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State Representative, 97th Representative District Runoff

[Brian Egana](#). ["J. P." Morrell](#).

Brian Egana

NAME: Brian Patrick Egana

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

PROFESSION:

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION (if self-employed, what type of business) City of New Orleans-Legislative Assistant to Councilman Oliver Thomas

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date): B.A. in Business Administration, December 2004; Southern University of New Orleans

APPLICABLE TRAINING:

CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

I am the President and co-founder of newly created community and political based organization known as I.D.E.A. (Independent Democratic Electors Association). I have worked on several campaigns for the following persons: Mayor C. Ray Nagin; Council members James Singleton, Oliver Thomas, James Carter, Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, & the late Roy Glapion; Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Assessors Darren Mire, Betty Jefferson, and Claude Mauberet; State Representatives Karen Carter and Cheryl Gray. Also, several judgeships.

1. What are your top three priorities for this office?

My three top priorities as State Representative, 97th District are health care, insurance/housing, and workforce development. I firmly believe that these things are essential to the rebuilding and progression of New Orleans. In regards to health care, I am prepared to address the issues of available medical facilities and medical education to ensure proper care for all residents. I am also prepared to explore creative options that address the insurance industry crisis we are experiencing. In terms of workforce development, I am focused on ensuring that we have training programs to prepare our citizens for the jobs. In addition, I am dedicated to increasing opportunities for local small business owners to participate in economic activity. As a state, we must address the issues of health care, insurance/housing, and workforce development in the city of New Orleans to ensure our growth and progress.

2. What will you do to implement your priorities?

My legislative experience has taught me that change can not be enacted by a single legislator. Considering this knowledge, I am committed to establishing relationships with state legislators of surrounding parishes, the Mayor of New Orleans, and the

Governors Office to ensure the implementation of my priorities.

With regards to insurance, I plan to take a three step approach towards stabilizing our insurance and housing crisis. The primary step is to bring together the insurance companies, businesses, and individuals. The next step is to explore and research what other states have done to mitigate the impact of catastrophic events on their housing and insurance markets. Lastly, I will work with fellow legislators, local officials, and the Governor's Office to implement best practices that address this issue.

As the city of New Orleans moves forward with its recovery, we can anticipate a demand for skilled workers. This is why workforce development is of the utmost importance with regards to rebuilding our economy. As a Sate Legislator, I will make certain that state dollars for training programs are targeted towards primary areas of need. In addition, I will work to make certain that institutions such as Delgado Community College & Southern University of New Orleans have the proper support and funding to provide the training to meet the jobs of today and tomorrow.

As a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our health care structure has been dismantled. We are now forced to recognize and address general health care, indigent care, and medical education. In the midst of addressing these issues, I am committed to working to ensure health care dollars follow the neediest, such as seniors and the disabled community. This can best be done by new and innovative programs designed to allow allocated health care dollars to be attached to individual patient accounts rather than one hospital facility. This will allow the recipient to have the hospital of choice rather than one concentrated hospital.

3. What kind of legislation would you propose to promote economic recovery in the 97th District?

District 97 is a strong residential area. Therefore, any economic plans should begin with the residents. Residents must have input to what types of businesses are best for this area. I do believe that strong mixes of big box commercial and small businesses are crucial for economic recovery. Therefore, I would promote legislation that offers tax brakes in exchange for these types of long term commitments.



"J. P." Morrell

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

PROFESSION: Attorney

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

Law Partner, Morrell & Morrell, L.L.C.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date):

Juris Doctorate, Tulane Law (2004)

APPLICABLE TRAINING:

Tulane Law School, Legislative Advocacy Clinic (2003)

Staff Intern, Senator John Breaux, United States Senate (2001)

Public Defender, Office of Indigent Public Defender (2004)

CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

Member, Board of Directors, DesireNOLA (<http://www.desirenola.org>) (2005-

Present)

Creative Writing Teachers, Art Without A Roof (AWAR), New Orleans Public Schools; Homeless Education Program (Summer 1998-Summer 2000)

Pontilly Collaborative Visioning Charrette, Organization and Planning Committee (2005)

Advocacy Attorney, Gentilly Civic Improvement Association (GCIA) (2005-Present)

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.); New Orleans Branch

1. What are your top three priorities for this office?

First, I will protect the rights of homeowners, ensuring that our fundamental rights are not compromised in the rush to rebuild. Second, we must promote law and order, so that the state lives up to it's obligation to fund our criminal justice system to effectively reduce crime. Lastly, we must create coalitions within the legislature, beyond party and geographical lines, to make sure important local bills become law.

2. What will you do to implement your priorities?

In regards to my first priority, I will ensure that land use decisions are retained largely by individuals and local government, I do not believe that it serves our interest to have the Louisiana legislature regulate development in the city whose representatives make up a minority of a larger body. Additionally, there has been a troubling trend around the country, where privately owned property is being seized by state and local government on behalf of land developers. I will ensure that homeowners are not forced out of their homes for strip malls.

Regarding my second priority, I will ensure that our courts are adequately funded; especially the Office of the District Attorney as well as the Orleans Public Defenders, so the accused can be processed swiftly and fairly. Furthermore, I will seek additional pay raises for our firemen, police officers and EMTs as they are some of the lowest paid metropolitan emergency personnel in the region.

My last priority is very unique to the legislative process. In order to be an effective legislator you have to be able to create coalitions and relationships within the legislature to get the 51% necessary to pass legislation. I have the knowledge, experience and determination to bring home results at the Louisiana Legislature.

3. What kind of legislation would you propose to promote economic recovery in the 97th District?

First, and foremost, I would push legislation to provide additional funding to help our Public, Recovery and Charter schools succeed in New Orleans. Almost every function of our society that challenges business in our community, Crime, Lack of Employees and Cost of Doing Business is directly aggravated by the lack of affordable education in this city. Kids who don't go to school become criminals. An uneducated populace doesn't have enough skilled workers to attract major companies. Private tuition, when factored into an employment package, makes relocating ideal employees problematic, if not impossible. I would support education in every way possible and, in doing so, promote economic recovery in District 97. Common sense would also dictate that residents will not return, as a whole, until the educational crisis is resolved and without a populace to provide employees and customers, businesses cannot function.

I would also work to create additional tax incentives for larger businesses and promote legislation to instruct small businesses as to how they can apply for the various federal and private grants available for the costly rebuilding process.

Comments, suggestions, questions? Contact our [webmaster](#). Last revised: October 6, 2006 07:43 PDT.

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