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## Councilmember District E

### Cynthia Willard-Lewis

**NAME:** Cynthia Willard-Lewis, Incumbent

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PUBLICATION:**

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**Website:** <http://www.cynthiawillardlewis.com>

**PARTY AFFILIATION:** Democrat

**PROFESSION:** City Council Member

**PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION (if self-employed, what type of business):** City of New Orleans / Council Member District E

**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: (include graduation date):** B.A. Honors Graduate in Social Studies Education, Xavier University

**APPLICABLE TRAINING:** Vice-President of New Orleans City Council - Current

Executive Board Member, Louisiana Police Jury Association

Chair, Sanitation and Environmental Enforcement Committee

Chair, Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee

Commissioner, Orleans Levee Board

Member, Budget Committee

Member, Utility, Cable and Telecommunications Committee

**CIVIC EXPERIENCE:**

Board Member, Total Community Action

Board Member, The Infinity Network

Board Member New Orleans Center for Successful Living

Member, Board of Directors, Cameron Commercial College

Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Member, Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Member, Amnesty International

International Member, National Conference of State Legislators

Member, National Black Caucus of State Legislators

Member, Women in Government National Organization

**POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** State Representative District 100,

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1993-2000

New Orleans City Council District E, 2000-Present

**POLITICAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS:****1. Will you expedite the completion and adoption of a Master Plan for the city with the force of law?**

Yes, I will continue my work to complete and expedite a Master Plan for the City of New Orleans that is inclusive of rebuilding and revitalizing all city neighborhoods, and enforce it.. It shouldn't matter if you live in Lakeview, or Lake Catherine, or anywhere in between, every citizen should have the right to help bring their community back.

**2. What is the Council's role in bringing back New Orleans?**

The City Council of the City of New Orleans is the legislative arm of the city. The Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans gives the Council legislative authority over the expenditure of funds, the organization of city agencies, and zoning. Therefore, I believe the City Council will play a very important role in bringing back New Orleans, because all use of city funds, and zoning must be adopted first by the council.

**3. Will you pledge to end the practice of deferring to the District Council Member on land use matters?**

I believe that voters elect council members to represent their interests. It is for this reason that the practice of deferring to the district Council Member should be respected. The Council Members at Large provide an overview of all constituents and voters in the city. Only in a case where laws or ordinances have been violated should the practice of deferring to the district Council Member not be used.

**4. What are the unique priorities for your district?**

District E makes up 47% of the land mass of New Orleans and it is the most diversely populated in the city. Today, I represent of the Lower Ninth Ward, the Desire, most of New Orleans East, Village D'lest, Venetian Isles, and Lake Catherine and although each community is perhaps physically and culturally different, their needs are the same. First and foremost my constituents want to come home and rebuild. Many are now living in trailers on their lawns or on their second floors. We all need essential city services, such as potable water, electricity, streets lights, sewage, regular garbage pickup, and security. With these services in place throughout the District, both commerce and communities will continue to grow and we will lead the way in the city's recovery.

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