustainable in the long run. So, as I have my entire career, I plan to be fiscally responsible,” said Schedler. “As we await an Executive Order and Civil Service approval, immediate action was necessary to maximize savings while continuing to look for a more permanent solution if the budget picture does not improve.”