

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 08, 2025 8:18:05 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 08, 2025 8:42:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:22
First Name: "Alex"
Last Name: Mossing
Email: alexfordistricta@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District A
IP Address: 72.206.57.82

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

To check out books with my daughters and participate in the summer reading program.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The library does a great job of moving resources around upon request and providing a safe and quiet space for the community.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

More consistent staffing and hours of operation.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries serve as important neighborhood centers for learning, information, and just comfortable surroundings. They are important for children and families throughout the week and in assisting with homework, and they are important for adults as accessible locations to find information about anything and everything.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

The library provides many excellent community resources, but very few members of the public are aware of the full scope of these resources and information opportunities. I believe city council should do more to support the libraries in advertising the many services they provide and in directing constituents to these resources and programs. Additionally, the city should help build more formal partnerships between workforce development, economic development, schools, and libraries to facilitate a more effective shared planning process among these agencies to better leverage resources.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

It is important that we honor existing collective bargaining agreements, and I am also interested in lowering barriers to hiring city workers, especially those tied to the civil service system. I'd like to streamline hiring processes and remove the current hiring freeze to ensure our city services are actually functioning at full capacity.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

As a current Orleans Parish teacher who has had colleagues leave not only the city, but also the state, because of low pay and the high cost of living, I cannot advocate for a residency requirement. I live in Orleans, but many of my coworkers don't, and losing them would be a major blow to the children of New Orleans. My brother is also a captain in NOFD, and that agency has removed the residency requirement for the same reason. At the end of the day, it is more important that we are able to provide city services than it is to have services provided exclusively by residents of Orleans Parish. Maybe one day if we have addressed the affordability crisis and the wage gap between our city and the region we can revisit, but until then a residency requirement is unreasonable.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

I am disappointed every day in the poor construction quality in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as well as in the long deferred maintenance in the majority of city-run buildings. Our contracts for many new builds following the hurricane were poorly written and managed, with very little oversight and few accountability measures written in for potential failures. Further, the city has lost an increasing number of employees that would have previously addressed issues of maintenance. It is imperative that we rebuild our Department of Public Works and other city agencies to bring all local city buildings into the best possible state of repair. We then need a clear maintenance schedule in place to make sure that going forward, facilities do not fall into such disrepair that they need to be closed for health and safety purposes. Experimental building technologies implemented in library facilities that are failing should be replaced immediately with construction forms appropriate to our climate and region. Future work contracts should include clauses by which contractors are responsible for building systems failing within a period of 10 years of construction.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

Board members should represent experience in a wide range of sectors, including public education, workforce development, IT/technology, business management, etc. They should be able to contribute a unique perspective and should not have any potential business interests tied to the library or other city agency to ensure there is no opportunity for improper influence.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 08, 2025 8:27:49 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 08, 2025 9:22:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:54:37
First Name: Gavin
Last Name: Richard
Email: gavinrichard@icloud.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District E
IP Address: 68.99.43.168

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Yes (please explain purpose)::
100 Black Men Volunteer work

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

Free services to the public, including use of the internet, faxing, community meetings, etc.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

Promotion/Advertisement.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Reading is fundamental to a child's development.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

I think our libraries play a very important role in our community. It is a resource for families who do not have economics to afford internet services, faxing, etc. So having access to those services allows citizens, which in turn helps our communities grow. Libraries also drive literacy rates, which is important to our workforce since we need our young people to understand how to read contracts, draft a resume, etc.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

I would like to make use of advertisement, i.e. commercials, that would show and enhance the importance of our libraries to attract city workers.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

My stance would depend on the type of positions that are available and the parties that are applying for those jobs. We need to improve our unemployment numbers and make jobs available for people in New Orleans; however, I also know that some may not be qualified for certain positions. I'm for putting New Orleans residents first.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

We got to this place do to lack of funding, poor management, bad decision making, etc. I support having an audit as to how money is allocated and spent towards our facilities. I would also support public disclosure about any findings from an audit.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

Education and Work Experience is a top criteria. I'd also like to know how well the candidates would work with others.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 08, 2025 9:07:58 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 08, 2025 10:12:35 AM
Time Spent: 01:04:37
First Name: Kelsey
Last Name: Foster
Email: info@leadwithkelsey.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District C
IP Address: 104.14.16.238

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

To help international residents get their first library card, to check out books, and for public meetings.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

Yes! I've had the chance to partner with NOPL on workforce development programming, as well as a user. I'm very proud of the work that the library does outside of just providing books to make sure that our community is supported and has a functional, helpful third-space.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

I know that the City of New Orleans consistently under-funds programming, operations, and facilities support at many of our public spaces. I would like to see the Library have all the funds it needs to keep properties comfortable for staff and users, and to make needed investments in programming that can quickly adapt to community needs.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries offer a public space where communities can gather, where access to information is free and equal, and where we can all access resources and support like Internet, printing, and job application help. They're institutional anchors of our neighborhoods, and a rare place that New Orleanians universally trust in to offer them the services they need.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

I've had a chance to partner with NOPL on workforce issues in Algiers in the past, and I know the importance of public spaces like the library in offering our people access to the technical and technology support they need. In my role at the Algiers Economic Development Foundation, we ran a youth workforce development program based in the idea that in this country, we do a great job of telling our young people that they can be anything they want to be-- but not what anything IS or how you might get the education needed to be that thing. Libraries are important connectors to the pathways that lead from jobs to careers, making sure that people have support to explore opportunities they didn't know about, building professional skills like resume support, and ensuring our people can get applications in on time.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

One of our city's greatest assets is our people. Building trust in our local government is the most sustainable way to make public jobs appealing to job seekers, especially those looking to serve their community. I believe we can revisit the civil service code to streamline the application process so that we can recruit faster, and build in retention incentives to make sure our workers have a reason to stay.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

If we can make the City of New Orleans a place where people feel a sense of pride to work, offer living, competitive wages, and ensure all jobs are supportive, engaging, and rewarding, we won't need to worry about recruitment barriers like residency requirements. It may take some time to get to a place where we can sustainably say our city's jobs meet these goals and a temporary pause of the residency requirement may be a consideration to ensure we can appropriately staff open jobs.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

The City of New Orleans must prioritize general fund dollars for operations and maintenance at all of its facilities. Previously, the focus has been on large captial grants, especially from the federal government, to help us build new facilities, without a meaningful plan for how to maintain and operate them-- something that must be funded locally. We must start long-term budgeting not just for capital projects, but for our operating budget as well.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

Potential nominees to the board of directors should be people from the district with a proven track record of public service, connection to the community, and relevant skills to bring to the table. I would coordinate actively with other council members to ensure that we have a mix of skills including legal, financial, and HR, education, and management represented in roles across the board to ensure a healthy mix of voices and experiences at the table.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:21:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:31:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:57
First Name: Cyndi
Last Name: Nguyen
Email: cyndinguyen4districte@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District E
IP Address: 142.190.120.210

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Yes (please explain purpose):
To attend different community events

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?
hosting community events that bring community into the library

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?
Hours need to be extended until 7PM - what happened to Sunday half day?

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries are vital to neighborhoods because they provide free access to information, technology, and educational resources for people of all ages. They also serve as safe community hubs where residents can connect, learn, and grow together, helping to strengthen the fabric of our neighborhoods.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

Libraries play a key role in economic development by providing residents with access to digital literacy, job training, and workforce development resources. By preparing people with the skills needed for today's economy, libraries help strengthen our workforce, support small businesses, and open doors to opportunity. Investing in libraries is investing in the future economic stability of New Orleans.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

If elected, I would push for more competitive pay and benefits for library staff and other city workers, recognizing the essential services they provide. I would strengthen professional development opportunities, making these jobs more attractive and sustainable. Retaining talented staff is key to ensuring high-quality services for our residents.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I believe the city residency requirement should be reviewed and made more flexible. While it's important to have city workers who are invested in our community, the current policy can make it harder to recruit and retain qualified staff in critical positions. I support finding a balanced approach that prioritizes strong city services while still encouraging employees to live and contribute locally.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Our city facilities, including libraries, have suffered from years of underinvestment and deferred maintenance due to budget constraints and competing priorities. This has led to closures that limit access to vital community resources. Moving forward, I would support creating a dedicated maintenance fund, regular assessments, and a long-term facilities plan to ensure our libraries and other public buildings remain safe, accessible, and open to the residents who depend on them.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

My criteria for approving new library board members would focus on individuals who are committed to equity, transparency, and expanding access to resources for all residents. I would prioritize candidates with experience in education, community engagement, and fiscal responsibility, ensuring they understand the library's role as both an educational and economic engine. Above all, board members must be dedicated to protecting and strengthening our public library system as a vital community asset.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Thursday, September 11, 2025 9:23:50 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 11, 2025 9:58:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:34:56
First Name: Aimee
Last Name: McCarron
Email: aimee@aimeemccarron.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District A
IP Address: 107.127.49.86

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

I have 6 year old twins and have visited the library to expose them to books and teach them the importance and love for reading.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The library is doing well with managing resources and keeping spaces available to everyone.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

I would love for the library to offer more programming for kids and I think this is something the next council and administration can partner on and include NORD in this conversation. On the campaign trail I've talked a lot about after school and weekend programming for our kids at NORD facilities and I think the library needs to be included in that conversation.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Reading is invaluable and everyone should have the opportunity to learn to read and have an education. Our libraries are where kids and adults can explore all kinds of topics and interests and reading can provide an outlet for many. Libraries just like our parks are an important part of the community especially for our kids and if we want our kids to thrive, we need to make sure they have the resources and programs to do so.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

Workforce development for city workers has been a pillar in my campaign since day one and I think the library can play a key role in this. In order to have robust economic development, we must get our city basics right and part of my platform includes workforce development through education and training and I think the library can play a key role in that.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

I have heard of issues with people having applied for jobs with the library who are very qualified, but are now sitting in a queue. The first thing I would do is try to figure out the issue of the hiring process so there is clear path going forward on what changes we can help with.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I think the residency requirement is something I think we want to make every effort to keep in place, but we have seen with other departments that recruitment just in the parish has been tough. I think we need to look at temporarily lifting that requirement for a short period of time and see if it helps with hiring. Along with that, the city needs to bring our basic services back, along with affordable housing, and bringing down the cost of living so people can actually afford to live in the city in which they work.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Deferred maintenance and crumbling infrastructure and two of our biggest issues across the board. We got to this point because we have failed to have the level of coordination and planning plus the lack of in-house staff to do basic repairs and maintenance. We must have dedicated, trained staff to do these things going forward. We are currently in a state of only reacting to emergency repairs instead of consistent maintenance.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

With guidance from the Library, I will be looking for members Qualified with relevant experience as to library operations; someone with a history of being a financial steward of non-profits and experience on boards; fundraising experience; and someone willing to make the full commitment to serve and can back up that experience.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Thursday, September 11, 2025 9:38:20 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:45:13 AM
Time Spent: 01:06:53
First Name: Leilani
Last Name: Heno
Email: henofornola@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District D
IP Address: 97.137.215.219

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

No

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The library is becoming more than just a place for books. It's now a space where the community can come together, learn, and create. They're making books and resources more accessible with programs like the REACH Center, Village Book Nooks in neighborhoods that don't have easy library access, and even a library vending machine for free books and DVDs. Their programs are welcoming to everyone, from summer reading challenges for kids to sensory-friendly events for neurodivergent children.

They're also doing fun, creative things, like lending cake pans, and investing in education with updates to the Children's Resource Center and adult learning programs.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

The Library could improve in a few key areas. Some branches face aging infrastructure and maintenance issues, causing frustrating closures. The Children's Resource Center is closed for renovations, limiting access for families. Certain neighborhoods still struggle with physical and digital access, and the library's collections could better reflect the diversity and needs of the community. Tackling these issues would make the library more reliable, inclusive, and effective for everyone.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries serve as community hubs where people can access resources, learn new skills, and connect with others. Libraries provide safe, welcoming spaces for children, teens, and adults alike, offering programs that promote literacy, creativity, and lifelong learning.

They also help bridge gaps in technology and information access, supporting those who might not have reliable internet or educational resources at home. In short, libraries strengthen neighborhoods by fostering education, connection, and opportunity for everyone.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

Through digital literacy programs, job readiness workshops, and access to computers and the internet, the library helps people build essential skills for employment. It also supports entrepreneurs and small business owners with research tools, business resources, and networking opportunities.

By empowering residents to gain education, training, and career support, the library strengthens the local workforce, promotes economic mobility, and contributes to the overall growth and resilience of New Orleans' economy.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

If elected, I would work to make city jobs, including at the library, more competitive and attractive. This could mean increasing salaries, offering professional development and clear advancement paths, and reviewing residency requirements to attract qualified candidates. I'd also focus on improving workplace conditions, flexibility, and staff recognition. The goal is to ensure the library has the skilled, committed staff it needs to serve our community effectively.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I believe the city residency requirement should be balanced with the need to attract and retain skilled employees. On one hand, requiring employees to live in New Orleans helps ensure that city workers are invested in the community they serve and contributes to the local economy. On the other hand, strict residency rules can make it harder to recruit talented professionals, especially in specialized roles like library staff, and may limit diversity in the workforce.

I support a flexible approach, encouraging local residency but allowing reasonable exceptions when necessary, so the city can both serve its communities and remain competitive in attracting qualified staff.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

I think the extended closures at the library reflect a history of underinvestment and deferred maintenance across city facilities. When repairs and upgrades are postponed year after year, problems compound and eventually lead to major disruptions for the public. To prevent this moving forward, the city needs a proactive approach to facility maintenance. That includes regular inspections, clear long-term maintenance plans, and dedicated funding for repairs before they become emergencies.

Transparency and accountability in tracking work orders and maintenance budgets can also help ensure that all city properties, including libraries, remain safe, functional, and welcoming for the community.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

When appointing or approving new board members for the New Orleans Public Library, I would focus on several key criteria. First, candidates should have a demonstrated commitment to literacy, education, and community service. Second, they should bring relevant expertise, including real-world business skills such as financial management, strategic planning, and organizational leadership, to help guide the library effectively. Third, diversity and representation matter. Board members should reflect the communities the library serves. Finally, integrity, collaboration, and a willingness to actively participate in decision-making are essential. Together, these qualities ensure the board can provide strong leadership and support the library's mission to serve all New Orleanians.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Thursday, September 11, 2025 11:06:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 11, 2025 11:27:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:19
First Name: Jason
Last Name: Hughes
Email: info@jasonforneworleans.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District E
IP Address: 98.184.31.56

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

I visit the New Orleans East Public Library at least once per month, sometimes more. I visit to attend various meetings, support various initiatives and programs, and to observe the services offered.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The staff is absolutely amazing. They are very friendly, knowledgeable, and welcoming to all who visit.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

The library hours need to be expanded, especially on weekends, for every library located within the City of New Orleans. Our libraries play a vital role for our residents. Capital improvements throughout our library system also need to be addressed immediately. For example, many libraries constantly face closures due to HVAC issues.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Our libraries play a myriad of roles and are no doubt vital for many reasons. To begin, they are safe havens and hubs of innovation. They allow children to be exposed to reading, thus promoting literacy; they allow residents to utilize technology services for doing research, homework, applying for jobs, paying bills, etc.; they also offer important workforce training and other skills trainings. For these reasons, among others, it is vital we properly invest in our libraries and ensure residents have daily access and capital needs are addressed.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

Please see my above response. All of the above are vital to economic development and supporting the workforce needs of our city.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

Budgets should always reflect our priorities. Our Public Library staff must be a top priority. As a City, we must ensure our library staff are properly compensated with benefits. We should also explore retention incentives. And we must ensure there is strong morale throughout our Public Library System.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

Our top priority should ALWAYS be to hire residents of Orleans Parish.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Again, budgets must reflect priorities. Deferred maintenance is plaguing departments across the City. We can no longer afford to "kick the can down the road". We are at a critical inflection point.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

We must ensure we are confirming citizens who are qualified and committed to the role, scope, and mission of the Public Library System.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Thursday, September 11, 2025 12:26:23 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 11, 2025 12:45:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:51
First Name: Robert "Bob"
Last Name: Murrell
Email: electbobmurrell@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District A
IP Address: 75.17.32.172

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

Yes, I live across the street from the Smith branch. I go often for reading with my kids, printing, and getting a movie.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

I appreciate the on demand services and available content. I love the new music service for local artists, and always appreciate the library being a place where people who have needs can get help to connect with city services and other non-profit partners.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

Upkeep/maintenance on A/C units so branches aren't shut down, as well as programming for young kids at times where they are free (i.e. not during midday nap time, but that's a bit selfish :D)

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

As a neighbor to a library, I love that it can be a central place for people of all ages to meet up, to get cool, or to find something you're looking for. Smith Library is located by a bus line and an evacuation spot as well.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

I would love to see resources available for people to learn about worker-owned cooperatives, union organizing, and professional development. As someone who's had to teach themselves, it would be great to have a common curriculum for those looking to increase democracy in their workplace or improving themselves in "soft" skills like leadership, project management, and more.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

I want money from the general fund to be spent on capital improvements at libraries so we can supplement the millage funding already in place and make sure our libraries are a safe place to work. Additionally, I will work with the new mayor to lift the job freeze so libraries are sufficiently staffed. Finally, I will work with Civil Services to make sure we're able to get people hired in a timely manner and work on pay increases.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I believe we should have a preference for city residency, but I'm not sold on a requirement. I cannot fault people who can't afford to live in New Orleans due to the affordability crisis, I don't think we should potentially turn away talented workers from wanting to be public servants because they don't contribute to property taxes, but we should prefer people who do live in New Orleans and want to work in our libraries.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

As mentioned, we don't have any general funds going towards capital projects and maintenance for libraries, which I think is a disservice to everybody. I will work to ensure we have additional funding from the general fund and other revenue sources to tackle issues with A/Cs breaking. It's both an issue with working conditions for library staff as well as a loss of programming and services for the general public, and I want to make sure we reduce closures as much as possible. Further, I want to have an ongoing budgetary process where departments report on their expenses compared to services provided. This will allow for targeting areas of intervention to make sure the library isn't experiencing downtime due to something that can be caught pre-emptively.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

We need a board that is reflective of the people of New Orleans & those that use library services. I want to approve working-class people, former library staff, patrons of libraries, and experts in the field that can properly execute the function of NOPL board but also uplift the library to the state it deserves. Additionally, I want to reform our boards to include recall power outside of the attendance mandate as outlined in the City Charter Sec. 2-87, such as if a board member has introduced or voted in a way antithetical to the mission of the NOPL.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:22:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 11, 2025 5:46:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:52
First Name: Manny Chevrolet
Last Name: Bruno
Email: mannychevrolet@yahoo.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Mayor of New Orleans
IP Address: 104.177.221.193

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1 **Mayor**

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2 **No**

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

Shushing people

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

The restrooms

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries offer knowledge.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

I don't know

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

Higher Pay

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

People should live where they want to live.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

We will have yearly Telethons

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

The criteria will be changed once I am Mayor so stay tuned

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Friday, September 12, 2025 7:36:17 PM
Last Modified: Friday, September 12, 2025 7:59:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:33
First Name: Jonathan Anthony
Last Name: Roberts
Email: jarfit@icloud.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District E
IP Address: 146.75.152.28

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

I have visited the library with my daughter to check out books and attend children's programming. I've also used the library for research and community events. The library is both a resource for learning and a safe space for families in our community.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The library is doing well in making itself accessible to diverse communities through children's programming, free internet access, and community meeting spaces. It provides vital resources for families, students, and job seekers, especially those who may not have access to technology or quiet study environments at home.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

The library needs expanded hours and staffing to meet the demand of working families who can only visit evenings and weekends. Investment is also needed in building maintenance and technology upgrades so that every branch is safe, modern, and welcoming. Finally, more outreach in underserved neighborhoods; especially in New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward; would ensure that library services are equitably distributed.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries are anchors of opportunity and community. They provide free access to knowledge, internet, and technology that many families cannot afford at home. They are safe spaces for children after school, resources for seniors, and hubs where neighbors can gather and learn together. In neighborhoods like those in District E, libraries are often one of the few consistent, trusted public institutions; making them vital to equity, education, and community connection.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

Libraries play a critical role in workforce readiness. By providing training in digital literacy, resume writing, and access to job search tools, they directly support residents seeking employment. They also serve as incubators for small business development by offering meeting spaces, technology, and research support. As a council member, I see libraries as essential partners in our economic development strategy; equipping residents with the skills they need to compete for jobs, bridging the digital divide, and supporting families on the path to economic stability.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

I would work to raise library staff salaries to be competitive with regional standards, recognizing the essential role staff play in education, workforce development, and community well-being. Beyond pay, retention requires creating career pathways through professional development, mentorship, and leadership opportunities. I also support offering stronger benefits, such as childcare support and tuition assistance, which can help recruit and retain a diverse workforce. Making library positions both dignified and sustainable will reduce turnover and attract talented people committed to serving New Orleans.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I believe the residency requirement should be flexible. On one hand, having staff who live in the city strengthens their connection to the communities they serve. On the other hand, rigid rules make it harder to recruit qualified workers when we are already struggling to fill positions. My position is that we should prioritize hiring from within New Orleans whenever possible, while allowing flexibility for skilled candidates who may live just outside city limits. The ultimate goal is ensuring high-quality, committed staff in every library branch, and residency rules should support; not hinder; that mission.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Deferred maintenance is the result of years of underfunding, lack of accountability, and treating libraries as optional instead of essential city infrastructure. When budgets get tight, maintenance is often the first thing delayed; but those delays compound into costly repairs and branch closures that deny residents access to critical services.

As a councilmember, I will push for:

- A dedicated maintenance fund for libraries and other public facilities to prevent future neglect.
- Transparent reporting on building conditions and repair timelines, so the public knows where dollars are going.
- Prioritization of libraries in capital improvement planning, recognizing them as anchors of education, workforce development, and community resilience.

The library system must be maintained with the same urgency as roads or utilities, because access to knowledge and safe public spaces is just as critical for the well-being of our city.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

My criteria for appointing or approving new Library Board members are rooted in equity, expertise, and accountability. I will prioritize individuals who:

- Represent the diversity of New Orleans across race, age, neighborhood, and lived experience.
- Have a demonstrated commitment to public education, literacy, and community service.
- Bring expertise in areas such as finance, workforce development, technology, youth services, or nonprofit leadership.
- Are transparent and accountable, committed to public input, and willing to advocate for libraries as essential community infrastructure.

Above all, board members must share the belief that libraries are not luxuries but necessities; and must be champions for equitable access to knowledge, safe spaces, and opportunity for all residents.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Sunday, September 14, 2025 12:43:47 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 14, 2025 1:24:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:40:18
First Name: Eliot
Last Name: Barron
Email: eliot.s.barron@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District C
IP Address: 107.127.49.136

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Yes (please explain purpose)::
Browsing and researching

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The library seems to be doing a good job engaging the public both by the librarians and by programmatic variety

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

The library could maximize the use of its spaces from gardens to cafes to reading rooms and the like.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

More than churches and schools, libraries to me are a safe space. Beyond the intrinsic value of the knowledge contained within its collections and networks, the value of a place where young and old alike can go, be, see, do is immeasurable indeed. In addition to access to new media and government forms, the role of the library as a meeting space and community center is its main value to neighborhoods. And they have books, music, movies, games, tools, and more for use on loan, to check out instead of purchase. Yes! To reducing the cost of a life worth living.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

I see it! The resources and information that a library facilitates are better than artificial intelligence and chatbots. And you can get those on library computers if you must.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

By the sound of it, the answer to this question is both to see signs of life within civil service recruitment and retention and to encourage branch libraries to identify likely prospects the way pools find future lifeguards.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I live in Orleans and work in Jefferson. Can this be my answer? I understand the aim of hiring local talent, but talent is talent and is found wherever it may be given the general condition of heightened expense, etc. we should be fair and not insist.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Without playing the blame game, we arrived at this point through 1000 imperceptible progressions. I think the simple expectation that properties be maintained going forward should be enough to guide us in the right direction

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

Basic criteria might include demonstrating an appreciation for special collections, love of learning, a lack of criminal intent, and other ethical considerations.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 08, 2025 10:41:16 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:22:50 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
First Name: Matthew
Last Name: Willard
Email: info@matthewwillard.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember at Large Division 1
IP Address: 104.166.41.39

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

I was recently at the Norman Mayer Library for a neighborhood association meeting.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

Our libraries are doing well at protecting access to information and free expression, but just as importantly, they've continued to serve as vital community hubs. They provide safe spaces for families and students and connect people to resources. Libraries remain one of the few places that truly bring people, communities, and institutions together in a meaningful way.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

Our libraries face the same financial difficulties as many of our public institutions. I was proud to fight to protect our library millages, because libraries are hubs for community programming and even platforms for local musicians to get heard (s/o to Crescent City Sounds). I value that our libraries serve as gathering spaces, and I'd like to see more community engagement with them. Between COVID and the shift toward a more virtual world, it's more important than ever to keep libraries open as places where people can come together with purpose.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

As I mentioned, my last visit to a library was literally for a neighborhood association meeting—they provide safe, quiet, public space for civic engagement. They also ensure access to critical resources: internet, computers, books, CDs, movies, and air conditioning. For communities where even cold air can be hard to come by, that access is invaluable.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

The City should make better use of the services our libraries already provide, especially in digital literacy and workforce development. Too often, inefficiencies in City government waste opportunities. Through collaboration, we can better support libraries as job-skills hubs and workforce resources.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

One of my top priorities on the Council will be making New Orleans more livable for all residents. For City employees, that starts with paying a living wage.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I'm disinclined to support a strict residency requirement. Expanding the talent pool should produce better results and improve delivery of city services. Ultimately, the priority is getting the job done well, for the benefit of all residents.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Systematic mismanagement and underfunding are why these buildings fell into disrepair—it's no different than City Hall. We need a recurring facilities maintenance fund for all City-owned structures, similar to the OPSB school facilities dedication. But first, the City needs a financial and operational audit to understand what resources we actually have. From there, we can build a budget tied to outcomes and focused on delivering basic services like drainage, streets, trash pickup, safe public buildings, and public safety. I'll push for a transparent, accountable budget process that reflects residents' priorities and restores faith in local government.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

I honestly don't know if I would apply a strict, universal criteria for appointing new board members to the New Orleans Public Library Board.

I believe strongly in representation, capability and diversity. So those would be my criteria, albeit more of a conceptual guideline than rigid framework.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:28:36 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:34:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:43
First Name: Nathaniel
Last Name: Jones
Email: njn637@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember District E
IP Address: 174.203.74.167

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Yes (please explain purpose)::

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Business

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

Giving citizens access to technology

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

Availability

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

It gives our kids a measure of escape and gives them the chance to have access to the world

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

The library gives our kids technological availability.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

Livable wages. Wage increases.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

Neighboring parishes are OK.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Money is going to the wrong hands. We must address that.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

College education. New Orleans native requirements.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:30:59 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:51:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:09
First Name: Matthew
Last Name: Hill
Email: info@hill4neworleans.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember at Large Division 1
IP Address: 99.70.118.153

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

A few times, Bilingual Festival, Masonic research, and you don't have the Wednesday Spanish hour at the main library anymore.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

I really appreciate all of the services and cultural gatherings you have. I think that you have provided an environment that is perfect for growth and encourages learning.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

More doesn't mean better. I appreciate each library for what it is, because each one is different. I believe that New Orleans East needs at least two more branches, possibly three.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

They serve as a cultural, and educational hub that is completely separate from the education system. The library is a resource that is designed to allow anyone at any age or education level to utilize learning opportunities. It is a way to share knowledge with anyone who is seeking it.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

The library is a resource that is designed for everyone. Unfortunately, not enough people know all of the services that the library offers. Most citizens don't know that there are workforce development programs, multilingual programs, and other programs designed to add value not only to an individual but to that individual's human capital value, otherwise known as a resume. I believe that outreach is crucial to growing participation. Connecting people to the resources is what needs to be streamlined and executed.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

The key is Lean Government. By streamlining operations and cutting waste, we can free up funding to reinvest directly in our workforce, through better pay and stronger incentives. When employees, like our library workers, are trained to improve their own processes, they become part of the solution instead of just another cog in the bureaucracy. That buy-in creates pride and commitment. Once systems are efficient, we can channel savings into livable wages, career pathways, and benefits that make city jobs competitive and sustainable.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I believe the residency requirement is foolish. The city's priority should be hiring the most qualified, effective workers, regardless of where they live. Restricting our talent pool only makes it harder to recruit skilled employees, especially when we already struggle with staffing. Instead of focusing on where someone sleeps at night, we should focus on whether they can deliver results for the people of New Orleans.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Our city facilities suffer because we've relied on patchwork fixes instead of sound management. Deferred maintenance piles up when departments lack accountability, planning, and the tools to run efficiently. The result is closures, like our libraries, that hurt residents most.

The solution is Lean Government. By auditing operations, streamlining workflows, and prioritizing preventive maintenance, we can stop wasting money on constant emergencies and start investing in long-term upkeep. Lean practices empower frontline workers to redesign their own processes, making maintenance proactive rather than reactive. That way, our libraries and other facilities stay open, reliable, and accessible to the people they serve.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

My standard is simple: competence, integrity, and accountability. Board members must bring real expertise in the area they oversee, not just political connections. They must be independent thinkers who put the city's interests above personal gain, and they must be willing to operate transparently. I will also look for a commitment to Lean Government principles, leaders who understand how to cut waste, improve efficiency, and empower frontline workers. Every appointment should strengthen trust between residents and City Hall.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Tuesday, September 09, 2025 8:32:07 AM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:11:59 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
First Name: Helena
Last Name: Moreno
Email: letsgo@helenamorenola.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Mayor of New Orleans
IP Address: 184.190.94.40

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

Mayor

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

Yes! In my capacity as a councilmember, I've visited multiple libraries over the past year regarding HVAC issues that have prevented locations from being fully open and accessible to the public. I also visited libraries during the campaign to renew the library millage, following the administration's attempt to eliminate library funding. Because of support from myself, Councilmember Giarrusso, and my council colleagues, we put a FULL renewal on the ballot, and the people spoke loud and clear to say - save the libraries.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

I want to work with the Friends of the Library to answer that question. It is easy to focus on the negative, but every week, thousands of residents go to the library and love it. Not everything, but many things are going well. You've got the annual Summer Fun and Reading Challenge, storytimes, author talks, and creative workshops of all types, from literacy and STEM to the arts, ballet, Tai Chi, and bike repair.

NOPL cultivates local authors through the adult writing contest and, with the New Orleans Video Access Center, teaches 'tweens' about photography. Plus, the American Library Association just selected the New Orleans Public Library for its 'Libraries as Literacy Centers' initiative, which brings in resources from the Mellon Foundation to create literacy programs.

So, this much is clear: there are good people at the library who are working really hard with limited resources to give residents a great experience. What we need are more effective leaders who can ensure this amazing energy is directed, the programs are institutionalized, and then expanded upon.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

I also want to work with the Friends of the Library to answer that question. We have to fix the HVAC and facility issues. We cannot spend tens of millions of dollars to build the libraries, yet choose not to pay a fraction of that amount to maintain them. We have got to stop viewing ribbon cuttings as the end of a significant investment, but the beginning. Our libraries need to be air-conditioned, clean, safe, dry, and open, and filled with enthusiasm and positivity.

I also want NOPL to focus on building more robust programs and partnerships with New Orleans Public Schools, early childhood centers, and NORD, along with connections to a newly expanded city office of economic development. We need the library right in the middle of our broader effort to build up our kids and workforce. Opening doors to literacy, technology, and services such as college prep and tutoring. I would also like NOPL to partner with other creatives to bring more culture and arts into the libraries, like Mardi Gras masking, the culinary arts, and music.

There are other equity issues where NOPL must take the lead. One thing in particular we need to figure out is how to transport people to and from the libraries. That is one of the most significant barriers preventing people from accessing our resources at one of our 15 libraries.

One part of the solution: bring the library to them through mobile services, library pop-ups, and expanded digital offerings so anyone can easily access the collection at any time. I would also work with the city council and NOPL to discuss the feasibility of opening up some or all libraries on Sundays, especially during the summer.

Finally, although some may disagree, I would like to see NOPL open up areas in libraries for coffee nooks and offer local entrepreneurs the opportunity to run them with low overhead. That is how you bring in teens and adults.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Where to begin! Like I outlined above, libraries are critical for literacy, workforce development, and technology. More deeply, besides being resource centers, libraries are anchors to our community. They are shared, public gathering places that anyone can go to for free, which is a rare thing in this day and age. We need MORE public spaces like this, especially for our young people who use the library as a refuge to pursue their interests, whatever they may be.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

As I said above, the library is an excellent resource for residents entering or already in the workforce. Free access to computers, digital literacy programs, job application support, and skills development all help reduce barriers in a complex and competitive job market. NOPL should join with Delgado, SUNO, and training providers to develop programs that end with a job.

More specifically, the library can help residents become aware of and prepare for new certification opportunities in various cutting-edge software fields, including supply chain management, cybersecurity, and cloud computing. Many people are unaware of these opportunities from companies like Microsoft, Salesforce, and Oracle, to name a few. Those who obtain these certifications command higher salaries than recent Ivy League graduates and often can work remotely.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

During my time at the City Council, I championed workers' rights, raising the minimum wage to \$15 for City workers, codifying City workers' right to organize, and putting the Workers' Bill of Rights on the ballot last year. I will continue this work as mayor.

As mayor, I will work with the Civil Service to streamline and shorten the hiring process, while also aligning compensation and benefits with today's elevated cost of living. Outdated and ineffective staff management methods should be replaced with a transparent, non-political process that fosters a merit-based chain of command. I am also open to other retention/hiring incentives, such as providing fortified roofs for librarian homeowners and other lower-cost housing opportunities for public servants, including librarians. This can be achieved, in part, through the use of a community land trust model like the one employed by Peoples' Housing Plus.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

In general, if you are working for the city, you should live in the city, but sometimes, to get and keep the best talent, it is not that simple. As a practical measure, I do support, on a case-by-case basis, lifting the domicile requirements, even for whole departments struggling to hire.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Like I mentioned above, one thing we have not done well is maintain our public buildings—year after year, deferred maintenance piles up until sudden, extended closures are needed. I will make sure the budget includes funding for maintenance and move forward with a FULL overview of every branch, their facility needs, and a plan to address those needs. I would like to work with the Friends of the Library closely on this effort.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

I would appoint members to the library board who are honest and respected and who - most of all - love libraries and what they stand for. They must be committed and have enough availability to engage fully in the board's work. I would like to appoint members with deep experience in workforce training, engaging young people, and technology. We need new, modern ideas and people with the smarts and expertise to move NOPL forward.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 15, 2025 6:41:09 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 7:22:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:40:54
First Name: Eileen
Last Name: Carter
Email: eileencartermayor@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Mayor of New Orleans
IP Address: 172.59.104.195

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

Mayor

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

Latter Branch: I brought my son to the library I grew up visiting so he could update his card while in college. We signed out small business and New Orleans history books. I also signed out some seeds and started to try out my green thumb.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

One of the key strengths of the New Orleans Public Library is its strong and continually growing online presence. Since 2018, when I became the city's Social Media Manager, I conducted a thorough review of the library's digital footprint and collaborated on a strategic plan to enhance its visibility and engagement. We have seen results since 2018, the library's digital presence and virtual programming have seen significant growth and have become a vital part of how the library connects with the community.

The library's programming—both online and in-person—has become more dynamic, inclusive, and accessible, allowing patrons of all ages to engage with resources in meaningful ways. I'm excited to work to get the app in the hands of all our residents.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

While the New Orleans Public Library has made great strides in its digital presence and programming, there are still key areas that could benefit from additional focus and development. One area of opportunity is the city's archives. I'm passionate about working to preserve and promote the rich cultural history of New Orleans through improved archival efforts—ensuring that this vital aspect of the city's identity is both protected and made more accessible to the public.

I also see a need for stronger communication with the public about the library's full range of services and the important role it plays in the community. By helping residents better understand the value and impact of the library, I believe more people—especially those who may not currently use library services—will become engaged.

Another key focus for improvement is increasing library card access for all residents, both young and mature. Sign up events at Nord parks in conjunction with city outreach services through Neighborhood Engagement. I am eager to strengthen partnerships with schools across the city—from elementary and high schools to colleges and trade schools—to ensure that students at every level have the library resources they need to succeed through my new office of education.

Coordinated outreach with these institutions could help bridge gaps in access and expand the library's reach citywide.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries are the heartbeats of our neighborhoods—serving as vital hubs for information, connection, and community support. In a city like New Orleans, libraries are more than just places to borrow books; they are deeply woven into the fabric of family life and community traditions. For many families, visiting the library is a tradition passed down through generations.

Libraries provide equitable access to knowledge, technology, and cultural enrichment, creating safe and welcoming spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds. They help bridge educational and economic divides, offer critical resources, and foster lifelong learning. For New Orleans in particular—a city rich in history, creativity, and resilience—the library plays a unique role in preserving culture while empowering the next generation.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

I believe the library is an underutilized yet natural connector when it comes to economic development and workforce support in New Orleans. Libraries are already trusted community anchors, and with the right vision, they can be powerful engines for progress. That's one of the reasons I'm running for mayor—because our current approach to economic development lacks imagination and direction. Our culture is crumbling, and the leadership in charge of rebuilding it has no clear path forward. It's time to connect the dots.

I envision transforming every library branch into a workforce development hub—with a dedicated staff member stationed at each location to help residents with job training, digital literacy, resume building, small business support, and career services. These resources should be as close and accessible as the local library, not hidden behind bureaucracy or privilege.

To bring this vision to life, I propose creating a Library Workforce Advisory Council that includes librarians, educators, community organizers, business leaders, and city officials. Together, we can build a clear action plan, create a to-do list, and check off milestones—one by one—as we move forward together. This is how we begin to rebuild our neighborhoods, our economy, and our pride in New Orleans—by investing in what we already have and making it work for everyone.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

When elected, one of my top priorities will be to make the City of New Orleans a place where people not only want to work—but are proud to build long-term careers. I plan to work closely with Civil Service and department heads to modernize and streamline job classifications by merging outdated or overlapping job titles. This will help increase salaries, provide more career mobility, and create a clearer path for advancement.

I also believe that supporting city workers means addressing their quality of life, including where they live. That's why I support giving city employees weighted priority access to Housing Trust Fund dollars. If we want to keep our workforce rooted in New Orleans, we need to ensure they can afford to live in the communities they serve.

This is part of my broader 'Reverse the Exodus' plan, which is outlined on EileenCarterMayor.com. We're losing talented workers because of stagnant pay structures, limited opportunity, and rising living costs. My administration will be focused on reversing that trend—through fair compensation, career development, and policies that truly support the people who keep our city running.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

As a former city employee who lived in the city and was required to do so, I firmly believe in the importance of the residency requirement. Our city functions best when the people who serve it also live in it. Requiring city employees to reside in Orleans Parish helps ensure that those making decisions and providing services are directly invested in the well-being of the communities they serve.

This isn't just about policy—it's about pride, accountability, and community connection. When city workers live among the people they serve, they're more likely to understand the challenges, needs, and culture of our neighborhoods. It strengthens trust, builds relationships, and keeps taxpayer dollars circulating within our own economy.

I understand there are arguments on both sides, especially around recruitment challenges—but rather than weaken the requirement, I believe we need to make it easier and more appealing for people to live here. That's why I support affordable housing initiatives for city employees and weighted access to Housing Trust Fund dollars. We should be encouraging residency, not discouraging it—because building a stronger New Orleans starts with investing in our own people, right here at home.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

In my opinion, the state of our city facilities—including our libraries—is the result of a long-standing void in leadership, lack of coordination, and poor project management. We've seen extended closures and deteriorating conditions because of a lack of accountability and strategic planning.

Our libraries are critical community assets. When they're closed or in disrepair, it affects access to education, job resources, and safe public spaces—especially for children and seniors. This should never be acceptable in a city like New Orleans.

With me as your mayor, change has come. I will implement a comprehensive capital maintenance plan that includes regular facility assessments, transparent timelines, and real project oversight. I will also ensure departments aren't working in silos—there must be coordination between Public Works, Property Management, and the Library system to prioritize and complete repairs efficiently.

Deferred maintenance doesn't just cost money—it costs trust. I'm committed to restoring both.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

Before appointing new members to the New Orleans Public Library Board, I would first meet with library leaders and staff to gain a full understanding of the board's current needs and challenges. It's important that our board reflects the skills and expertise required to effectively guide the library's growth and service to the community.

When selecting board members, I'm looking for individuals who genuinely love New Orleans and are committed to public service. They must prioritize the best interests of our people—bringing dedication, integrity, and a collaborative spirit to the role. Ultimately, board members should be advocates for equitable access to knowledge, culture, and resources for all residents.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:48:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 8:23:35 PM
Time Spent: 05:35:07
First Name: Pastor Gregory
Last Name: Manning
Email: info@manningforchange.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember at Large Division 2
IP Address: 174.69.125.27

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Yes (please explain purpose)::

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes, to attend a graduation for a literacy program, and another time to send a fax.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

Programming, such as after-school programming for youth. I also appreciate that the downtown library is always open and welcoming to all, even if they're just trying to stay cool.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

Facilities maintenance is a problem. The city needs to hire more maintenance workers so that HVAC systems and other critical equipment can be repaired in a more timely manner.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Where libraries are, community grows around them. They bring people together, and represent the best that municipal government can do for everyday people.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

Libraries are essential to economic development. They serve as incubators for entrepreneurs, as well as basic resources for those just starting out in the workforce. Libraries provide a basic foundation for economic success available to anybody who walks through the door.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

I would pursue a budget item of \$27 million to raise the salaries of the lowest earners in the city workforce by \$15,000. I would also hire more city workers across all departments to address understaffing and the resulting decline in city services, which alleviates the burden on existing city employees.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I am broadly supportive of residency requirements, as we need to get jobs for as many local residents as we can, but more than willing to listen to librarians and their AFSCME union reps to determine if they are the best option for our city.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

We got to this point because we have allowed our public workforce to dwindle. For instance, we have only one electrician on staff and more than 200 fewer public works employees than Gretna. That doesn't make sense for a city our size. We need to make regular maintenance a priority and staff up to provide better quality services to residents.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

I would want board representatives to be representative of either library staff or library users. I wouldn't appoint anybody without an active library card.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 15, 2025 7:48:11 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 8:33:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:45:30
First Name: J.P.
Last Name: Morrell
Email: jpforatlarge@gmail.com
Custom Data: Current CM & Candidate for Councilmember at Large Division 2
IP Address: 209.127.24.39

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Yes (please explain purpose)::

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

I take my kids regularly to check out books and chat with the librarians

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The library is not doing as well as it could be because the City has not met its obligation for infrastructure improvements.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

I've been working with Friends of the New Orleans Library to secure the funding for roof repairs (finally) and I'm working with property management to solve HVAC issues

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

They are hubs for community to engage together, children to be introduced to joy of reading and numerous resources are made available to those that do not have them at home (computers, research, etc.)

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

For many who aspire to improve their lives and opportunities, education and training need to be made available within facilities that are centrally located and where communities have easy access. Libraries meet this criteria easily.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

I supported city worker unionization and would promote a change to the living wage law to adjust based upon CPI (consumer price index) to have built in raises based upon inflation.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

In an ideal world, where housing and insurance were affordable, a city residency rule would make sense. The city council has been flexible based upon hiring needs when it comes to the residency requirement and I would continue that path. In the future, if we can make housing more affordable and public transportation more reliable, I'm willing to revisit an absolute requirement.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

We have to have a new administration that prioritizes getting the libraries the deferred maintenance it is owed as well as doing preventive maintenance to avoid closures. The council revised the process for bond issuances giving more oversight to spending to prevent future administrations from playing shell games with library maintenance funding.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

My criteria is familiarity with libraries and their importance to the community as well as independence from any political interference at the local, state or federal level.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
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Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 8:34:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:20
First Name: Kenneth
Last Name: Cutno
Email: mrcutno@hotmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Councilmember at Large Division 2
IP Address: 70.171.90.105

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

City Council

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Yes (please explain purpose)::

I have visited New Orleans Public Library branches to meet with residents, review community resources, and support literacy programs for children and families. Public libraries are vital hubs for learning, access to technology, and safe spaces where people of all ages can grow and connect.

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

The New Orleans Public Library is doing an excellent job providing free access to books, technology, and internet services for residents across the city. They also offer strong community programming, such as early childhood literacy, after-school support, job readiness workshops, and cultural events—that give families and individuals opportunities to learn and grow. Importantly, the library system has worked hard to make its spaces safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all people.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

While the New Orleans Public Library is doing important work, there are areas where improvements can make it even stronger. Many branches need facility upgrades—better maintenance, modernized spaces, and expanded hours to meet the needs of working families. Technology access can also be improved, with more computers, faster internet, and digital literacy programs to close the digital divide. Additionally, I believe the library should have stronger outreach in underserved neighborhoods, ensuring that every resident, from children to seniors, can benefit from the resources our libraries provide. Finally, the library system should expand outreach in New Orleans East and other underserved areas, bringing resources directly to residents who often face barriers to access.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries are essential to our neighborhoods because they provide free and equal access to knowledge, technology, and safe spaces for learning and community connection. They serve children with early literacy programs, help job seekers with workforce resources, support seniors with lifelong learning opportunities, and offer families a welcoming environment to grow together. In many communities, especially underserved ones, the library is one of the few places where residents can gather, learn, and access critical information without cost. Libraries strengthen neighborhoods by empowering people, bridging divides, and preserving our culture and history.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

The library is a powerful partner in economic development because it provides residents with the tools they need to succeed in today's workforce. By offering digital literacy training, access to technology, and job readiness workshops, our libraries help people build skills that employers need and connect them to career opportunities. For many, the library is the first step toward employment, entrepreneurship, or continuing education. In neighborhoods where access to resources is limited, libraries serve as job and business incubators, leveling the playing field and strengthening our city's economy from the ground up.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

If elected, I will work to make city employment more competitive and supportive so we can both recruit and retain talented workers. First, I will advocate for fair, competitive pay and benefits that reflect the rising cost of living in New Orleans. Second, I will push for professional development and training opportunities so employees can grow their careers within city government instead of leaving for other opportunities. Third, I will streamline hiring processes to reduce delays that discourage applicants. Finally, I will promote a supportive workplace culture by ensuring workers have the resources, staffing, and leadership they need to succeed, because when city workers are valued and supported, they deliver better services to our residents.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I believe that city workers should be encouraged, but not forced, to live in New Orleans. On one hand, residency requirements can help ensure that employees have a personal stake in the neighborhoods they serve and that taxpayer dollars support our local economy. On the other hand, strict residency rules can make it harder to recruit qualified workers, especially in fields where we already face shortages. My position is that we should provide incentives for city employees to live in New Orleans—such as housing assistance, property tax credits, or rental support—while still allowing flexibility so we can attract the best talent. Our focus should be on building a strong, committed workforce that delivers quality services to residents.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Deferred maintenance of city facilities, including our libraries, is the result of years of underinvestment, budget shortfalls, and a lack of long-term planning. Too often, we have relied on temporary fixes instead of preventive maintenance, and that has left buildings vulnerable to larger, more costly repairs down the line. Moving forward, I believe the city must establish a dedicated maintenance fund and hold departments accountable for regularly scheduled upkeep. We should also improve transparency so residents can see where maintenance dollars are being spent. By treating our libraries and other public facilities as essential community infrastructure—not optional expenses, we can protect these vital spaces and ensure they remain open and accessible to the people who rely on them.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

My criteria for appointing or approving new board members begin with integrity, independence, and a demonstrated commitment to public service. I will look for individuals who bring professional expertise, such as in education, finance, community development, or cultural affairs, while also reflecting the diversity of our city. Equally important, I believe board members must be accountable, transparent, and responsive to the public, with a proven record of listening to community voices. Appointments should not be about political favors but about ensuring we have qualified, ethical leaders who will strengthen our institutions and keep the public's trust.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:47:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 15, 2025 11:03:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:07
First Name: Richard
Last Name: Twigss
Email: info@twiggsformayor.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Mayor of New Orleans
IP Address: 70.186.65.206

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1

Mayor

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2

Yes (please explain purpose)::
Events and to use the printer.

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

Being accessible, hosting events, etc.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

More funding for youth programs and outreach.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Libraries are more than just places with books—they are anchors of neighborhood life. They provide free access to knowledge, technology, and safe gathering spaces for all ages. In a city like New Orleans, where inequality too often dictates opportunity, libraries level the playing field. They help children with literacy, offer internet access for job seekers, and host programs that keep seniors engaged. They preserve our culture, history, and language while giving residents tools to build a future. Most importantly, libraries embody community. They remind us that education and opportunity are public goods, not privileges

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

Libraries will face no threat of closure under our administration. My administration will heavily invest in them as pillars of opportunity. Beyond books, libraries drive economic development by offering digital literacy, resume workshops, small business resources, and free internet access that many residents rely on. They serve as neighborhood job centers, equipping people with the tools to compete in a modern economy. For youth, libraries spark curiosity and prepare them for tomorrow's workforce. For adults, they provide training and lifelong learning that opens doors to better jobs. By strengthening our library system, we strengthen our workforce and by extension, the economy of New Orleans.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

The staff of our libraries, and all city workers, are the backbone of public service. To recruit and retain them, we must treat them with dignity and fairness. First, I will push to raise wages for frontline city workers, including library staff, so pay reflects the value of their work. Second, I will work with council to reform rigid residency requirements, allowing us to hire the best talent while still prioritizing locals. Third, we will expand professional development and career ladders, so employees see real pathways for growth. Finally, we will improve workplace conditions by consolidating departments, cutting waste, and reinvesting those savings into our workforce. Strong, respected city workers build a strong New Orleans.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

I believe the residency requirement should be reformed, not abolished. Our priority should always be to hire New Orleanians first. Simply, nobody understands our neighborhoods, culture, and struggles better than the people who live here. But the rule as it stands can sometimes block us from hiring the most qualified candidates, especially in critical roles like library staff, first responders, and specialized technical positions. My position is to keep the spirit of the requirement, prioritizing local hiring, while creating flexibility when there is a clear shortage of applicants. That way we honor our community while making sure the city has the skilled workforce it needs to thrive.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

The extended closures of New Orleans Public Library branches are not isolated incidents, they are part of a larger citywide problem caused by decades of deferred maintenance. After Hurricane Katrina, billions in recovery dollars were allocated, but too often those funds were poorly managed, delayed, or diverted to short-term projects instead of long term upkeep. As a result, many city buildings, including libraries, were patched rather than properly restored. Years of budget shortfalls, leadership turnover, and fragmented departmental oversight only deepened the crisis. For libraries, this has meant leaky roofs, outdated HVAC systems, and facilities unable to safely serve the public.

Moving forward, we need a structural fix, not another patchwork. That means consolidating oversight of city properties into one accountable department, implementing performance based budgeting, and requiring third-party audits to track maintenance. It also means dedicating a portion of unspent disaster relief funds and new revenue streams directly to facility upkeep, ensuring libraries and other public spaces are never allowed to deteriorate to the point of closure.

Our libraries are cornerstones of community life. With better planning, transparency, and investment, we can preserve these spaces for generations to come. The story does not end with decline. This story begins again with renewal and hope.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

When appointing or approving new board members, my criteria will focus on three things: integrity, expertise, and commitment to community. Integrity means a clear record of ethical leadership and transparency. Expertise means bringing skills (whether in finance, workforce development, technology, or culture) that strengthen the board's ability to guide institutions like our libraries. Commitment to community means understanding that their role is service, not self-interest, and that decisions must uplift the people of New Orleans first.

As Simon Sinek reminds us: "You don't hire for skills, you hire for attitude. You can always teach skills." That philosophy applies to board service as well. We need people with the right values and vision. We need individuals who lead with purpose, listen to the community, and put service above politics. By choosing board members who embody these traits, we ensure our institutions stay strong, accountable, and rooted in the needs of the people.

Page 8: Demographics

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Which district are you running for office in?

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

Please enter your full name.

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign email address.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Please provide your campaign phone number.

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

May we contact you about your responses?

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Candidates (Email)
Started: Monday, September 15, 2025 11:52:24 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:27:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:35:24
First Name: Joseph
Last Name: Bikulege
Email: joebikulege@gmail.com
Custom Data: Candidate for Mayor of New Orleans
IP Address: 104.49.198.97

Page 2: Candidate Information

Q1 **Mayor**

Which of the following public positions are you running for in New Orleans?

Page 3

Q2 **No**

Have you visited a New Orleans Public Library branch in the past year? If yes, for what purpose?

Q3

In your opinion, what is the library currently doing well?

I believe it is in an upswing but needs some assistance.

Q4

In your opinion, what areas of the library need improvement?

With today's technology and reliance on the internet, we need to redefine the library beyond just books and adapt it to the modern ways people access and consume information.

Page 4: Thinking about the value of libraries...

Q5

In your opinion, why are libraries important to our neighborhoods?

Just saying something does not make it true. The libraries are becoming less of a value to our neighborhoods. People are utilizing them less.

Q6

The library offers a variety of services to the community, including digital literacy and workforce development. How do you see the library contributing to the city's economic development and to the support of its workforce?

We should prioritize protecting and archiving books and documents that reflect our society and culture, not just locally but globally. Libraries should serve as a gateway for communities to explore the world through written and digital media. They can also become valuable tools for cities to document and archive local government papers and laws. In the future, libraries could host educational programs, support trade school coursework, and provide reference materials. As part of a new initiative to develop skilled labor and teach trades, libraries need to broaden their scope and evolve into comprehensive learning centers.

Page 5: Think about public library staff...

Q7

If elected, what are some specific changes that you would implement to make it easier to recruit and retain city workers?

AI could significantly reduce the number of staff required to operate libraries in their current form. Internships and shared resources across city institutions are great initiatives. Programs for high school seniors and college students in fields like reference work or literature could offer internships and college credit for handling essential library tasks. AI should be used to automate certain areas, while responsibilities needing human involvement can be outsourced to schools and institutions. Like in movies, libraries are often depicted as relying on computers or robots. Virtual assistants like Siri, Alexa, and Bixby show how information can be communicated effectively. While human involvement will always be necessary, reducing staff can ease budget constraints and lessen the future burden of pensions.

Q8

Arguments can be made both for and against the city residency requirement. Where do you stand on this subject and why?

The city is facing a population decline because of the poor quality of life provided by past administrations. It's tough to attract people to live in a place where basic services like utilities and education are lacking. We need to reconsider this requirement.

Page 6: Thinking about the public library facilities...

Q9

We know that city facilities across many departments have suffered due to deferred maintenance. In the case of the library, this has resulted in extended closures at several facilities. In your opinion, how did things get to this point, and what can be done to ensure that properties are maintained moving forward?

Poor city management is a major issue, and much of the blame lies with the administration and the city council for failing to hold them accountable. While there are numerous problems, the lack of strong action or criticism from the city council on administrative failures is concerning. Issues like poor money management, redundant programs, inadequate budgeting, and neglecting the city's basic needs and services essential to citizens are significant concerns. These are the main reasons driving my candidacy.

Page 7

Q10

What are your criteria for appointing or approving new board members?

As a first-time candidate, I'm not entirely familiar with the process. However, how are the responsible administrations handling it? Do they understand the process? If so, they certainly haven't managed it well. My approach would be to gather department heads, tenured employees, and fresh, energized personnel to discuss what changes are needed to steer the public library system in the right direction.

Page 8: Demographics

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Please provide your campaign email address.

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May we contact you about your responses?
