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## State Representative, 99th Representative District

[David DaJon](#). [Charmaine L. Marchand](#).

### David DaJon

NAME: David J. DaJon

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

PROFESSION: Construction Contractor

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION: President and CEO of DaJon's Construction and Environmental

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: Marion Abramson H. S. 1974, Spencer Community College (Business Management & Procedures), 1978, Louisiana State University (Microbial Remediation) 2005, Louisiana Technical College of Lafayette (Technical Drafting) 2006.

APPLICABLE TRAINING: Working with business development.

CIVIC EXPERIENCE: After Katrina started up a free program to help prospective contractors become licensed. Was instrumental in helping 350 contractors obtain licenses, PTA President of Thomas Alva Edison Elementary School, New Orleans Public School Committee for the development of satellite computer training and educational centers.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS: Member of the Community Base Coalition Political Organization and Trade Association of Louisiana.

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

(1) Creating job development centers with a focus on youth training in the construction trade;

(2) working to provide community-based health care centers, Working to meet the needs and concerns of bringing the people back home to the district;

(3) Effective community leadership for the district.

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

I would support any legislation that offers tax break incentives and funding for the redevelopment of our community.

3. What problems do you see with existing ethics reform legislation and what

additional reform would you support?

I don't see a problem with the current reform legislation. It will become a problem if we don't accept this legislation and make it law. There has to be a point where we take control of the ethical behavior of our politicians and hold them accountable for their actions. The past is the past and we should strive to move forward and not make the mistakes of many of our predecessors.

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.

One of the highest priorities for the infrastructure would be the rebuilding of the levee system and ensuring adequate protection for all of our neighborhoods. Secondly, making sure that we maintain a healthy and safe environment for our communities such as air and water quality free from any hazardous materials. Lastly, I would push for better-maintained streets and highways within my district.

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

I would support legislation that would train our youth through grants and assistance in the construction trade to rebuild the areas that have suffered the most from hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



## Charmaine L. Marchand

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

PROFESSION: Lawyer

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION Charmaine Marchand, Attorney at Law

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: Juris Doctorate/1997

APPLICABLE TRAINING: 4 yrs as a legislator, practicing attorney, former Assistant City Attorney with the City of New Orleans Legal Department - Housing Unit, and former law clerk with the LA Senate

CIVIC EXPERIENCE: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, St. David Youth Organization, House By House Board Member, St. Augustine Bowling Team (Volunteer Parent Coach)

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS: State Representative for 4 years, worked campaigns for former Mayor Bartholomew, former Marc Morial, Congressman Jefferson, Mayor C. Ray Nagin, and am a member of SOUL Political Organization

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

a) Education - Through education, we develop well-rounded law-abiding citizens with opportunities to succeed in life due to a multitude of options, as well as, a strong work force. With a strong work force and opportunities to succeed, the crime in the city of New Orleans would diminish, the percentage of poverty would decline, and economic

development in the city would improve.

b) Housing - Affordable housing, including rental for the working class and elderly, has always been a challenge, even prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. People are eager to return home, but with limited resources and accelerated costs of living and construction costs, this has been literally impossible for many families. And, as the days continue, additional issues have evolved, such as increased insurance costs, availability of insurance companies writing in Louisiana, increase in property taxes, and income tax due on Road Home Grant monies, just to name a few.

c) Healthcare - There is a need for quality healthcare in both the underserved urban areas, as well as the rural areas. An efficient and effective state hospital for acute care and community health clinics to serve non acute care patients are needed.

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

For education, legislation should be created to mandate that the Recovery School District develop and implement a plan to effectively and efficiently assist the schools in recovery to get out of recovery. A mandatory statewide core curriculum should be implemented preparing all students for college or the workforce (courses to qualify for TOPS should be made available at all students through their schools). All schools should be redesigned to state of the art 21st Century Technology schools. It is our responsibility, as a state, to educate all children and give all children an equal opportunity to succeed in life.

Additionally, revamp the school boards and possibly create community school boards for policy and procedures. The community school board would then answer to the Orleans Parish School Board. Financial matters would be requested through the community board to the CFO of the Orleans Parish School Board. For housing, create more homeowners to invest in the community. This does not necessarily require state legislation, but education and more federal funding. Working with non-profits and Congress is the key.

For healthcare, creating legislation to permit the use of medical teleconferencing to assist in making proper diagnosis, and getting second opinions in areas where there is a shortage of doctors. This is being used in approximately 46 states, Louisiana being one state that it is not allowed. Additionally, community health clinics can assist with teaching preventive care to diminish a patient's number of visits to the doctor and cost of care.

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

With the media attention of immoral behavior and corruption by a few public officials, it is even more important now, than ever, to rebuild the people's confidence. It is important to be totally transparent as a public official, especially when dealing with lobbyist and any form of the taxpayer's money.

The existing ethics reform legislation is strong, and I'm sure there are

measures to make all elected officials more transparent. One piece of legislation, I believe should be created, is legislation to prevent an elected official and his/her immediate family from being permitted to accept a job with any company that he/she had authority over the receiving of a contract, especially while the life of a contract still exists with that company.

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.

The ecosystem reconstruction should be ranked as priority one, with the levee system being priority two and the municipal water and sewer systems being the third priority. All of these things protect property and life and with effective protection, insurance premiums decrease and economic development increases making job opportunities available, increasing home ownership and bringing down crime. But, the levee systems will take less time to reconstruct and repair. Funding may be acquired through federal resources and state capital outlay. The ecosystem reconstruction will take longer to rebuild for additional protection for the cities within. Without the ecosystem, the levees are vulnerable.

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

I would support legislation to allow workforce education back in our public schools, such as shop, culinary arts, data processing, etc. Those students not as good with books, but good with their hands, could come out of the school system with a skill. Additionally, expansion of the worker training program to include the unemployed who could make monetary contributions after employed through their new employer.

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

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