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State Senator, 4th Senatorial District

[Clayton Joffrion](#). [Thomas J. Kennedy](#). [Edwin Murray](#).

Clayton Joffrion

NAME:

Clayton J. Joffrion

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PARTY AFFILIATION: Independent

PROFESSION: Attorney

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

Self-employed as an attorney admitted to practice in Louisiana and Florida

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date):

LL.M. in International Law (1996)

APPLICABLE TRAINING:

B.A., Political Science, Louisiana State University, 1985

J.D., Civil and Common Law, Loyola Law School, 1988

LL.M., International Law, University of Miami, 1996

CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

The Florida Bar, President, Out of State Practitioners Division Louisiana State Bar Association, International Law Section, CLE Chair Friends of the Law Library of Louisiana

Oak Park Civic Association, Pro Bono Counsel, representation before FEMA Section 106 Review concerning St. Frances Cabrini Church/Holy Cross High School

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

Candidate for Senate District 4 Special Election, 2004

Campaign for Robin Shulman, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, 2004

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

I. Effective leadership and public service. Ineffective leadership and special interest group favoritism breeds corruption.

II. Corruption diverts resources and decreases effectiveness of government. The Legislature has failed to impeach corrupt and ineffective officials.

III. Failure of government is caused by ineffective leadership and corruption. Effective leadership means legislative oversight and legislation formulated for immediate agency action.

I will spearhead a new era of openness in government. Months before deadlines to file legislative bills, I will make mine public. If others

follow my example, the old back-door dealing will be forced out of favor.

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

My platform is to:

INCREASE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

MAKE ROAD HOME AND LRA RULES PUBLIC: Effective legislative oversight is required. I own no political favors and my independence is necessary.

INCREASE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FROM SEIZURE. The new exemption will be more in line with that of our neighboring states.

INSURANCE: Regional homeowners insurance regulation by a compact between the hurricane-prone states.

CONTRACTOR FRAUD PREVENTION: Requiring the Contractors Licensing Board to establish a standard form residential repair and rebuilding contract with mandatory use.

ENLARGE JURISDICTION OF JUDICIARY COMMISSION: Grant over judges and over clerks of court and district attorneys.

FLOOD PROTECTION/WETLAND RESTORATION: Get projects started as soon as possible and not wait for the Corps of Engineers.

MENTAL HEALTHCARE: Immediately increase the medical services including mental health.

INCREASE REVENUE FOR NEW ORLEANS: We've forced to make major purchases, including building materials, in other parishes causing a windfall there. I will sponsor legislation to correct this injustice and increase sales tax revenues for New Orleans.

REBUILDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS: I will sponsor legislation to create a Public School Infrastructure Authority as a temporary entity to take possession and ownership, in trust, of damaged public school property, including FEMA and insurance funds, for purposes of repairing buildings or demolition and rebuilding. Educators will have input but we need engineers and builders not teachers to rebuild schools.

EDUCATION: Children a stable and safe environment conducive to learning. Even teachers are not safe. Require all schools to maintain all building facilities. If they fail state officials act in an assisting role, then a supervisory role, and finally a state takeover.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: Juveniles are committing murder and other crimes of violence. The system is a revolving door for offenders. I will sponsor legislation to restructure the juvenile court system as started by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003.

NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK: I will sponsor legislation to give City Park a sufficient revenue source for the future. The City Park Tax District legislation is too defective to ever work.

REPEAL SOUVENIR MONOPOLY: Repeal Act 470 of 2007 (by the incumbent) which grants the S&WB exclusive rights over water meter cover images. Artists replicating the image for T-shirts, mugs, etc. are subject to a fine of \$5,000.00 for each item sold. The S&WB needs to repair and maintain the city water and sewer systems - not be in the gift shop business.

CRIMINAL LAW: The criminal law system is in need of rapid reform. We need stricter penalties for gun use and crimes against children. D.A.s must be held accountable. We also need state-of-the-art regional crime labs.

HEALTHCARE AND NEW ORLEANS MEDICAL COMPLEX:

Medical complex areas need to be a transportation hubs and then are needed now.

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

It falls short of requiring openness in the legislative 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.

This is complicated as some needs qualify for FEMA funding, but federal regulations require reimbursement after repairs or partial local funding. My first priority will be to find a way to fund the local funding requirements. Second, there must be strict timetables for repairs. Third, repairs must coordinate with other recovery efforts.

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

I have seen technology change workforce needs. We need to identify future trends and needs. It's too late to "catch up". Identify future needs and train for those needs beginning in schools so students have the necessary basics.



Thomas J. Kennedy

NO RESPONSE



Edwin Murray

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 PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat
 PROFESSION: Attorney
 PRESENT EMPLOYE/POSITION: Murray, Darnell & Associates, LLC (Partner)
 HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION: Loyola University School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1985
 APPLICABLE TRAINING: I think my experience in the Legislature equips me to handle the job of Senator for this district.
 CIVIC EXPERIENCE: New Zion Baptist Church, Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, Bancroft Park Civil Association, Save Our Cemeteries
 POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION
 MEMBERSHIPS: Treme Improvement Political Society, Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee (1984-1988), Louisiana House of Representatives (1992-2004) and Louisiana State Senate (2005-Present)

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

My top three priorities are infrastructure recovery for our city, health delivery system and education (both K-12 and higher education). I believe promoting these three items will help attract our citizens to stay in our city, attract others to move or come back to our city and help with our economy.

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

I will continue to push to restore the infrastructure through use of the design build concept. I will also continue to advocate full funding to keep the LSU Medical Center here in New Orleans and to build a new Charity Hospital (along with primary care clinics throughout the city). I will also push to restore our college and university programs; along with making sure we provide the resources to improve our K-12 public education system.

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

I think the problem with our existing ethics law is a lack of enforcement. I believe we should properly fund the Ethics Administration Office and provide an adequate staff.

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 rank our infrastructure needs for this area as follows: our sewer and water system, police and fire stations; and health care facilities. I believe we can fund the respective improvements through a combination of FEMA dollars, State Capital Outlay dollars, Local General Fund dollars and funds from the Bond Issue approved by the voters in a few years ago.

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

I would continue to support legislation and funding to help train healthcare workers, construction trades and maritime workforce.

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

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