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State Representative, 79th Representative District

[George L. Branigan](#). [Marie Clesi](#). ["Tony" Ligi](#). [Scott Masson](#). [Jack Rizzuto](#).

George L. Branigan

NO RESPONSE



Marie Clesi

NAME: MARIE M. CLESI

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PARTY AFFILIATION: REPUBLICAN

PROFESSION: OWNER/MANAGER OF MARIE CLESI INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. PROPERTY/CASUALTY, LIFE AND HEALTH INS., RETIREMENT PLANS AND BANKING SERVICES AND NOTARY PUBLIC

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION: SELF-EMPLOYED - INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SALES AND SERVICE. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: 1979, MASTERS DEGREE IN EDUCATION, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

APPLICABLE TRAINING: CHARTERED PROPERTY AND CASUALTY UNDERWRITER DESIGNATION, 8 YEARS EXPERIENCE TEACHING SECONDARY MATH IN JEFF. PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

CIVIC EXPERIENCE: PAST PRESIDENT AND CURRENT BOARD MEMBER OF CHATEAU ESTATES CIVIC ORGANIZATION, PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE ALCOHOL AND BEVERAGE PERMIT COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF KENNER, PAST BOARD MEMBER OF KENNER YMCA, PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE ADOPT AND ANGEL PROGRAM AT MAGGIE ELEMANTARY SCHOOL (JEFF. PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM SCHOOL), PAST PRESIDENT OF FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY HEALTH, 2007 MEMBER OF THE GALA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE FOR JEFFERSON DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS, PAST PRESIDENT OF KENNER PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, MEMBER OF THE JEFFERSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. PAST PRESIDENT OF NAIFA, WESTBANK.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS: PAST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF KENNER, ELECTED IN 2000 AND AGAIN IN 2004 TO THE JEFFERSON REPUBLICAN PARISH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ELECTED SECRETARY IN 2004 AND AGAIN IN 2006, PAST BOARD MEMBER OF JEFFERSON 25 (CURRENTLY, SUSTAINING MEMBER), WORKED AT ALL LEVELS OF

CAMPAIGNING AS A VOLUNTEER

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

AS A DISTRICT LEGISLAOR, IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES FACING THE CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT. A LEGISLATOR MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT LEGISLATION HAS ON THE ENTIRE STATE. THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT 79 WANT TO KNOW THAT INSURANCE PREMIUMS WILL NOT CONTINUE TO INCREASE EXCESSIVELY AND THAT, IF THEY MOVE WITHIN THE AREA, THEY CAN PURCHASE A POLICY THROUGH THE PRIVATE MARKET. THEY WANT TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN HERE. SO WE NEED TO PROVIDE QUALITY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY PROGRAMS, POST SECONDARY SKILLS TRAINING RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY. THE INCREASE IN THE CRIME RATE, ESPECIALLY VIOLENT CRIME IS ANOTHER DETERANT TO THE RETENTION OF OUR QUALITY CITIZENS AND BUSINESS.

2. What specific legislation would you formulate or support to implement your priorities?

I ENDORSE A NATIONAL DISASTER PLAN AND FUND. I BELIEVE THIS PLAN WILL BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO CONGRESS IF LOUISIANA SHOWS IT IS WILLING TO START THE PROCESS. THEREFORE, I WILL SUPPORT A LA CATASTROPHE FUND THAT HAS A MITIGATION COMPONENT.

I SUPPORT FUNDING COASTAL RESTORATION AS THE FIRST LINE OF OFFENSE (MITIGATION) TO ASSURING INSURANCE COPANIES LOUISIANA IS WILLING TO MITIGATE THE SEVREITY OF WINDS. I WILL FIGHT TO KEEP THE BUILDING CODES IN TACT AND FIGHT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REFLECT THE DISASTEROUS LEGISLATION FLORIDA ENACTED THIS YEAR.

I WILL SUPPORT LEGISLATON THAT PROVIDES FOR PRE-K FOR ALL 4 YEAR OLDS. THERE IS A REASON WHY WE RANK AS THE 48TH STATE IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

I SUPPORT HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDRE INCENTVES FOR NON-COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS TO GET THEIR DIPLOMA. THESE SKILLS ORIENTED PROGRAM MUST BE DEVELOPED WITH THE COOPERATION OF LOCAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. WE CAN THEM FOLLOW UP BY MAKING BETTER USE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAMS IN RESPONSE TO THE SKILLS NEEDED BY THE LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES.

I SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD'S PRESENCE IN NEW ORLEANS AND AN INCREASE OF SUPPLEMENTAL PAY FOR POLICE AND FIREMEN.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING

THE HOUSING ACQUIRED BY THE ROAD HOME PROGRAM
AVAILABLE TO FIRST RESPONDERS AND TEACHERS.

3. What problems do you see with existing ethics reform legislation and what additional reform would you support?

THERE MUST BE CONSISTENCY IN THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD. SOURCES OF INCOME SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. THE CANDIDATE AND THE CONDIDATE'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS SHOULD NOT CONTRACT WITH THE STATE. LEGISLATORS SHOULD PROVIDE A LIST OF ALL BOARDS THEY SIT ON, ESPECIALLY THOSE APPLYING FOR MONEY FROM THE "SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE" FUNDS.

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.

OUR BAD BRIDGES RANK ABOVE AVERAGE. THEY MUST BE REPAIRED. LOUISIANA SPENDS MORE ON CAR MAINTENENCE AND REPAIRS FROM AUTO ACCIDENTS BECAUSE OF THE POOR CONDITIONS OF OUR ROADS. TRANSPORTATION FEES SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO REPAIRS. TO MAKE LOUISIANA ATTRACTIVE TO TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS, MEGO-PROJECTS MAY BE NECESSARY. IN THIS CASE, FUNDING IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE; THEREFORE I WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF BUILDING THIS PROJECT NOW BY PLACING A TOLL FOR CONSTRUCTION.

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

FUNDING FOR PRE-K PROGAMS FOR ALL 4 YEAR OLDS, CAREER AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND USE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS TO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO RAPIDLY RESPOND WITH SKILLS TRAINING NEEDED BY THE LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY THROUGH COORDINATION WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY LEADERS.



"Tony" Ligi

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

PROFESSION: Attorney and Real Estate Title Insurance Agent

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION: Self - Law Firm/ Title Closing Company

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: Juris Doctor from Loyola University School of

Law

APPLICABLE TRAINING: Jefferson Chamber Leadership Institute, Loyola University Institute of Politics

CIVIC EXPERIENCE: Co-Founder/Former Chairman - Elmwood Park Civic Association; Co- Founder/Board Member - Citizens For A Safer Jefferson; Jefferson Chamber Member; Louisiana Association of Business and Industry Member

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

Loyola University Institute of Politics;

Pelican State Pachyderm Club - Co-Founder and Former Chairman; Metro Club - Associate Member; Former Chairman of Republican Party of Jefferson Parish

1. What are your top three priorities for the office and why?**ENDING CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT**

We will not have an environment conducive to attracting business to our state, unless we adopt stringent ethics laws aimed at ending corruption in government. I will focus on enacting government ethics laws that would among its components insure an open and transparent government, require full financial disclosure by elected officials and call for stringent criminal penalties for any willful or fraudulent violation of our ethics code.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We must expand opportunities for education for our children who do not want to pursue a college degree. We can do this by developing a program of vo-tech training which would begin in the high schools and be extended through post-high school vo-tech schools. This program would be closely coordinated with the needs of businesses and would create a trained workforce conducive to attracting more business to our state.

CREATING A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE THAT WOULD BE SECOND TO NONE

Unless we recreate our systems of public education and healthcare delivery, we will continue to encounter problems in attracting meaningful business development to our state. We must insure that dollars appropriated for education are directed to the classroom rather than burned up in administrative expense and that our teachers are well compensated so we can attract the best and brightest teachers to our classrooms.

Our healthcare delivery system must be made more efficient, making sure that patients have choice by allowing dollars to follow the patient. We have to decentralize medical care so that the needs of baby boomers can be met on a localized basis.

2. What specific legislation would you formulate or support to implement your priorities?

See answers to Question 1.

3. What problems do you see with existing ethics reform legislation and what additional reform would you support?

Existing ethics reform legislation does not provide for funding of an ethics training program for elected officials and public employees. It must be reformed to provide for full financial disclosure by legislators

and statewide elected officials prohibit legislators and family members from holding state contracts and create an independent full time ethics administration.

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.

I would mark coastal restoration, road construction and bridge safety as our most pressing projected infrastructure needs. Our projected budget surplus should be used to fund the needed improvements. Road development can be underwritten by accumulating additional funds through dedication of motor vehicle related revenue such as registration and license fees, gas tax and possibly tolls.

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

I would enact legislation that would develop a program of coordinated vo-tech training starting at the high school level and extending to post high school vo-tech training. The program would be coordinated with business trends and with the input of our business community on a regional basis.



Scott Masson

NO RESPONSE



Jack Rizzuto

NO RESPONSE

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