

Louisiana Fall 2019 Election Coastal Questionnaire

Louisiana's fall elections will be particularly crucial for the future leadership of the state, deciding numerous seats in the Legislature, the governorship, as well as other statewide and parish offices.

In the Legislature, as a result of term limits 47 of 144 seat are open, including 16 in the Senate. This legislative turnover coincides with a critical moment for our coast, particularly as most of the existing funding dedicated to implement the state's Coastal Master Plan will be completely spent down in the next 12 years. Legislators elected this year will have a central role in finding the revenue to continue to invest in our coast, and will pass judgement every year on annual coastal spending plans and the next Coastal Master Plan in 2023.

As you likely know, a recent statewide poll showed that Louisiana **voters are deeply concerned** about the state's coastal land loss crisis and support coastal restoration efforts to address it. The poll shows that **97 percent want their elected officials to prioritize tackling coastal land loss when in office.**

Ahead of the elections, we asked candidates running for Louisiana's Legislature to complete a short survey providing their positions on issues relevant to coastal land loss and restoration. Respondents were united in positive responses to key questions asked of them, including the following:

- *Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?*
- *The growing water management sector—which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management—is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?*



Candidate Name:

Joe Bouie

Office Sought:

Senate District 3

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Commercial fishermen should be compensated.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. I would need specific data to make a decision.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. I would be open to other funding possibilities



Candidate Name:

Allen Borne

Office Sought:

Senate District 5

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. There is no question that the future of South East Louisiana is being decided today. Despite almost of every pump in New Orleans working, we have had catastrophic flood events that our infrastructure cannot handle. As weather events become more extreme, we lose coastline more rapidly. With less coastal protection, New Orleans faces greater storm surge. This is a cycle that our government must intervene in immediately.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes. Yes, the best available science must drive decisions about rebuilding the coast. It is important for the state to fund research to ensure that studies do not reflect the bias of those who sponsor it, and research provides objective results.

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes. While the environmental consequences of energy production in Louisiana have become abundantly clear, many parts of the state do not have other industry or jobs available. As a Senator I would like to work across the isle to support coast restoration. In doing so we can provide economic incentives and new jobs to more conservative parts of the state. By providing job training we can transition from industries that destroy our environment to industries that protect it while bringing more economic prosperity to Louisiana's coastal communities.

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes. Yes. Maintaining as much land as possible protects much of southeast Louisiana from dangerous storm surge. Also, this land is important habitat that supports biodiversity.

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes. Sediment diversion projects are important and we can balance these projects with the needs of certain fisheries. The Master Plan has diverse projects that we need to undertake, we can balance the implementation of sediment diversion projects with other necessary projects as to not devastate local fisheries.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes. Under the Civil Code the State has the authority to undertake these projects. It is up to our legislative bodies to regulate coastal restoration projects as well as fishing to do the most good we can. The Gulf of Mexico, Maine, and many other coastal areas have seen booms in their fishing industries from more careful regulation. While fishing communities may object to these regulations at first, the results speak for themselves. With fishing regulations based on science, we can move forward with coastal restoration and promote longevity for fisheries even if there is short term impact.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No. It would depend on the economic development project and the environmental impact. Ideally we create incentives to encourage environmental compliance so that new economic projects work with, rather than against, environmental goals.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. We have to reconsider the ITEP program. The tax breaks given at the state level are too costly and reflect out of date economic goals for Louisiana. Addressing ITEP could easily bring over 1 billion dollars in annual revenue that could fund coastal restoration. Additionally legalizing and carefully regulating recreational marijuana and sports gambling is a massive source of revenue the state is missing out on.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1) Address ITEP and make sure the most environmentally damaging industries are not rewarded with tax exemptions.

2) Amend the Civil Code to provide a pathway for localities and private land owners to hold oil and gas exploration companies accountable for land loss.

Candidate Name:

Karen Carter Peterson

Office Sought:

Senate District 5

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Like most Louisiana voters, I too am deeply concerned about the state's coastal land loss crisis. First and foremost, the legislature must protect what funding already does exist and prevent any attempts to redirect those dollars to provide slush funds for unrelated projects as was done by the Jindal administration. I think it was a wise move and good policy for Governor Edwards to earlier this year allocate state surplus dollars to the constitutionally-protected Coastal Trust Fund. Decisions like that send the right message to our federal partners. Clearly, we need to raise additional revenue, and fast. I support the recent initiative by Congressmen Graves and Richmond in their quest to increase the amount of GOMESA revenues that, if successful, Louisiana would receive. It's only fair given the vital role our state plays in supplying energy to the rest of the nation. We should also revisit a tax on the oil and gas industry and those related industries who benefit from our natural resources, and who's operations have had severe negative implications on our state's coast. There is overwhelming consensus that the activities of the oil and gas industry to access their assets through dredging canals has contributed anywhere between 40-60% of the damages to our wetlands. Some experts think that number may be even higher. In 2018 alone, Chevron generated over \$42 billion in revenue; Conoco Phillips \$38 billion; Royal Dutch Shell \$21 billion--to name just a few. It's past time the industry pay its fair share for damages. Their refusal has left the state and coastal parishes no other choice but to sue for damages. A decision I support, but would not if they were to step up and do the right thing. One last thing: Denial is not a river in Louisiana. There is no place for climate change denial in our state government. Rarely does one even hear the words climate change uttered at the legislature. Relying on offshore royalties is not and cannot be viewed as a long-term solution to help mitigate our coastal land loss. The more fossil fuels we extract from the Gulf and burn, the more land we will lose. Period. We must change course if we want to prolong our ability to inhabit coastal Louisiana. And not just the course of the Mississippi river. One category five hurricane or multiple storms in a single season can undue all of the progress we have made plus exponentially more land loss. We need to face the fact that the cost of the Master Plan could rise far above and beyond a \$100 billion dollar price tag. To be clear, coastal restoration works. There are examples of successful land reclamation and restoration projects throughout south Louisiana. Areas that were of open water two years ago are now land. More pressure for funding needs to be placed on the industry. Litigation may one day result in more funding, but litigation can take years and years to come to conclusion.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1. Face the fact that climate change is real and will continue to exacerbate our coastal crisis if steps are not taken to reduce carbon emissions. The people of Louisiana need to elect legislators that believe in science.

2. Bring the oil industry to the table to pay their fair share for damages.

3. Continue working with our Congressional delegation and federal partners to secure additional funding.

Candidate Name:

Kirk Talbot

Office Sought:

Senate District 10

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. The state and Feds are responsible for the funding.

Candidate Name:

Edith Carlin

Office Sought:

Senate District 13

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes. I think we need to be prudent in order to minimize the impact to the fisheries if at all possible.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes. As I mentioned in the other question, we would need to be prudent and minimize the short term impact to those fisheries if at all possible.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. I don't think that I can answer such a vague question. I would need to have more information to provide a definite answer.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. I'm not opposed to financing projects but I would need more information in order to agree or disagree with the particular project.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Hopefully we can turn the Louisiana economy around so that there will be more funds to address critical projects in our state. Also, we need to make some legal reforms that will help the oil and gas industry be profitable once again so that they can be major partners in this coastal restoration work. Funds that are going towards legal fees and court costs could certainly be better used in restoring our coastline.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. We need to continue to prioritize those restoration projects that will bring the most value. We need to continue to study and work out the science of coastal erosion/restoration. We also need to promote the entrepreneurial aspects of restoring the coasts by encouraging home grown ideas to be tested and tried without a lot of red tape. Finally, bring the oil and gas companies in as partners not as criminals in the restoration process.

Candidate Name:

Damon J. Baldone

Office Sought:

Senate District 20

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes. Yes but we do need to take into consideration the impacts to the fisheries and the fishermen. Restoring the coast and not impacting fisheries and fisherman is an obtainable goal.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes. Yes however we need to also address the concerns of the fishermen. This can be done where both interest are protected.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

Candidate Name:

Jerry "Truck" Gisclair

Office Sought:

Senate District 20

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. Some certain projects may have a higher cost to implement. Waiting on funding could cause further destruction of the coast and thus increasing the price tag to repair a region.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Coastal Use Permit system needs to be explored. Their impacts on the coast should be taken into consideration when putting a cost on such permits. Closer monitoring of impacts to the coast caused by private industry should be held accountable for any damages to the coast.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1. More work on BARRIER islands and immediate surrounding wetlands. 2. Introduction of sediment from the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya Rivers. Installing permanent pipeline system to feed the sediment to different regions. 3. Allowing private contractors to implement different techniques for restoration projects, with the CPRA's approval.

Candidate Name:

Barrow Peacock

Office Sought:

Senate District 37

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes. More information is needed before you bond out proceeds, especially from the state.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. This is a discussion we need to have.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. This will be just part of the discussion of bringing the best minds together to make informed decisions.

Candidate Name:

John Milkovich

Office Sought:

Senate District 38

Party Registration:

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. I believe that protecting our coastline is one of the most crucial concerns, economically and ecologically, that our state must address.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes. The Louisiana coastline is vital to the preservation of our ecology, our fisheries, our economy, our culture, and our heritage.

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Restoring and protecting the coastline and preserving fish populations and aquatic habitat vital objectives. These objectives must be achieved as part of a holistic, balanced plan, as we proceed with coastal restoration.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. See Answer to Question Number 5.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. It is impossible to fully answer this question in a factual vacuum. However, I believe that the preservation of the coastline and coastal habitat must be given careful and serious consideration in any economic development project.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. As a legislator, I would give serious consideration to financial measures that could accelerate efforts to restore our coastline.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. I believe it would be vital to build a coalition of government entities, private foundations, and extractive industries to undertake the monumental challenge of restoring the coastline.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. Time is of the essence. We must build the coalition of government, private foundations, and extractive industries necessary to preserve our coast. We must continue to communicate to the people of Louisiana the ecological, economic, and cultural importance of preserving our coast.



Candidate Name:

James Harper

Office Sought:

State Representative District 1

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. No. MORE EFFORTS SHOULD BE USED TO USE AVAILABLE FUNDS WHILE IMPROVING EFFORTS TO RAISE MOVE WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. No

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will

be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. WE SHOULD UTILIZE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR MAJOR PORTS IN LOUISIANA TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC STABILITY TO FUND ADDITIONAL WATERWAY PROJECTS

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

**A.
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ENSURE CURRENT EVIDENCE-BASED PROJECTS TO MAXIMIZE REVENUE AND FUNDING FOR IMPROVED PROJECTS TO SUPPORT COASTAL RESTORATION. COLLABORATE WITH OTHER COASTAL STATES TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND COMBINE BEST PRACTICE EFFORTS TO LEAD IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS WITH COST-EFFICIENT EFFORTS TO MAXIMIZE IMPROVEMENTS. ENGAGE STATE AND NATIONAL LEADERS IN DIALOGUE TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH PROJECTS SEEKING LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE EFFORTS TO REDUCE INEFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND PROMOTE INNOVATIVE EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN RESTORATION EFFORTS.**



Candidate Name:

Creighton G Wilson

Office Sought:

State Representative District 10

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. No doubt this is a major issue. Louisiana's economy needs to grow, but not at the expense of throwing away the farm so to speak. That is my campaign motto. We cannot destroy ourselves for gain now with no future. I would hope that the economic developers would also have Louisiana's long term interests in mind. I would work for a way to get to yes on both sides.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. How much money is going in now? How much money is needed? When will the BP Oil money run out? How much environmental friendly industry will grow with the restoration in 100 years?

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. I am environmental knowledgeable as a science teacher. I like the efforts that I have studied. It is my hope that the restoration will happen faster than expected and with it cultivate environmentally friendly industry that will support the coastal restoration projects in the future.



Candidate Name:

Foy Bryan Gadberry

Office Sought:

State Representative District 15

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. No

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. I think the following agencies should have a funding source for our coastal wetlands 1) The Corps of Engineers 2) Environmental Protection Agency 3) Department of Environmental Quality

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. landscape restoration through marsh lands and diversion projects



Candidate Name:

Charles Henry Bradford

Office Sought:

State Representative District 16

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

Bring more industry into the state of LA to bring in more revenues which will create more tax dollar to ensure the future of LA. Some of these fund, along with federal funds can be earmark to coastal restoration. This will ensure future funding, and lifestyle of the great state of LA. The citizens, private investor, state and federal government should be responsible for funding these efforts.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

- 1. Start saving for the future.**
- 2. Come up with better scientific ideas to protect the coast.**
- 3. Continue with restoration projects**

Candidate Name:

Daryll Berry

Office Sought:

State Representative District 16

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. No

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. No

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

Candidate Name:

Jane Netterville

Office Sought:

State Representative District 21

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes. It would depend on the impact to the restoration project

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. No

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Federal funding should be sought.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. Search for additional permanent funding sources for coastal restoration. Work to implement the sediment diversion program. Consider ways to supplement the loss of revenue to LA fisherman from the diversion program.



Candidate Name:

Carl Lasyone

Office Sought:

State Representative District 22

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

Candidate Name:

Jim Dore'

Office Sought:

State Representative District 31

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. The key word is "among" here. There are several deserving projects such as lost jobs and out migration from Louisiana. This too, must be addressed. We need a robust economy to pay for restoration and have a balanced budget to pay for need work.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes. Science is one mechanism to be used. However we must expand our thinking into use of local and state experience, using hundreds of years of information that can be valuable as well. Engineering is the most practical solution by using best practices from other areas and countries. Technology must be considered to minimize further damage.

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes. I am pro-business and support industries that add value to our state and local government by increasing our economic growth safely and efficiently. This is not meant to mean that I solely support the growth of the coastal industry alone.

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes. We must at very least stop coastal erosion by using the latest technology available while doing what we can, not to disrupt other businesses opportunities such as: hunting, fishing and oil and gas investment etc.

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes. If done wisely and in cooperation with input from local fisheries and other industries, I can support sediment diversion. I do believe the "Dead Zone" needs to be addressed first, if not addressed, how much of damage will be done by diverting deadly chemicals into our marsh? I would like to learn more about how diversion can be done without the effects of the chemicals coming from up river. I would need additional information prior to a full commitment.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes. As mentioned above, if done wisely and in cooperation and input from local fisheries and others, I can support sediment diversion. I do believe the "Dead Zone" needs to be addressed first. I would like to learn more about how diversion can be done without the effects of the chemicals coming from up river. I would need additional information prior to a full commitment. Educating stakeholders impacted is important to me and a dialogue must be a part of the equation, not simply the use of engineering and science. We must work in unison to solve the issue.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes. This is an important issue and we must keep it funded. The bigger challenge to legislators is how to keep it funded.

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes. This is a hypothetical question and without more information related to the actual impact in dollars and time to restoration, I cannot answer in an appropriate manner. Information / impact / timing/ costs/ all come into play in decisions like this and in business...Short and long term effects must be considered in decisions and this question does not address this.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes. Again, more research and information is need prior to full commitment. In general, I support efforts in creative financing to protect our coastal as long as it does not lead to more debt for Louisiana.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

I believe I addressed funding above. So far as responsibility is concerned, we should look to local AND state officials to work together in funding projects related to restoration. For example; who benefits most by the restoration and who contributed to the current state of erosion. Science, engineering, industry, local and state government must work in concert to find funding and address the "how" of getting it done.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1. Restoration is important, and I am not sure it is the most important of our lifetime. But it ranks at the top of the list. We must include ALL stakeholders; fisherman, o&g, farmers, ranchers and other impacted by coastal erosion. This is not a unilateral decision and solution to the issue.

2. Science sometime isn't exact and solely making decisions base on conflicting ideas from scientist doesn't work well. It is one tool to be looked at and it doesn't provide the solution. Science in conjunction with engineering with input of stake holders is supportable. We achieve more by including important ideas to succeed.

3. Growing an industry, any industry, isn't my number one priority. What is important is protection of our wetlands. If industry can rise to the occasion then that will have an economic impact as you mention above in an earlier question. Restoration or Economic impact?

Candidate Name:

Jonathan Goudeau

Office Sought:

State Representative District 31

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. No

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. No

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. The funding for our coast should come from tax revenue generated by businesses in the state along with federal funds to better protect our wetland.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. Fight for more federal funds to help rebuild our coast. Allocate more tax dollars to coastal restoration in the future. Review and audit the current coastal restoration plan to make sure money is being spent wisely and personal are working efficiently to solve the problem.



Candidate Name:

Marion "Butch" Fox

Office Sought:

State Representative District 37

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes. Economic development is a main driver of quality jobs for our citizens so I want to make sure that we have correct information before proceeding.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. I don't have enough information to make an intelligent decision. I am all about coastal restoration. Funding for coastal restoration should be a priority in the legislature.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. Keep doing research to maximize our efforts and to make sure whatever we do is sustainable. Push for additional funding. Educate the public. I have a company in JDP that has 500 lb bales of cotton tails, all organic they are putting in land fill. Seems to me coastal restoration should take a look at how this product could be used on the coast.

Candidate Name:

Keith Baudin

Office Sought:

State Representative District 46

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

The US government should be helping in this effort since the main cause of coastal erosion was from the US Corp of Engineers levee project.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1 Get help and funding from the federal government this is not just a State issue. 2 Stop suing the Oil Companies so they will return to Louisiana and help our economy grow, so we'll have more tax dollars available to fund more coastal restoration projects. 3 Start more sediment diversion Projects.



Candidate Name:

Dana Dugas

Office Sought:

State Representative District 48

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. Better coastlines now will be for better fishers in our future.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. We need to secure funding now and build up a savings account that will have money in it so in 2032 we would have money to keep saving our coast lines and water ways for years past 2032. If elected I would love to sit with your group to set up the funding now not wait till it is too late.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. We need to clear and deepen our water ways and with that soil build up our coastal land so we can have a real Sportsman's Paradise for our Grandkids



Candidate Name:

Donovan Fremin

Office Sought:

State Representative District 55

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. Time is of paramount importance to complete their projects. Storms do not wait until the work is done before the strike our coast. Every minute wasted puts lives, property and jobs in danger.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. No

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. No

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. I think it is imperative to increase the percentage of GOMESA funding. The state cannot absorb the loss that will incur when the BP settlement money expires without increasing taxes or getting Federal funding. I would like to work with the oil and gas industry to bring an end to coastal lawsuits by negotiating a reasonable formula to get funding for coastal restoration and protection.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

- A.**
- 1. Secure long term funding for coastal protection and restoration.**
 - 2. Continue to pump sediment and sand to rebuild our barrier islands along the coast.**
 - 3. Build sediment diversions along the coast to build up marsh.**

Candidate Name:

Laurie White Adams

Office Sought:

State Representative District 68

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. It's unfair to you for me to give you an answer to a hypothetical question which assumes polar opposite choices. It would depend on the circumstances, projects, etc.

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. No

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. At this point I do not have any thoughts about future funding streams, but I agree that it is critical to begin considering and planning for the end of the BP Oil Settlement funds so coastal restoration work continues beyond 2023.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. I look forward learning more about coastal restoration and protection efforts and strategies



Candidate Name:

S. Michele Blanchard

Office Sought:

State Representative District 76

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. I would research the benefits and impacts, as well as request constituent opinions on the issue before making a decision to support or oppose.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. I would research the benefits and impacts, as well as request constituent opinions on the issue before making a decision to support or oppose.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. This must be decided on a case-by-case basis. Some economic projects may reduce the efficacy of coastal restoration in the short term but be extremely beneficial in the long term, e.g.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Future funding will be a joint effort among lawmakers, governors, cabinet secretaries, federal authorities, local governments and other stakeholders. I will work with all involved -- including, especially, colleagues who represent coastal areas -- to explore options that do not involve tax increases.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1. Ensure continuation of federal funding through aggressive action in and on Washington. 2. Work to ensure we do not allow further damage to the coast while trying to restore it. 3. Involve local entities -- from parish and municipal governments to coastal business interests -- to have a continuous and open line of input and communication.

Candidate Name:

Polly Thomas

Office Sought:

State Representative District 80

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. This seems to ask if economic development is favored over science. This begs for a full discussion.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. This is a national issue and Louisiana should not have to carry the load just because we live here.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1) Move forward with the two sediment diversions. Re-validate that the designated locations are geologically the best sites. Also, address to assess the needs of the citizens whose lifestyles will be challenged.

2) As the state's coastal plan is updated, CPRA must inform the legislature of the best path forward.

3) CPRA must convene a gathering of all the financial stakeholders to address the roles they will take in saving their investments in the coast.

Candidate Name:

Trey Mustian

Office Sought:

State Representative District 82

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes. We are responsible for the legacy we leave to future generations in Louisiana. The current situation is unsustainable.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Honestly, I have not studied the issue enough to have any ideas in that area. But I am very interested in promoting coastal restoration projects and will become better educated on the subject.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. Same answer as 10.

Candidate Name:

Timothy P. Kerner

Office Sought:

State Representative District 84

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. But I would do whatever in my power to make it less painful for the state of Louisiana. Coastal Restoration is one of the most important things to me.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. We need to do whatever we possibly can, whether it be surplus or GOMESA funds. We have to continue to work hard to keep these projects going. Tremendous progress has been made in the last 25 years, we continue to make progress now, and the future looks promising.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1. Bond monies for GOMESA and RESTORE in order to expedite the projects. 2. Purchase dredging equipment so the state does not have to continue to pay mobilization and demobilization cost. Continually dredge as funds become available. 3. Educate people on the importance of the wetlands. Once people understand the importance it should be easier to obtain funding. We need to show the public what we are trying to save and why it is so important, wheter it is a buffer zone, which saves tax payers dollars during disasters or job revenue created by the fishing industry

Candidate Name:

Joseph Marino III

Office Sought:

State Representative District 85

Party Registration:

No Party

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. The need to protect coast should be obvious to all.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes. The land and barrier islands are important to slowing down storms headed inland.

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes. There will certainly be some impact to area but it is necessary.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Need more information on exactly what is proposed and alternatives before answering.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. Need to continue with the Master Plan and seek additional funding sources to accelerate the programs.

Candidate Name:

Erin Feys Powell

Office Sought:

State Representative District 89

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Companies must pay their fair share of taxes, tax exemptions need to be looked at carefully. Louisiana has not had a gas tax increase since 1990, cars are much more fuel efficient now and many people are driving electric cars so they are not paying their fair share of infrastructure including coastal restoration.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. We need economic development but not at the cost of our wetlands. Restoring and protecting our coast will protect us from the ravages of hurricanes and flooding. Fully funding science to fight climate change is imperative.

Candidate Name:

Carling Dinkler

Office Sought:

State Representative District 91

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. Investing in the coast is not a luxury, it is a matter of survival. I want New Orleans and Louisiana to not only exist for my grandchildren, but for it to thrive. We need to focus on implementation of the coastal master plan; it is a matter of survival. The state must do it effectively, efficiently, and with integrity. By focusing on this, we will be moving forward on the protections we need, and demonstrating to congressional appropriators and local taxpayers alike that this effort to save the coast is worth investing in.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes. To the extent that we can mitigate the impact on fisheries, which is also an important industry in Louisiana, I believe we should. I do not believe that questions about important priorities and actions including sediment diversions are productively handled unless all parties come to the table to negotiate and understand one another's goals. I will be a legislator who can help broker negotiations and collaborate with various interests, with the priority of restoring and protecting our coast at the top of my list.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes. To the extent that we can mitigate the impact on fisheries, which is also an important industry in Louisiana, I believe we should. I do not believe that questions about important priorities and actions including sediment diversions are productively handled unless all parties come to the table to negotiate and understand one another's goals. I will be a legislator who can help broker negotiations and collaborate with various interests, with the priority of restoring and protecting our coast at the top of my list.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes. We need to focus on implementation of the coastal master plan; it is a matter of survival. The state must do it effectively, efficiently, and with integrity. By focusing on this, we will be moving forward on the protections we need, and demonstrating to congressional appropriators and local taxpayers alike that this effort to save the coast is worth investing in.

We must begin the conversations about funding needs and funding sources now — at the legislative and public level. These conversations will be hard and will take time, so we need to get going. Essentially, we will run out of enough money to make a difference in a little more than a decade.

We have to begin a working effort with the congressional delegation, to help define and pursue what role federal funding can play. At the state level, we must have a dedicated stream of revenue in place to make sure the state can do its part to preserve and rebuild the coastline.

As we look at comprehensive budget reform, a constitutional convention that would limit constitutional dedications, and overall tax reform, we should do so with the priority of fully funding our anticipated needs from a coastal perspective.

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes. All funding sources to restore and protect the coast should be on the table.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. We need to address some fundamental issues in our state budget, which will likely require an overhaul of at least part of the state constitution as well as meaningful tax reform.

As it relates to a constitutional convention, we should take a serious look at the 33 constitutionally-dedicated funds and determine which of those sacred cows really deserve constitutional protection. Freeing up money would give lawmakers greater flexibility to address changing priorities. According to the Public Affairs Research Council, “the total state budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was roughly \$34 billion, of which \$9.5 billion was State General Fund dollars derived in large part from tax collections.” According to the State’s Division of Administration data, “approximately \$4.3 billion of spending was mandated by the Constitution.” Until we seriously consider how to give the legislature the flexibility it needs to govern, we are going to continue lurching from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis.

Additionally, balancing the budget is a two-sided equation where revenue has to be a part of the conversation. We currently have a tax system that balances the budget on backs of working-class people and fails to make our state attractive for business. True tax reform should have several elements:

• Lower the sales tax, which is regressive and hurts working class families disproportionately. • Centralize our sales tax collection to allow us to be better prepared to collect sales tax from online vendors and limit complexity of businesses operating across parish lines. • Reduce the number of exemptions, exclusions, and credits throughout the tax code in exchange for lower rates. • Support working class families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit. • Eliminate the deduction for federal taxes paid in exchange for a simpler tax code with lower levels. • Increase the gas tax to support infrastructure projects.

With true constitutional reform and tax reform, we can and should then have a more philosophical conversation about how much to spend and how much revenue we need to raise.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

**A. Invest in and implement the Master Plan.
Acknowledge the realities of global warming.**

Candidate Name:

Stephanie Hilferty

Office Sought:

State Representative District 94

Party Registration:

Republican

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No. I'm not certain this would be decided by the legislature. However, I would certainly not want to jeopardize coastal protection and would certainly look to see how both projects may move forward.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. The State has committed BP spill restoration dollars to coastal restoration. Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) is starting disburse substantial funds to Louisiana as we see more offshore leases, since the bottom-out of oil prices and the preference of fracking and other less costly extraction measures. According to the Department of Interior, Louisiana is projected to receive \$94.7 million in disbursement from GOMESA in 2019. The coastal master plan is a living document using the most up to date scientific data and monitoring the success of diversions and other measures. The reality is that the federally created levees along the Mississippi, which protect the nation's commerce and industry, have had a dramatic negative impact on the coast's hydrology. It is incumbent upon the federal government to protect the nation's most productive coastline and major ports.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1) Continue to heed the advice of CPRA as it relates to sediment diversions, while working with the communities directly affected by the diversions. We must rely on CPRA and allow science, not politics to inform our coastal protection efforts.

2) Securing revenue streams for future restoration.

3) Ensuring that the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and our university system is educating the next wave of employees for coastal restoration.

Candidate Name:

Matthew Willard

Office Sought:

State Representative District 97

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes. We can't sacrifice any more if the project is destroying the very resources that give our state and its culture life. I know there is balance. But we've let the environment unfairly sacrifice in that balance for too long.

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. 1. Stop being afraid of legacy lawsuits 2. Work with your organization to design legislation with important tax credits and other incentives dedicated to this issue 3. The cost of environmental damage remediation needs to be a considered factor in permitting fees 4. We have one of the lowest gas tax rates in the country; while I generally do not prefer regressive taxes, bumping up the gas tax to support infrastructure and coastal restoration is a move I'd likely support

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1. Adopting community resilience measures, such as home elevation and improved use of water diversion projects in urban planning, especially the GNO area 2. Strategic use of dredged sediments to build and sustain wetlands and barrier islands 3. Prioritize the state portion of the Coastal Restoration Masterplan and keep pressure on DC to continue increasing our portion of GOMESA revenues

Candidate Name:

Max Hayden Chiz

Office Sought:

State Representative District 98

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes. Our wetlands protect New Orleans from hurricanes and flooding.

I worked for Judge Susan G. Braden while the MRGO case was pending before the Court of Federal Claims. I've seen the scale of destruction we have to reverse and the harm that destruction causes our citizens.

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes. I am an advocate for evidence-based policy across the board. As someone with an engineering degree and a research background, I'm tired of politicians with no technical or STEM experience making decisions about things they don't even understand.

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes. If we do nothing, the harm will be catastrophic. We must fight to save the city we all love and our way of life.

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes. All policies cause some harm. We have an obligation to make things right to the extent that we can, but that does not mean that we should place the public and our future in jeopardy. And it does not excuse a failure to follow the best scientific evidence.

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. No. Our constitutionally-protected funds are ineffective and threaten the state's financial stability. So I am opposed to having the state constitution dictate budgeting and financing priorities in general. There are better ways to resolve these sorts of problems and to commit the state to fully funding long-term plans and fully paying for long-term costs.

But I am not going to repeal our protected funds provisions without a plan and without a better method of securing funding for the Coastal Master Plan.

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No. Almost all of Louisiana's "economic development projects" are corporate welfare which I absolutely oppose. If we want to grow our economy, we have to create a state that people want to live and work in. Bribing businesses is not a long-term solution.

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes. Our state's financial processes are completely broken. I have an MBA with a finance concentration, and I intend to use that experience to get system fixed so that we can get important work done when it needs to happen instead of waiting for costs to balloon out of control.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Economies are not fixed pies. It's not just a matter of finding new sources but of growing the sources we have and reducing the costs of collecting that funding. If we fix our broken processes and flawed laws, that will have a huge impact.

Beyond that, we have to put a complete stop to corporate welfare. Bribing businesses with tax incentives and special legal treatment isn't going to create jobs. Having a well run state with fair laws and an equitable tax system will.

We also have to stop trying to legislate morality. Banning vices like gambling and drugs doesn't put a stop to them. It just means that you can't track them and you can't tax them. So we need to legalize marijuana, sports betting, and a long list of other activities.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. We know the science, we know what needs to be done. But right now we do not have a government capable of executing.

We have to change the culture and the process in Baton Rouge. We need to focus on evidence-based policy. We have to run the state's finances professionally so that we can make long-term plans and follow through on them. And we have to fix our system's broken incentives so that our legislators can focus on the long term instead of waiting for a crisis before taking action.

Candidate Name:

Aimee Adatto Freeman

Office Sought:

State Representative District 98

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes. As stated in the previous questions, we need to plan for the impact on fisheries.

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. Louisiana's coastal problem is a national environmental emergency, and it will require more national resources to fully handle the complex issues involved. As a state legislator, I will work to make sure one-time, non-recurring revenues will be dedicated to coastal restoration. I will also work to find new revenue streams that can be used for this critical take. In addition, I will work with the state's Congressional delegation in a nonpartisan manner to support their efforts to increase funding for coastal restoration projects. This question is vitally important but also hypothetical. We have no idea what the federal government will fund over the next 30 years. Louisiana is slated to receive billions of dollars revenues from the BP settlement and the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). That money needs to be spent both wisely and efficiently, and the process needs to be transparent to justify additional funds whether they come from the federal government or taxpayers.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. It's important legislators understand the coastal restoration plan before it is presented on the house floor for a vote. We must make sure that the coastal master plan sets aside money for job training so we can hire Louisiana residents to do the work of coastal restoration. There is a need for coastal restoration around the country. It's not a unique problem to Louisiana, though it is urgent. By investing in workforce development for coastal restoration we will make Louisiana a leader and major player in coastal restoration in other areas, which would positively impact economic development for our state. We haven't done a good job of making this a state-wide issue. We haven't connected the problem to the middle and top of the state. I would like to see a public information campaign, showing people their connection to the coast and their economic well-being.

Candidate Name:

Kea Sherman

Office Sought:

State Representative District 98

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. No

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. No

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes. As I mentioned earlier, we will not be able to continue to live in Louisiana without a coastline. I believe that this issue takes precedence over almost anything else.

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

Funding from RESTORE, CWPPRA, and GOMESA have been helpful, but we all know they cannot finance the entire Coastal Master Plan. I support sustained coastal funding through the state budget, the use of bonding to secure additional funds, and expanding the use of public-private partnerships, where applicable, for coastal projects. The Pay for Success coastal program passed by the legislature in 2017 was a good first step. I would support expanding the cap beyond \$250 M for larger coastal projects.

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. 1. Continue to fund coastal restoration projects through state budget

2. Work with our Federal partners to look at additional potential coastal funding mechanisms

3. Continue to fund the research that has made Louisiana one of the top locations in the world for delta restoration science and engineering.

Candidate Name:

L. Jameel Shaheer

Office Sought:

State Representative District 99

Party Registration:

Democrat

1. Do you agree that protecting and restoring coastal Louisiana is among the most important issues of our lifetime?

A. Yes

2. Do you believe decisions about rebuilding the coast should be made based on the best available science?

A. Yes

3. The growing water management sector – which includes coastal restoration, coastal protection and urban water management – is the #1 driver of jobs in southeast Louisiana and #2 across the entire coastal zone. Currently, there are thousands of jobs in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and protecting our coast. Do you support efforts to grow this coastal industry and export our coastal expertise to other states and nations?

A. Yes

4. Even if we cannot restore the coast to its previous footprint, do you think Louisiana should still work to maintain as much land as possible?

A. Yes

5. Based on what you know or have heard, do you support sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time, even if there may be impacts to certain fisheries?

A. Yes

6. The State of Louisiana has a plan to restore its coast based on scientific and engineering studies. The plan focuses on projects such as creating sediment diversions from the Mississippi River to return some of the natural sediment and nutrients to dying wetlands, restoring wetlands through marsh creation, and restoring barrier islands. Some fishing groups object to the use of sediment diversions because of potential short term impacts to fisheries. Knowing this, should the state still move forward with this plan?

A. Yes

7. The Coastal Trust Fund is a constitutionally-protected fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. Do you support maintaining these Constitutional protections so that dollars for coastal restoration are used for their intended purpose?

A. Yes

8. If a conflict between an economic development project and a coastal restoration project (e.g. over location of projects) arose, where science indicated that the benefits of the coastal restoration project would be reduced if the economic development project proceeded, would you still support the economic development project going forward?

A. Yes

9. There are several federal and private funding streams that provide annual, dedicated funding to restore and protect Louisiana's coast. Do you support efforts to use bonding or other financing means to accelerate the work along the coast as opposed to simply paying for the projects as the annual funding becomes available?

A. Yes

10. Louisiana has limited funds available from offshore oil royalties and the BP Oil Spill settlement to pay for substantial coastal restoration projects until 2032. Legislators first elected this fall who serve a full 12 years will be responsible for finding new funding sources for coastal restoration projects. What are your ideas for future funding, and who should be responsible for funding these efforts?

A. oil royalties, we should be collecting oil royalties, an agency within the state should facilitate these efforts

11. Please offer your thoughts on the 1-3 most important things Louisiana needs to do in the next four years to restore and protect our coast.

A. allocate more money to the cause research ways to have minimal effect on our fisheries and wildlife

