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State Senator, 2nd Senatorial District

[Yolanda A. Dupaty-Zeigler](#). [Ann Duplessis](#). [Jon D. Johnson](#).

Yolanda A. Dupaty-Zeigler

NO RESPONSE



Ann Duplessis

NAME: First Middle Last

Ann D. Duplessis

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PARTY AFFILIATION:

Democrat

PROFESSION:

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

Senior Vice President, Liberty Bank and Trust

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date):

LSU Graduate School of Banking, 2000

APPLICABLE TRAINING:

Notary Public

CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

Currently Senator Duplessis serves on the following boards:

The State of Louisiana Small Business Development Center Advisory Board, Louisiana Small Business and Entrepreneurship Commission, United Way, City of New Orleans Economic Development Advisory Committee, Louisiana Serve Commission, Methodist Hospital Advisory Board, Working Uninsured Task Force, Healthcare Workforce/Economic Development Task Force, Total Community Action, the NCSL Communications, Financial Services & Interstate Commerce Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Governor's Office Department of Economic Development Small Business and Entrepreneur Commission, Louisiana Economic Development Council, Louisiana Serve Commission, and the Children's Bureau of New Orleans.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

Current Senator for District 2

Vice-Chair of the Women's Caucus

Treasurer of the Black Caucus

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

Safe Neighborhoods- Any measures that we can take to reduce crime will enhance Louisiana as a place to live and do business.

Education- An educated workforce attracts new jobs by making employers confident that their firms will be profitable and that their investments will be rewarded.

Economic Development- The quality of life for citizens is enhanced with more viable jobs and economic opportunities.

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

Safe Neighborhoods

I will fight to keep the National Guard in New Orleans and relieve the New Orleans Police Department of responsibilities for traffic and accidents on I-10 and turn these duties over to the State Police.

Additionally, I will advocate for resources to establish police/fire stations in parts of New Orleans East, Lower 9, and Holy Cross areas to reduce response times. Finally, I will fight to increase state funding for the New Orleans Criminal Justice System.

Education

I have fought for and will continue to fight for resources so that our children can be educated in clean and safe buildings by qualified teachers, counselors and administrators and have access to technology and extracurricular activities. Additionally, I will continue to advocate for teacher pay raises to ensure that our teachers are not forced to leave the state but can enjoy the quality of life that is rewarding to individuals dedicated to educating our children. Moreover, I will continue to fight to ensure that Orleans Parish school teachers terminated as a result of Hurricane Katrina are made whole by returning their tenure and ability to bargain collectively. Finally, I will continue to tackle the tough issue of education reform.

Economic Development

I have authored and supported legislation to provide incentives to businesses that relocate or expand in District 2. Specifically I authored legislation for new markets tax credits, credits for manufacturers, and credits for the film industry. District 2 is unique in that it has a large business and industrial park. I will continue to author and support legislation to attract industry to the park and the District. This will create jobs and bring more people to the District during the day. The increase of people in the District during the day will bring restaurants, shops and services.

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

I support transparency in all levels of government. It is imperative that we know how State dollars are being spent as well as whom they are being spent with to ensure accountability. I will continue to be a leader in ethics reform and fight special interests and old time political bosses in the Legislature and in the District.

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
2. Roads and Bridges
3. Municipal Water and Sewer Systems

Although the responsibility of building and maintaining levees is a federal responsibility as mandated under law, the state of Louisiana can play an active role in the building of levees that exceed federal government requirements. I would look at the proposed increase in revenues to be funded by offshore drilling proceeds as a means to support this much-needed infrastructure.

The state should continue to fund roads and bridges through the capital outlay process that exists right now. The anticipated state budget surplus will allow additional revenues to be allocated for these important transportation infrastructure needs. Specifically, one transportation project I would advocate for is a rail system.

I would fund the repairs to the New Orleans sewer system using a portion of the 1 billion dollar surplus that the state will experience next year that was announced today.

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

I will fight to protect programs funded in past sessions and support legislation that pays business owners directly for the amount of money that they invest in educating and training their workers at state supported institutions of higher learning.



Jon D. Johnson

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

PROFESSION: Business management.

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION: Restaurant franchisee.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date): Masters in Business Administration with concentration in economics and finance from Loyola University in New Orleans in 1977.

APPLICABLE TRAINING: Elected to the Louisiana Legislature in 1979 as State Representative for District 99 and elected State Senator in 1985 for District 2.

CIVIC EXPERIENCE: With a Masters in Business Administration education and experience as a former Assistant Professor of Economics at Southern University at New Orleans, I've volunteered over the past two years to assist hundreds of small business owners to develop SBA loan packages and business plans to assist their business recovery efforts. I host a weekly television program on Cox Channel 8 to focus attention on local businesses. I donate my time to St. David and St. Maria

Goretti Catholic Churches and lend by leadership numerous charities and civic organizations such as the American Cancer Society and the Urban League of Greater New Orleans.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS: Fellow of the Loyola University Institute of Politics and Fellow of the Kennedy School of State and Local Government at Harvard University. I am not a member of any political organization.

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

Finding State solutions to solve New Orleans' epidemic crime crisis is my first priority. Crime is a major impediment to the City's recovery and puts Louisiana at a disadvantage to attract much needed jobs and industry to the region.

Improving the administration of the Road Home program and devising effective housing strategies to return properties bought by the State to home ownership is my second priority.

My third top priority is formulating and implementing viable economic development solutions to bring devastated New Orleans East and Lower Ninth Ward businesses back into commerce, to assist minority-owned businesses to participate in the region's economic recovery; to induce new industries and jobs to the region; and to return retail shopping and dining conveniences to residents.

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

Crime legislation - State funding of a regional state-of-the-art crime lab in New Orleans East installation of cameras in crime hot spots throughout the district would help law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. I also want to assist prosecutors by stiffening witness intimidation penalties. As the creator of the Security District legislation, I want to ensure that more neighborhood associations take advantage of this concept to increase neighborhood security and patrols.

Housing initiatives - I want to bring more effective management to the Road Home Program. I propose creating Community Development Corporations - administered by neighborhood associations - to facilitate the return of abandoned properties bought by the state through the Road Home Program to home ownership.

Economic Development - implement the comprehensive economic development plan developed in my last term in the Senate; provide State assistance to minority-owned small business owners to ensure their participation in hurricane recovery contracts; provide further tax incentives to induce new industries and jobs to the region and return retail shopping and dining conveniences to residents

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

Ethics reform requires greater transparency. I support legislation requiring public officials to make full disclosure of all income and income sources. I oppose recently enacted legislation which allows officials to not report bank loans. The State Ethics Board must be

better funded to train public officials and candidates to ensure full compliance with all reporting requirements and to investigate all complaints; the State Justice Department needs funding to ensure proper enforcement.

4. How would you rank infrastructure needs and how will you fund the needed improvements for the top three?

In my ranking, ecosystem reconstruction, levees, and roads are our top three infrastructure needs. Funding will require better utilization of federal and state funds currently available and pending federal allocations.

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

First, we need to better fund early childhood education to ensure that our children get the right start.

Second, we need to improve our college preparatory alternatives to ensure that our community colleges and vo-tech training programs better our children who are not college bound.

And third, we need to develop partnership between high-tech industries and our colleges and universities to ensure that our graduates are better prepared for the jobs of the future.

Comments, suggestions, questions? Contact our [webmaster](#). Last revised: October 10, 2007 15:43 PDT.

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