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## Councilman at Large, Division A

[Felix Solis](#). [John F. Young, Jr.](#)

### Felix Solis

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

PROFESSION: Electronic Technician / Computer Repair Technician

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION at&t (formerly known as Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc)

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION AAS Electronics 1995, Pursuing AAS Computer Networks

APPLICABLE TRAINING: Leadership training and leadership experiences from Military and Private sector

CIVIC EXPERIENCE: Westwood Heights Civic Association, President; Transition Committee team member for Mayor Philip Capitano 2004

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

Republican State Central Committee member representing District 92A

Worked as a volunteer for: re-election Sen. Arthur Lentini 2003, Bobby Jindal for Governor 2003, Bobby Jindal for Congress 2004, Philip Capitano for City of Kenner Mayor 2004, Scarlette Alaniz for City of Kenner Council At Large Division A 2006.

#### 1. What are your top three priorities for the office and why?

Priority one - Reviewing the status of all ongoing projects and activities. Why? I am looking for the status of the various SELA projects, drainage projects, Hurricane Protection, Infrastructure repairs, and Coastal restoration efforts. The insurance premiums that our businesses and homeowners pay is directly related to the liabilities that our communities contribute. Unless we do something to reduce the liabilities of living below sea level, everyone will continue to pay high insurance premiums.

Priority two - Review of the Parish Budget. Why? In order to itemize where the revenue is coming from and itemize the expenses. Looking for savings to finance needed improvements will be my goal such as substandard infrastructure and equating the appearance and quality of life of the Westbank and the Eastbank.

Priority three - Meet with the workers in various departments to gain

insight to their internal operations and obtain feedback on what the workers and departments need to operate efficiently and productively. Why? I am a firm believer that good ideas bubble from the bottom to the top. It is here where I will meet with the workers in various Parish Departments to assess the needs of the Parish's Infrastructure and develop a priority list.

2. What experience or education qualifies you for this position?

The Louisiana Army National Guard and the United States Army provided me an invaluable Military experience. I was fortunate to have been assigned to an organization whose job is to support combat forces with Logistical, Medical, and Maintenance resources. Having been deployed to remote locations such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait taught me a lot. Although I was a communications technician in an Operations Control Center, I learned a valuable lesson of what it means to always be prepared for the worst that can happen and how to react to logistical challenges. Whether it is securing shelter, food, fuel, medical needs, transportation, security, mechanical assistance and being responsible for the health, welfare, and morale of a community, the military trained me and gave the experience to last me a life time.

Military and Professional work experiences and my desire to solve complex problems with the input of team members and members of our community are the qualifications I need to serve the people of Jefferson Parish. When the next disaster strikes, I am competent that I will have what it takes to help the Parish President and fellow members of the Parish Council to meet the needs of the great people of Jefferson Parish.

3. How do you see the current ethics reform legislation affecting your office and what additional reform would you support to ensure the highest ethical standards for Jefferson Parish?

I would like to place the itemized budget online in a PDF format so that our revenue and expenses are in the open. I would also like to see more involvement from many businesses in our Parish in the bidding process. If the good people of Jefferson can choose among a wide range of suppliers of goods and services, it would be nice to see a wide range of suppliers of goods and services in the Jefferson Parish bidding process.

4. How would you rank infrastructure needs and how will you fund the needed improvements for the top three? For example: roads, bridges, levees, ecosystem reconstruction, municipal water and sewer systems and public transportation?

1) Levees - Funding the improvements of the Levees of Jefferson Parish will be an ongoing effort by staying on top of the Corp of Engineers and communicating with State and Congressional leaders to stay focused on finding additional funds.

2) Ecosystems Reconstruction as it pertains to drainage - Community Block grants could be a revenue source. Asking for financial assistance from the State and Congressional leaders to help fund drainage and SELA projects. Funding source could include Grants and diverting funds without impacting vital services.

3) Municipal water and Sewer systems - Community block grants,

Federal Grants, and a review of the revenue from the tax millages and expenses. Search for cost savings opportunities so that our parish utilities can zoom in on one subdivision at a time based on priorities. Finding Grants and applying for them will be a goal I plan to accomplish.

4) Roads

5) Public Transportation

6) Bridges

5. What efforts would you support to educate a workforce for advancing the economic development of Louisiana?

We need to help our local Public School systems to introduce vocational skills and trades to our youth who are at risk of dropping out of school. Need to develop an Educational plan that transitions from a drop-out potential to a Vocation technical curriculum that blends GED preparation with entry level career skills. Work with the Local Union Chapters and local Industries to help develop training curriculums for skilled workers. Develop a comprehensive review of the Technical programs to ensure that those in training are learning the latest trends and not on old out of date methods. When students graduate our technical programs I want them to have the skills to carry them forward.



### **John F. Young, Jr.**

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

PROFESSION: Attorney

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION (if self employed, what type of business):

Jefferson Parish, Councilman at Large, Division A Of Counsel, Hailey, McNamara, Hall Larman & Papale Law Office

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date):

Loyola University School of Law

Juris Doctor, May 1982

APPLICABLE TRAINING: Jefferson Leadership Fellow, Loyola University Institute of Politics (1991)

CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

Chairman, Governor's Vehicular Homicide - DWI Task Force (2001-2004)

Vice-Chairman of Public Policy - New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce (1999 -2001)

Board of Directors - New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce (1998-2000)

Chairman - E.J. Council of the New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce (1998-1999)

Member, NOAPAC (1996-2000)

Chairman - Governmental Affairs Committee of E.J. Council Executive Committee (1996-97)

Fellow, Jefferson Chamber Leadership Institute (1995)

Fellow, Loyola University Institute of Politics, (1991)  
Southeast Louisiana DWI Task Force (2001 - 2004)  
French-American Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Chapter  
POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION  
MEMBERSHIPS:

Elected - Jefferson Parish Councilman at Large, Division A (January 7, 2004)  
Jefferson Parish Council Chairman (2004 - 2005; 2006-2007)  
Fellow, Loyola University Institute of Politics (1991)

1. What are your top three priorities for office and why?

I. To promote fiscal responsibility and efficiency in government.  
Our constituents deserve to have their tax dollars spent wisely on projects that benefit the public as a whole and in a manner that is neither wasteful nor inefficient.

II. To promote economic development of Jefferson Parish.  
Our policies need to continually evolve to embrace changes in population and infrastructure. For example, the widening of the Huey P. Long Bridge will be a catalyst for economic change and development for not only the West Bank of Jefferson but the entire metropolitan region.

III. To promote measures that make Jefferson Parish a safe place to live, work and raise a family  
We need to emphasize community programs to help develop our children and their mindsets in a positive manner. Community awareness and crime prevention programs should be at the forefront of our efforts.

2. What experience or education qualifies you for this position?

- I. Four years of service as the current Councilman-at-Large for Division A.
- II. Two years of service as Council Chairman.
- III. Served as Assistant District Attorney for 7 years.
- IV. Juris Doctor for 25 years.

3. How do you see the current ethics reform legislation affecting your office and what additional reform would you support to ensure the highest ethical standards for Jefferson Parish?

I have always stood for transparency and accountability in government and have conducted myself accordingly. I would support any additional reform or legislation that would further promote transparency and accountability in government.

4. How would you rank infrastructure needs and how would you fund the top three? For example: roads, bridges, levees, ecosystem reconstruction, municipal water and sewer systems and public transportation?

I. Drainage  
Our infrastructure needs to be upgraded to a 100 year storm capacity to meet the needs that were created due to our population growth of the last 20 years as well as the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In order to meet this goal, we have initiated drainage studies on a parishwide basis to identify specific problems that need to be addressed. These studies will prioritize the projects so our tax dollars

can be spent effectively and efficiently.

## II. Sewerage

Most of our sewerage infrastructure was constructed over 50 years ago and is in need of an upgrade. A current analysis is being conducted to develop a plan to improve the system throughout Jefferson Parish. I have also been successful in obtaining federal funds to allocate to our I & I problem in Jefferson Parish.

## III. Water

We are presently studying all facets of this department. These areas include examining underground piping, improvement of water meters, and upgrades to our water purification plants and systems.

Funding for these projects is hoped to be achieved through a combination of Federal, State, and Local monies.

## 5. What efforts would you support to educate a workforce for advancing economic development of Louisiana?

I would support any and all efforts that would have an indirect or direct impact on increasing and improving the workforce. Specifically, educating individuals and supporting programs to improve trade skills would result in additional skilled and trained workers to spur construction, rebuilding, and economic development.

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*Comments, suggestions, questions? Contact our [webmaster](#). Last revised: October 6, 2007 15:20 PDT.*

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