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# New Orleans Black Mayors...

## We've come a mighty long way

*The Soul of New Orleans*

Page 2

## Newsmaker



NOLA BEEZ Ethnic Media Collaborate

Page 6

## Special

## Saint's Fans are Ready to Rumble



Page 12

# New Orleans Black Mayors...

## *We've come a mighty long way*



Ruby Bridges desegregating Frantz School, accompanied by federal marshals. Courtesy AP photos

By Cheryl Mainor

The City of New Orleans has for decades been one of the largest standing major cities in the U.S. to have a succession of black mayors, and one with significant political power for Black folks. Unlike most cities, Blacks in New Orleans, were not only seen holding the office of the mayor, but have consistently held elected and appointed positions for decades. This was not always the case however, even though the city has always been famous for its diverse and unique culture, the greatest of which is the African-French & Creole cultures, Blacks in New Orleans

were subjected to the same second class citizenship as was the norm throughout the South, albeit, as New Orleans goes, it was unique from the other parts of the region.

Political power for Blacks followed the Civil Rights Movement as in each major city in the U.S. Several New Orleans mayors and their administrations along with the city struggled to digest the ramifications of the legal enfranchisement of its sizable African-American population.

Although the focus of most Civil Rights History concentrates on Birmingham, Mississippi, Memphis

and Atlanta, often overlooked is the fact that New Orleans was very much at the center of the Civil Rights struggle.

The Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC), was founded in New Orleans, the organization which launched the path for a young and dedicated minister Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many lunch counter sit-ins were held in Canal Street stores by brave Blacks protesting segregation, and several prominent and brutal confrontations occurred when the city attempted school desegregation in 1960. The most famous of these confrontations was the

Cover Credit: The Problem We All Live With by Norman Rockwell, depicting Bridges as she goes to school

*Continued next page.*

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . .	2	Commentary. . . . .	10
Newsmaker . . . . .	6	Special Feature . . . . .	12
Data Zone . . . . .	8	State & Local. . . . .	14

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*Cover Story, Continued from previous page.*

first occasion of a black child attending an all-white elementary school in the South, when six year-old Ruby Bridges integrated the Ninth Ward's William Frantz Elementary School.

The Civil Rights Movement's success meant that the city's public facilities would become desegregated, Blacks would become registered voters, but

to receive a law degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. As a young lawyer, Morial rose to prominence fighting to dismantle segregation and as President of the local NAACP from 1962 to 1965.

In 1967, he became the first black member of the Louisiana State Legislature since Reconstruction

representing a district in Uptown. In 1970, he became the first black Juvenile Court Judge in Louisiana. When he was elected to the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal in 1974, he was the first Black-American to have attained this position as well.

In the election of 1977, he became the first black Mayor of New Orleans by defeating City Councilman Joseph V. DiRosa by a vote of 90,500 to 84,300. Morial won with 95 percent of the black vote and 20 percent of the white vote, which came mainly from middle and upper class Uptown precincts.

Morial waged long-standing political battles with the City Council, and during his tenure, he increased the strength and influence of the Mayor's Office, an effort he described as a democratization of city governance. He built a powerful political machine using unclassified city employees, much like the famed Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago, using it to defeat opponents in the state legislature. His two terms as Mayor were marked with both great successes and controversial and sometimes polarizing and devastating failures.

Among Morial's many achievements as Mayor, he is credited with redoubling the city's commitment to affirmative action in hiring city workers and introducing minority hiring quotas for city contractors. The proportion of black employees on the city's workforce increased from 40% to 53% in 1985 under Morial's tenure. Under Morial's administration the number of black officers in the NOPD was increased to make up one third of the force. Morial was also responsible for getting federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funding for several major projects, including Canal Place and the Jax Brewery development in the French Quarter. He is credited developing the Almonaster-Michoud Industrial District in New Orleans East, now called the New Orleans Regional Business Park. Downtown New Orleans underwent an impressive building boom, with multiple office towers constructed to house the headquarters, or large regional offices of corporations, who employed thousands of white collar workers downtown, with thousands more employed by others providing services to them.

Morial's political strength did not end after he left City Hall in 1986. He considered running for mayor again in the election of 1990 but passed away suddenly in 1989.

The City of New Orleans renamed the convention center to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in 1992. In 1997, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center posthumously honored

Morial with the dedication of The Ernest N. Morial Asthma, Allergy and Respiratory Disease Center. In 1993, Morial was named one of the first thirteen inductees into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield, the first African American so honored.

**Sidney John Barthelemy**, was the Democratic Mayor of New Orleans from 1986 to 1994, and the second African-American to hold the office.

Barthelemy was born in New Orleans, the third of six children who grew up in the Seventh Ward. From 1960 to 1963, in preparation for entering the priesthood, he studied at Epiphany Apostolic Junior College in Newburgh, New York, and then entered St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, D.C., where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and pursued graduate study in theology. While in seminary, he worked summers as a laborer in a stevedoring company, but afterward decided not to enter the priesthood.

In 1967, Barthelemy returned to New Orleans and worked as an administrative assistant in the office of Total Community Action. From 1969 to 1972, he served as Director of the Parent Child Center of Family Health, Inc. During these years, he also completed a Masters of Social Work at Tulane University, worked part-time for the Urban League of Greater New Orleans and assisted with various political campaigns, joining COUP, a political organization based in the 7th Ward.

From 1972 to 1974, Barthelemy served as Director of the Department of Welfare under the administration of Mayor Moon Landrieu. With the aid of COUP, he was elected in 1974 to one term in the Louisiana State Senate from District 4; he was the first African-American to serve in that body since Reconstruction. While he served in the Legislature, he also joined Xavier University as the Assistant Director of the Urbinvolve Program and as an instructor in the Department of Sociology and became an



Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial  
1978 - 1986

adjunct faculty member in the Applied Health Sciences Department, Maternal and Child Health Section, of Tulane University.

In 1978, Barthelemy was elected to an at-large seat on the New Orleans City Council, a position



Mayor Sidney Barthelemy  
1986 - 1994

a large equality gap would continue to exist between Blacks and Whites, which would last through the 1960s.

As Whites fled away from the city, the income gap grew, and the city's population became poorer and blacker until the 1970's, when black political power grew and changes began to take shape for black New Orleanians.

New Orleans' political leadership, from 1980 onwards firmly in the hands of its African-American majority, struggled to narrow this gap by creating conditions conducive to the economic uplift of the Black community. A succession of black mayors of the City of New Orleans began with the election of Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial and continues through today, though this year's upcoming election could change what has been seen by many as a forward going movement for the last thirty years.

New Orleans black mayors have been recent historical figures in the growth and rebirth of this city, and are an integral part of the ongoing Black History of New Orleans. A far cry from the days of the long walk of the little girl Ruby Bridges, her courage and strength and that of the lunch counter protesters, marchers, preachers and praying grandmothers and grandfathers. Today, New Orleans Blacks are alive with power and strengthened from our past.

In honor of Black History Month, Data News Weekly will run a series of special cover stories, each one will showcase and highlight New Orleans Black History, the old, and the new. This week, we spotlight our black mayors.

**Ernest "Dutch" Morial** (October 9, 1929 - December 24, 1989) was the first black Mayor of New Orleans, serving from 1978 to 1986. Dutch Morial was also a leading civil rights advocate.

Morial was born in New Orleans and grew up in the Seventh Ward. A graduate of Xavier University, Morial in 1954, became the first African American

*Cover Story, Continued from previous page.*

he held for two terms. While on the council, Barthelemy become known for his longstanding rivalry with Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial. He defeated Bill Jefferson in the 1986 mayoral election to succeed Morial as mayor.

Barthelemy's mayoralty began and existed under extremely difficult circumstances most notably the "Oil Bust", but he is credited with some economic development successes as well. He managed to bring additional investment to New Orleans East, most notably by attracting the giant Pic 'N' Save distribution center to the Almonaster-Michoud Industrial District.

The Pic 'N' Save project embodied the city's renewed efforts to leverage the existing infrastructure of the Port of New Orleans, which was then experiencing a resurgence, by attracting modern warehousing and distribution facilities to the city. In the wake of the Oil Bust, however, the Barthelemy Administration most forcefully advocated for the continued development of New Orleans' tourist and convention industry. Tourism ex-



**Mayor Marc H. Morial**  
1994 - 2002

hibited meaningful growth under Barthelemy. Several high-profile wins for tourism also occurred, including attracting the Republican National Convention to the city in 1988 and the NCAA Final Four tournament in 1993. Barthelemy,

also oversaw the opening of the Aquarium of the Americas, the Riverfront street-car line, the New Orleans Centre and Riverwalk downtown malls, and encouraged the first expansion of the New Orleans Convention Center. His administration oversaw the legalization of a land-based casino and river-

boat gambling and his earnings tax on suburbanites who worked in New Orleans, helped to erase the \$30 million budget deficit he inherited.

Other highlights of the Barthelemy Administration were the

visit of Pope John Paul II in 1987, and the passage of the controversial "anti-discrimination" ordinance affecting the membership in Carnival krewes. Barthelemy's mayoralty also supported a large addition to the New Orleans Museum of Art, as well as the creation of the Louisiana Children's Museum in the Warehouse District.

**Marc Haydel Morial**, President of the National Urban, served New Orleans as its third African American Mayor from 1994 to 2002.

Marc Morial grew up in New Orleans, in the 7th ward. He is the son of the late Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial, and is the second of five children. Morial graduated from Jesuit High School in 1976, then received a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Pennsylvania in 1980. Morial then earned a J.D. degree in 1983 from Georgetown University. He opened a private law practice and served as a board member for the Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union from 1986 to 1988.

After an unsuccessful run for

Congress in 1990, in which he came in second place and was defeated in a runoff by Bill Jefferson, Morial spent two years in the Louisiana State Senate from 1992 to 1994, then followed in his father and Barthelemy's footsteps by twice being elected Mayor of New Orleans in the elections of 1994 and 1998.

Morial gained election as mayor with 54% of the vote. He campaigned under the promise to "clean out City Hall with a shovel not a broom." The issue of endemic corruption in the city's Police Department was addressed after Morial hired Richard Pennington as Police Superintendent. On Pennington's first day of work, Morial introduced the new superintendent to investigators from the FBI, who proceeded to aggressively rout out corruption in the New Orleans Police Department. During the first seven years of his time as mayor, Morial's approval rating stayed at or near 70%.

Under Morial, the growth of the city's tourist and convention sector greatly accelerated. Tourism boomed during Marc Morial's

*Cover Story Continued page 7.*




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# NOLA Beez - New Orleans Ethnic Media Project Launched

By Anthony D. Advincula

The NOLA Beez project, an online collaboration of ethnic media in New Orleans, was officially launched in a ceremony that took place at Dillard University on January 12.

Hosted by Vincent Sylvain, publisher of the New Orleans Agenda, the ceremony preceded a two-hour New Orleans mayoral debate and drew more than 100 attendees, including local leaders, students and school faculty members, and several candidates for district representatives.

"We're proud to present to you an online hive for hyper-local news content covering the New Orleans metropolitan area," Sylvain said. "This is a site where we can learn about what's happening in our communities — White, Black, Latino and Asian — without any language barriers."

A project of New America Media (NAM) and funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, NOLA Beez culls daily and weekly articles and videos from New Orleans' ethnic media, translates them to English when necessary, and posts them online, creating and opening up new lines of communication among and between ethnic and immigrant communities.

An hour before the launching ceremony, Dr. Marvalene Hughes, president of Dillard Uni-



NAM and ethnic media representatives formally introduce the NOLA Beez project. From left to right: Brenda Murphy, Jambalaya News; Renette Dejoie-Hall, The Louisiana Weekly; Lawrence Martin, NOLA.Tv (with back towards camera); Juan Carlos Ramos, El Tiempo New Orleans; Terry Jones, The Louisiana Data News Weekly; John Hoa Nguyen, Ngoc Lan Thoi Bao; Vincent Sylvain, The New Orleans Agenda; and Sandy Close, New America Media. Photo by Julian Do, New America Media.

versity, welcomed the project in a private meeting with NAM and NOLA Beez representatives. "This is so timely and relevant, and it's a great honor for our university to host this event," she said.

For John Hoa Nguyen, publisher of Ngoc Lan Thoi Bao, a Vietnamese-language biweekly, the online collaboration is an important step to unite immigrant communities in New Orleans and

help the city regain what had been lost and destroyed.

"How can we say that we are rebuilding New Orleans if we don't know what's happening in the Latino community, or if the Latino immigrants don't know what's happening in the black, white or Asian communities?" said Nguyen.

One of the primary goals of the NOLA Beez project is to help

community media set up a viable, robust online presence with trained contributors who could produce stories more efficiently and comprehensively.

The NOLA Beez media members include New Orleans Agenda, Data News Weekly, NOLA TV, Jambalaya News, El Tiempo New Orleans, Ngo Lan Thoi Bao and Louisiana Weekly.

"It's really easy to open doors

when you know the people outside your own community and build relationships with different ethnic groups," said Juan Carlos Ramos, publisher of bilingual publication El Tiempo New Orleans. "It's always helpful when you recognize others."

"In an era when 50 million 'Ts' of the blogosphere dominate the newscape, ethnic media give us the collective sensibility of the 'we.' And that 'we' — far from being insular and parochial as the term "ethnic" implies — fuses the global with the local, giving ethnic media's coverage a cosmopolitan perspective," said Sandy Close, executive director of New America Media.

These ethnic communities, Close added, not only bolster the city's economy, but also further enrich its cultural and social backbone. Along side these dramatic changes in New Orleans are the ethnic media that tirelessly chronicle the key events and concerns of their communities and advocate their perspectives to the wider public realm.

"Our diversity makes the city more vibrant," Dr. Beverly Wright, interim president of the African American Women of Purpose and Power (AAWPP), said in an interview after the launching. "We're here because we love New Orleans and we want to see it rise again."

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Cover Story, Continued from page 4.

mayoralty; the city's downtown saw the construction of 14 new hotels during his administration. This development was due in part to the much-publicized reduction in New Orleans' high crime rate through the effective leadership of Morial's police.

Of particular significance was the 60% reduction achieved in the city's violent crime rate, which enabled a resurgence of interest and investment in the city's older historic neighborhoods, and New Orleans benefited from the national trend of increasing interest in urban living. The number of households within the city limits stabilized for the first time since beginning their decline in the 1960s, which was a significant accomplishment. Morial also secured bond issues for street improvements, the Canal Street streetcar line, and another expansion of the city's convention center.

Morial, continued his father's focus on building fairness into the city's contracting policies. He reached out to black-owned businesses, inspiring them to apply for contracts. He also enforced the city's residency rule for police officers and other city workers, which had previously been unevenly enforced.

Two of the most well-known accomplishments of his administration both dealt with professional sports: He is widely credited with returning NBA basketball to the city and following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Morial persuaded the organizers of a large automotive exposition to change its date, so that Super Bowl XXXVI (held at the Louisiana Superdome) could be played one week later than originally scheduled, enabling the NFL to keep its post-season tournament fully intact.

From 2000 to 2002, Morial was also President of the United States Conference of Mayors. After leaving the office of mayor, Morial was named President and CEO of the National Urban League, one of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organizations where he currently serves.

**Clarence Ray Nagin, Jr.** is the fourth black Mayor of New Orleans.

Nagin was born on June 11, 1956 at Charity Hospital, to a hard-working family in the 7th Ward, followed by a stay in Treme, and then a move to the Cutoff section of Algiers, when Nagin was a young teenager. Nagin enrolled into Tuskegee University on a baseball scholarship where he graduated in accounting in 1978. He was the second college graduate from his family. In 1993, Nagin



Mayor C. Ray Nagin  
2002 - 2010

enrolled into the executive MBA program at Tulane University, a course designed for managers.

Nagin then went to work for General Motors's purchasing department, afterwards moving to Los Angeles, and then to Dallas in 1981 to take a job with Associates Corp. In 1985, Nagin returned to New Orleans, becoming the controller of Cox New Orleans. The franchise had been affected by customer complaints, low profits, very little growth and was one of the poorest performing components of Cox. By the end of his tenure, Cox New Orleans became one of Cox's best performing units.

Nagin entered the race for mayor after other candidates better known on the local political scene had announced their candidacy. Nagin's candidacy was at first considered a long shot, and he was not backed by any of the city's established political organizations. Many voters, nonetheless, favored Nagin's expressions of disgust with traditional Louisiana politics, including promises to fight political corruption and run the city in a more business-like manner. Shortly before the primary mayoral election, Nagin received some key endorsements as a reformer, giving him a momentum that would carry through the primary and subsequent runoff with Richard Pennington in March 2002, Nagin won with 59 percent of the vote. Historically, Nagin received 85% of the white vote and 40% of the black vote.

Shortly after taking office, Nagin launched an anti-corruption

campaign within city government, including crackdowns on the city's Taxicab Bureau and Utilities Department. Nagin often clashed with the New Orleans City Council, and was criticized for often publicly announcing new programs or proposed policies without having them vetted by other city leaders.

On August 26, Mayor Nagin advised New Orleanians to keep a close eye on the storm and prepare for evacuation. He made various statements encouraging people to leave without officially calling for an evacuation throughout Saturday the 27th, before issuing a call for voluntary evacuation that evening. With fewer than 24 hours left before the storm's landfall, Nagin declared a mandatory evacuation, the first in the city's history, and the first for a U.S. city of this size since the American Civil War.

Mayor Nagin received much criticism and praise from constituents and the press for his handling of the evacuation, re-entry and rebuilding of New Orleans, but has been sure to argue on his own behalf and with great merit, that no other Mayor, in the history of this nation has had to deal with the difficult circumstances that he has had to navigate the way through.

Post-Katrina municipal elections had been scheduled for February 2006, but were postponed due to the devastation after Katrina and the many New Orleanians, who were still living out of the city.

In the rescheduled primary election of April 22, 2006, Nagin was the front-runner with 38% of the vote. Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu

came in second with 29%. Nagin and Landrieu faced each other in a run off election on May 20, 2006. Final results showed that Nagin defeated Landrieu 52% to 48% (59,000/55,000 votes). Nagin also won with a dramatic shift in the racial breakdown of his voter base; in this election he received the support of about 80% of black voters and 20% of white voters, a reversal of his support base in the 2002 election.

Nagin's second term began on June 1, 2006. Nagin has continued to preside over a city recovering from Hurricane Katrina. And though there is still a very long way to go, under his administration the city has made significant strides in recovery, services have returned, neighborhoods are being rebuilt, commerce is returning and things will progress into the next administration. Mayor Nagin has faced insurmountable odds, unlike any other, and though his tenure has had its share of controversial moments, logic defies anyone to say they have done a better job, all things being equal.

While African Americans have played a significant role in the City of New Orleans during the Civil Rights Movement, we face yet another challenge, the challenge of change, as this Mayoral race will make a significant impact in the history of New Orleans.

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## When The Saints Go Marching In *Buddy D's Parade*



Dionne Character, Author  
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

It was literally, "raining men" in the City of New Orleans, as there was no shame in being a Queen, wearing Black and Gold, marching to the beat of the Ying Yang Twins halftime song, screaming... "Stand Up and Get Crunk".

Sunday, January 31st marked the day hundreds of men who love the Saints football team came out in drag in support of the late Buddy Diliberto (Buddy D), a former WWL sports broadcaster, who promised to wear a dress and dance through the streets, if the Saints ever made it to the Super Bowl.

Unfortunately, Buddy D passed before the Saints made it to the Super Bowl, as men from all walks of faith, from all over the city, all ages and nationalities, came out wearing dresses, looking like squirrels (nuts) as Buddy would say.

Former Saints Quarterback, Bobby Hebert, who took Buddy D's place in the booth, vowed to fulfill his promise, and that he did, in his blond wig and gold dress.

There were men in fishnet pantyhose, men in wigs, men wearing fingernail polish, men in long gowns, men in short dresses, men in tights, men wearing lipstick, long eyelashes, fake boobies, and to top it all off, a dance team featuring all men, sporting those polyester ole' school gym shorts.

Every man was in that number when the Saints came marching in drag for their beloved team and for the sake of keeping Buddy D's promise. It was a sight to see, an experience, I'll never forget.



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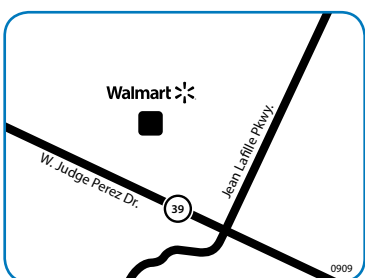
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# Create Jobs Where the People Are

By **Arlene Holt Baker**  
AFL-CIO Executive Vice President

America's jobs crisis is hurting everyone. But for African American communities, it's a catastrophe. Unless America takes immediate steps to create jobs now—jobs where the people are—the damage will become even more entrenched, threatening generations of African Americans.

So many of the communities we live in were in economic free-fall before this recession even started. The demise of manufacturing and construction jobs robbed millions of us of entry to the middle class and plunged African American communities into economic tatters. More than 16 percent of African Americans are officially unemployed, and that's not counting those who can only find part-time jobs or have just given up looking for work altogether.

Unemployment has shrunk local tax bases, eroding education and destroying public jobs, public services, public safety and, in general, the quality of life in our communities. In the metropolitan areas with the nation's highest unemployment rates, most of the residents are black. And the places where Blacks live were deliberately

targeted for sub-prime lending schemes, so we've been disproportionately slammed by foreclosures and bankruptcies.

This is no ordinary recession. The fabric of whole communities has been unraveled. The economic scarring of African Americans may endure for generations. The child who is hungry today and can't concentrate in her over-crowded classroom starts with the deck stacked against her. Maybe her state has cut teachers, guidance counselors, police and funding for higher education. Twenty or 30 percent of the adults around her may be unemployed. Her pain is not hers alone, with so little opportunity, her pain will also be her children's.

Unlike the era of the Great Migration northward in search of jobs and hope, today there's nowhere left for us to go. So we need to create jobs where the people who need them are.

The AFL-CIO has laid out a five-point plan to save and create millions of jobs in the next year. Nowhere is immediate action more needed than among the African American community, which has been carrying the heaviest weight of the crisis.

First, Congress must extend for at least 12 months the lifeline of unemployment

insurance, health care and food assistance for workers who have lost jobs. A record 38 percent of the unemployed overall have been without jobs for 27 weeks or more, but African Americans remain jobless for an average of five weeks longer than others. Maintaining the lifeline is not an option, it's food on the table and a roof overhead. In short, it's survival.

We've also got to put people to work fixing America's broken infrastructure—our crumbling schools and bridges, highways and water and sewer systems. At the same time we can pump life back into de-industrialized communities by retooling shuttered factories and building new facilities for jobs in green technologies. It's happening now in places like Gary, Ind., and Detroit, but Congress has to invest more to jump start these efforts and take them to a far larger scale. Restore middle class jobs and we restore hope.

We need to rescue states and communities that are being strangled by budget shortfalls. Not only can federal investments save desperately needed middle-class jobs, they can make distressed communities safer and much more livable. The economic recovery package passed earlier this year

helped, but it didn't approach the level of need.

Small businesses are the key engine for local job growth—but the banks we so generously bailed out still aren't lending. Congress can change that by hiring community banks to lend leftover TARP money directly to small and medium-sized businesses for job creation right where we live.

One of the most significant things we can do for jobless African Americans and distressed communities is to connect people without work directly to work that is crying to be done—from cleaning up abandoned buildings to driving seniors to the grocery store. If the private sector won't create jobs, government must. These cannot take the place of existing public jobs and must pay competitive wages so we're not replacing good state and local government jobs with temporary or poorly paid positions.

Saving and creating jobs alone won't solve the engrained economic problems of African Americans in devastated communities. But it's the start we need—right now—as we continue rebuilding an economy that works for our streets, not just Wall Street.

## Data News Weekly's 2010 Municipal Elections Endorsements

Data News Weekly proudly endorses the following candidates vying for offices in the 2010 City of New Orleans Municipal Elections as well as the State Senate Seat. These candidates, we believe, exhibit proven leadership experience, community service, teamwork skills, dedication, and have the business acumen needed to move this city forward in this new decade.

Mayor of  
New Orleans  
**John  
Georges**

State Senator  
**Irma Muse Dixon**

Judge, Civil District Court,  
Division J  
**Paula Brown**

Criminal Sheriff  
**Marlin Gusman**

Criminal District Court Clerk  
**Arthur Morrell**

Assessor  
**Errol Williams**

Coroner  
**Dwight McKenna**

**City Council**  
Councilmember At Large  
**Cynthia Willard-Lewis**

District A  
**Susan Guidry**

District B  
**Corey Watson**

District C  
**Kristin Gisleson - Palmer**

District D  
**Cynthia Hedge Morrell**

District E  
**Jon Johnson**

**Make voting your priority on Saturday, February 6th!**  
**VOTE your voice counts the most!**

# The Time Is Now



Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief

By Edwin Buggage

As I stand afar in Paris, France it is a strange and familiar place, where the architecture and way of life is very similar to New Orleans. I have been here for nearly a month and am becoming acclimated to my one year stay in the 'City of Light.' I feel good here but there are times I long for the sound of a secondline, the taste of a po-boy and the 'who dat' hysteria that is running rampant in my great city. I am excited about my city and that the black and gold are uniting a city making history while earning a place in the Super Bowl. But on the other side of the coin, I am troubled by the racial divide in the Mayoral contest and other elected seats across the city.

For better or worse, New Orleans is a city in transition. We again are at another historical moment where New Orleans for the first time in over three decades may have a white mayor. What

does that mean for the City of New Orleans as we stand on the cusp of what could be a game changing moment for our city? Can this in turn be a moment where the citizens both black, white and others get past race loyalty and look at who will best serve the city and move it forward to become the city it can be with bold effective

leadership? February 6th voters will again go to the polls to vote for those who will represent them.

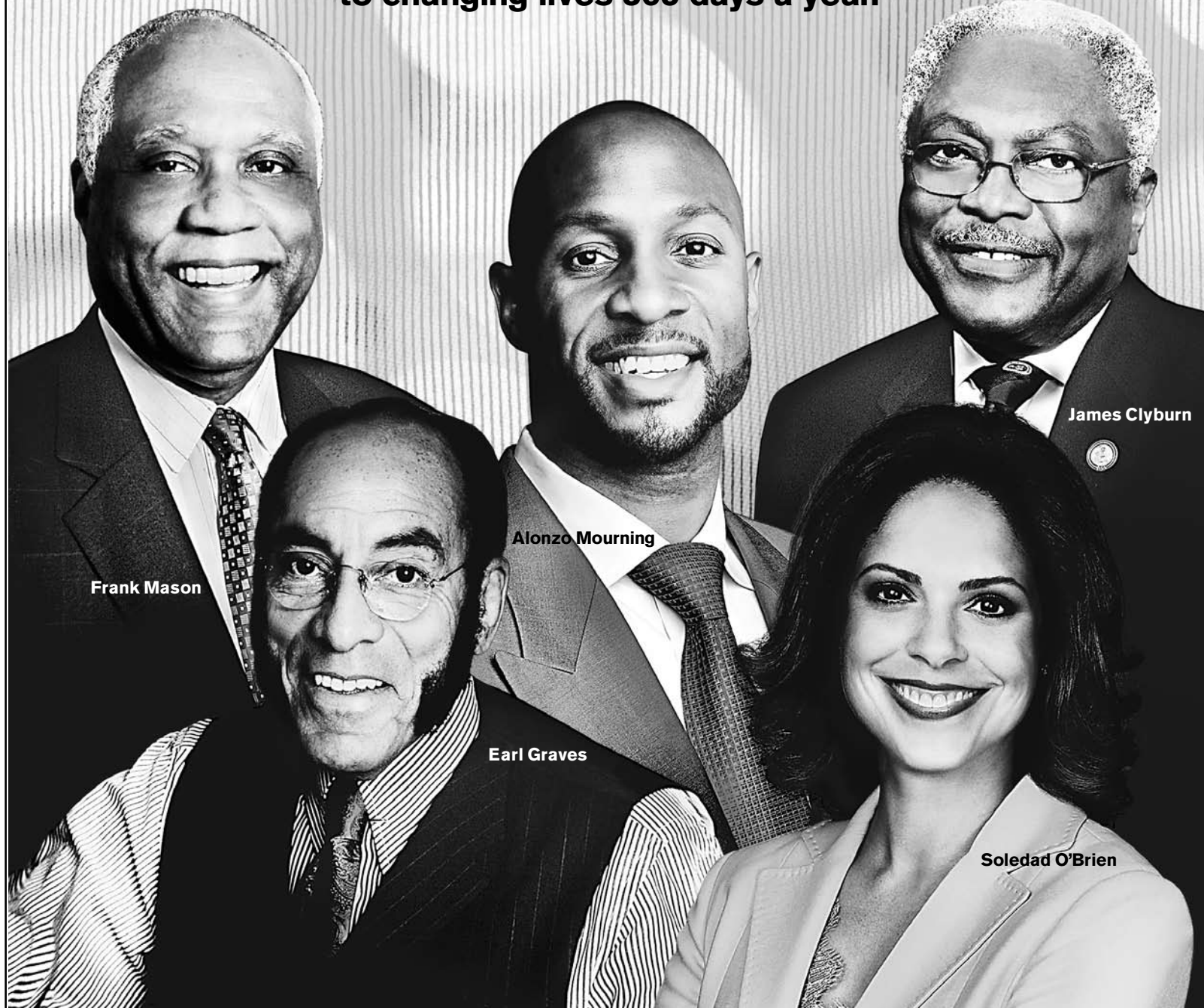
Change has been a buzzword touted by many of the candidates, and yes that is fine, but the people of the Crescent City for almost five years, have been through enough changes to last twenty lifetimes. Today we must truly be serious

about the business of change for the better. It is time to get past the black vs. white and deal with the wrong vs. the right candidate. Today New Orleans needs substantive change not symbols that are ineffective.

On August 29, 2005 our lives changed forever. This is an important election season and

change for the sake of change is not an option, we cannot simply replace the old with new faces that have the same ideas, practices and agenda. Today we must realize that the power to change is not solely in their hands but it is in ours and we must forge ahead and take control of our destiny in the City of New Orleans.

**Our 365BLACK® award honorees are committed to changing lives 365 days a year.**



## CORRECTION

Last week in the "Who We Like" article endorsing candidates for the February 6 Municipal Elections, we misspelled City Council candidate Jon Johnson's name. Our apologies to Mr. Johnson.

McDonald's® annual 365Black Awards recognizes individuals who are committed to and deeply rooted in the community.® That's why we're recognizing Soledad O'Brien, Alonzo Mourning, Earl Graves, Frank Mason and James Clyburn for their ceaseless efforts to serve the African-American community 365 days a year. To find out more about our esteemed honorees, visit [365BLACK.com](http://365BLACK.com)

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New Orleans  
**DATA**  
News Weekly

# LET'S GET READY TO RUUUUUMBLLE!

By Kingfish

In this corner, the visitor the 2009 AFC Champs, 2006 Super Bowl Champs and Super Bowl 41 MVP Peyton Manning. And in this corner the home team, "Americas Team", the 2009 NFC Champs and number one seed, number one offense and number one in your hearts the New Orleans Saints!

Now that the dust has settled, the time has come. Every sports analyst, corner prognosticator, die-hard fan and occasional spectator has given their breakdown of what the Saints must do to win the Super Bowl. Well, unfortunately I doubt Coach Sean Peyton has heard any of it except for an occasional glance at the talking heads on ESPN. Speaking of those talking heads once again they have underestimated the power of destiny! It seems Peyton Manning has already won the game; let them tell it! I digress, breathe and exhale.

It's apparent that the majority of the ESPN analysts believe no matter what, that the first ballot Hall of Famer Peyton Manning will be able to pick apart the Saints defense to raise the Colts to victory. Now, if that is your fla-



vor of corn flakes as well, allow me to add something to it. Yes, Manning should be a first ballot pick, but have you ever heard that old football saying "On any given Sunday"; meaning you can throw away the stats and any past accolades. If you don't bring your "A Game" as a team, you will go home with an L.

Enough addressing the naysayers, New Orleans is on fire! The anticipation is overwhelming. The number one question in the city is: "Are you going to Miami"? And the number two question is: "Are you having a party"? This is definitely a "where were you" mo-

ment in history. For all my partygoers I have a few tips for the newcomers taking part in the Super Bowl festivities. First, it's not really a party! It's where intense fans that have been glued every Sunday to a t.v. set or webcast agonizing over every play, have existed, until this moment when the most intense pressure known to man, ridicules their bodies. So to avoid any unfortunate accidents on game day, by you the newcomer, know this, asking an innocent question at an inopportune time is a very bad idea. Here's tip two. If there is a moment in the game where the referees have to review

a play; if you have been socializing or don't know the game very well, do not ask what happened or ask someone to explain the rule and why they have the rule, DURING the review. This tip could save your life. Seriously! You've seen these crazy fans all year scream at their t.v., jump up and run through the house, throw things and say things they would never say in front their mothers. This is new territory for them. They don't know how they're going to handle this game. Referee reviews can shift the entire game, that's a lot of pressure in a short moment. Just wait until the referee comes back with the verdict. Then judging from the response, ask what happened. Exercising a little patience at this moment could prove to be priceless. Third tip, if you want to sound like a seasoned vet when asked how do you think the Saints are going to win, you say "well its going to come down to the O (offensive) Line and the D (defensive) Line, whomever controls them will ultimately win the game. Follow those three tips and your Super Bowl festivities should be wonderful.

Now for my die-hards it comes down to the D Line, our ability to control theirs and for ours to run

ramped in their backfield. The Saints don't have to sack Manning just continuously knock him off balance and hit him as he throws the ball. Just ask "on the ground" Favre. Indianapolis is notorious for not having a running game. The running game has been the only weakness of the defense when the secondary is healthy. It seems the Saints O Line got a late Xmas present with news of defensive end Dwight Freeney's sprained (torn ligaments) ankle. Still, a hobbled Freeney is better than many NFL defensive ends. The focus will now switch to his counter part the other defensive end Robert Mathis. Robert Mathis on any other team would be a star. If the Saints keep them and the rest of the defense off of Brees, then Brees and the Krewe of Bush, Shockey, Colston, Meachem, Henderson, Bell and Thomas should have a clear procession to the end zone.

If the Buddy D Tribute Parade is any indication of how this city is going to react with a Saints victory, the city may have the biggest party known to mankind. And I, for one can't wait! Last but not least my prediction of the final score. Kingfish says Saints 34, Colts 17! Geaux Saints!

## NFL Outlines Super Bowl XLIV Security And Game Day Plans

For all you Saints Fans going to the Super Bowl this weekend, here's news you can use! This is no ordinary game and precautions are high and regulations are plenty. Knowing the rules in advance and following them will ensure you have a memorable trip. Have fun, and Enjoy the Game! Go SAINTS! Security screening at Sun Life Stadium will be significantly heightened for the Super Bowl. The National Football League strongly recommends that spectators minimize the number and size of all items carried into the stadium.

Items carried by spectators will be carefully inspected. Everyone entering the stadium on Super Bowl Sunday will be subject to security screenings, including metal detectors, pat-downs, and other special security checks. Spectators choosing to not consent to the NFL's security requirements will be refused admission. Certain items may not be brought into the stadium. Small bags, subject to check, will be permitted but binocular

and camera cases, among other items, will not be allowed. Spectators are urged to carry nothing larger than a small purse or bag. The NFL and Sun Life Stadium will not hold prohibited or excluded items for spectators (see attached for list of prohibited items). "We recommend that fans travel early to the game and carry only minimal items," said NFL Vice President of Security Milt Ahlerich. "The cooperation and patience of spectators is greatly appreciated by the NFL."

### SUPER BOWL GAMEDAY FAN INFORMATION

Traffic flow, parking and stadium entry will be much different for the Super Bowl than during the regular season at Sun Life Stadium.

Lots open at 11 a.m. (ET). Fans may tailgate near their vehicles with their own food and beverages but may not bring grills. Fans may not take up more than one parking spot and tents are prohibited.

Game Day Fan Plaza will open at 1 p.m. on Sunday for Super Bowl ticket holders only who may enjoy interactive football games, exhibits and musical entertainment, and may purchase food and merchandise. This area is free, but fans must have a Super Bowl ticket. Stadium gates open at 2 p.m. Fans are encouraged to arrive early to avoid delays and expedite entrance for everyone. In-stadium festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.

Only people with tickets or credentials will be allowed within the security perimeter around Sun Life Stadium. Everyone entering the stadium, including children, must have a ticket for the game. Fans will not be able to re-enter the stadium once they leave. Fans can go through any of the screening points on the security perimeter and then proceed to the gate marked on their tickets. Wheelchair attendees and their companions must have tickets designated "wheelchair."

### PROHIBITED ITEMS IN SUN LIFE STADIUM FOR SUPER BOWL XLIV

The following list is a guide only. It is not intended to be all-inclusive.

- Weapons of any kind
- Fireworks
- Camcorders
- Umbrellas
- Strollers
- Beach balls
- Frisbees
- Poles
- Sticks
- Laser lights and pointers
- Containers of any type
- Coolers of any size
- Backpacks
- Bottles
- Cans, hairspray
- Camera cases and binocular cases/ tripods
- Mace/pepper spray
- Banners
- Noisemakers
- Horns

Cameras and Binoculars – Small cameras and binoculars will be allowed. Camera cases and binocular cases are prohibited. No spectator cameras with lenses longer than six inches will be permitted. Camcorders are prohibited. Electronic Devices – Spectators are strongly urged not to bring electronic devices of any sort into the stadium. Any electronic device will be thoroughly inspected, causing delays for the spectator with the device. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cellular telephones, pagers, television, radios, personal computers, and personal digital assistants (PDAs). Prohibited items and items determined inappropriate for entry into the stadium will be the responsibility of the ticket holder and cannot be accepted or checked by the NFL or Sun Life Stadium. All spectators are urged to secure these items in vehicles or hotel rooms.



# CELLPHONES SAVE LIVES IN HAITI.

Help the victims of the Haiti earthquake with the most important text message you'll ever send. **Text "Haiti" to 90999 and a \$10 donation will be added to your phone bill.\*** Your contribution helps the Red Cross provide food, water and shelter. Haiti is calling for help: Answer with a text.

Other ways to contribute:  
Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS



\* Standard message and data rates may apply

# Senator Landrieu Comments on \$36 Million Coastal Restoration Funding in President's FY 2011 Budget

U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, D-La., this week commented on the announcement by the White House that \$36 million for coastal restoration efforts in Louisiana was included in President Obama's FY 2011 budget. While federal funds have been used for construction of coastal restoration projects through other programs championed by Senator Landrieu, this marks the first time that any President has put such funds in his budget.

Sen. Landrieu said:

"The President has made an excellent first step by providing \$19 million in construction funding for coastal restoration in his budget recommendation. I will be reviewing the President's request very closely, but any step toward construction of the critical near-



Senator Mary Landrieu

term coastal restoration project authorized in the 2007 WRDA is a good start.

"While this budget request is

a step in the right direction, the current Federal process for addressing the dramatic ecological and economic crisis in coastal Louisiana is broken. The best of plans and projects are held up by the interminable process of planning, authorizations, complex regulations and insufficient and unreliable funding. Because the work to protect and restore coastal Louisiana could cost billions of dollars, we desperately need a more reliable and robust program to address this crisis."

Sen. Landrieu will continue to work with the President and the federal inter-agency working group assembled in the fall to build a new model for coastal Louisiana. This new approach will:

- Advance the design, imple-

mentation and construction of coastal protection, restoration and integrated water management for coastal Louisiana on a comprehensive scale;

- Establish a stronger federal-State partnership with balanced roles to govern coastal protection and restoration in Louisiana, and;
- Eliminate costly delays in implementing coastal restoration and protection projects, including the reduction of bureaucratic obstacles, unnecessary studies, inconsistent or conflicting federal laws, policies, and regulations.

The funds were recommended as part of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program that was authorized by the 2007 Water Resources Development Act. The

LCA authorized 17 projects identified as critical near term steps to coastal restoration in Southeast Louisiana.

Previous federal funds utilized for constructing coastal restoration have come through programs such as the Coastal Impact Assistance Programs of 2001 and 2005, as well as the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act or Breau Act.

The President's Budget also includes important funding for flood control and navigation. Through her position on the Senate Committee on Appropriations Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, Sen. Landrieu will be reviewing these requests in detail and determining whether they adequately meet the needs of Louisiana communities.

# Mayor Nagin And Indianapolis Mayor Ballard Place Friendly Wager Over Super Bowl XLIV



New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin and Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard have placed a friendly wager over the outcome of the biggest game of the 2010 NFL season, Super Bowl XLIV. For the first time in franchise history, the New Orleans Saints will play in the Super Bowl and will face off with the Indianapolis Colts in next Sunday's game.

"I am extremely proud of the work the Saints have done this year to unify and excite our city," said Mayor Nagin. "I wish the Colts a good, safe game, but I am

confident that the Who Dat Nation will come home with a win."

Mayor Ballard waged a package of St. Elmo's Shrimp Cocktail, 10 dozen cookies from IndyAnna's Catering, a platter from Judges BBQ and two dozen tenderloins from Mug 'N' Bun to send to New Orleans if the Saints win. Mayor Nagin's wager includes two CDs – one jazz and one brass band; Mardi Gras beads; beignet mix and chicory coffee from Café du Monde; rice, seasonings and other goods from Zatarain's; king cake from Adrian's Bakery; pra-

lines from Loretta's Pralines; paraphernalia from the Krewe of Zulu; and the limited production WHO DAT! PRIVATE LABEL COFFEE from State Street Coffee.

Each Mayor is very confident that his team will bring the Super Bowl victory home, crowning them as the best team in the nation.

"The Saints may come marching in to Miami looking for a win," declared Mayor Ballard. "But it'll be the Indianapolis Colts who will get to hoist yet another Vince Lombardi trophy."

"Even though our own Peyton Manning will be on the opposing team, we know that Sean Payton and Drew Brees and the other



hard-working Saints will bring the trophy home to the Who Dat Nation," said Mayor Nagin. "Everyone in our city and beyond are rooting the Saints on and we know Miami will never be the same once we are crowned the NFL champions. Saints fans plan to take over South Florida and those that stay home will party through the night in celebration of a great season and a truly triumphant team. Geaux Saints - this is our year!"

# How to Celebrate Black History Month in New Orleans

It's February, time for the Super Bowl, Mardi Gras, but let's not forget, it is also Black History Month. New Orleans has one of the richest and most unique histories of Black Americans of any city in America. The history of New Orleans and the history of its Black community are inseparable, as the food, culture and art that defines New Orleans have been shaped indelibly by us. Our city boasts numerous fun and educational ways to celebrate the accomplishments of our people during Black History Month. We urge you to take time this year and celebrate Black History Month with your family, here are a few ideas to get you started.

1. Tour the campus of the historic Xavier University. This private liberal arts college is the only historically black Roman Catholic institution in the entire country. Many distinguished African-American business leaders graduated from Xavier, and Pope John Paul II once used Xavier to host a meeting of all the country's Catholic colleges.

2. Revisit historical Preservation Hall with your family. Preservation Hall was converted to a concert venue in the 1960s as a way to expose struggling jazz musicians to larger audiences. The building itself was built in 1750, and has survived the Great New Orleans Fire of 1788, the War of 1812 and Hurricane Katrina.

3. Celebrate Black History



The Preservation Hall Jazz Band

Month by visiting the New Orleans African-American Museum. Situated in the picturesque Treme neighborhood, the oldest black community still alive in America, the museum features a wide range of historical artifacts from the Congo. African textiles, musical instruments and works of art help to illuminate the African roots of our country's black population.

4. Make it a day and after Church visit an authentic African American restaurant. Many of our restaurants are history incarnate, and have the walls to prove it. Bits and pieces of New Orleans Black History can be found on

the walls of our restaurants and the stories to go with them are priceless.

5. Explore the rich history of New Orleans jazz with a visit to the Louisiana State Museum's jazz collection. The exhibit features musical instruments, photos, films and classic recordings of music made famous by pioneering African-American artists. The museum, is located in Baton Rouge, so plan to make it a day-long activity.

Whatever you choose to do to celebrate Black History Month, take time out this year to do something meaningful that your family will remember while celebrating our rich and accomplished culture and heritage. Black History in New Orleans, there's no place else like it!



**In college, you're exposed  
to a lot of new things.  
Don't let the flu be one of them.**

**Higher education means a higher risk  
of exposure to the flu.**

So if you're in college, get your seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccinations right now. It's a smart course of action. And your best shot at staying healthy.

For more information, ask your health care provider or pharmacist, call 2-1-1 or visit [www.FightTheFluLA.com](http://www.FightTheFluLA.com).

A message from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.



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# IF WE CAN COME TOGETHER FOR A FOOTBALL TEAM, LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE THE CITY.

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I was struck at the Saints game, as I have been all season, by how united our city was behind our team. **People are coming together effortlessly and sharing the same emotions, pulling for the common victory.**

Together, we have been rebuilding neighborhoods and together, we will restore New Orleans to the beautiful city that it was. We've proven we can get along for the sake of the Saints. **We need quality schools, hospitals open in New Orleans East and downtown, jobs with a decent wage, and we need to rebuild all of our neighborhoods with ample affordable housing for all our people.**

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## FIXING OUR MOST URGENT PROBLEMS

MY PLAN FOR OUR CITY'S FUTURE ADDRESSES OUR GREATEST NEEDS

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- ▶ A systematic approach to solving **Crime**.
- ▶ Adequate **Healthcare** coverage and availability.
- ▶ **Economic Development and Job Creation**.
- ▶ **Infrastructure Improvements**, like good streets now.
- ▶ Access to **high-quality and competitive Schools in every neighborhood**, along with improved recreational opportunities for our children.
- ▶ **Real accountability** in government and the police department.
- ▶ **Eliminating Blight** and creating effective code enforcement.
- ▶ High-quality, affordable **Housing** and increased home ownership opportunities.
- ▶ Adequate and effective **Flood Protection**.
- ▶ Balancing the **Budget**.
- ▶ **Rebuilding our beautiful Neighborhoods**.
- ▶ Getting the recovery moving again for a **Better Quality of Life**.

"I've built my own business very successfully by giving people chances. I know what New Orleans people can do. Give me a chance to lead as your mayor and I'll unite, not divide. You can count on me to work hard every day to make New Orleans a better, safer and more prosperous city."

JOHN  
**Georges**  
MAYOR #21