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State Senator, 7th Senatorial District

[Jonathan C. Bolar](#). [David Heitmeier](#). [Paul Richard](#).

Jonathan C. Bolar

NO RESPONSE

David Heitmeier

NAME:

David R. Heitmeier

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PARTY AFFILIATION:

Democrat

PROFESSION:

Doctor of Optometry

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION:

Founder and managing partner of Heitmeier & Armani Surgical Eye Care Center

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION:

University of Houston, Doctor of Optometry, 1987

APPLICABLE TRAINING:

1979 Holy Cross High School, National Honor Society

1984 University of Southwestern Louisiana, BS College of Biological, Math & Physical Sciences, Honor Graduate

1987 University of Houston, Doctor of Optometry, Gold Key Honor Society

CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

LA State Healthcare Task Force

Algiers Economic Development Foundation

Jefferson Chamber

Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry

Park Timbers Home Owners Association

Special Olympics Volunteer

Plantation Athletic Club Coach

AG State Reserve Agent

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL:

First Time Candidate

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS:

1987-Present

Heitmeier & Armani, Surgical Eye Care Center, Founder & Director, employs 30

people including 5 Doctors and Surgeons
 American Optometric Association Member
 Louisiana Optometric Association
 Best Practices for Doctors Lecturer
 Southern Professional Committee for Vision Service Plan
 Signet Armorlite and Kodak Lenses for Vision Service Plan



Paul Richard

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 PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
 PROFESSION: Commercial and Investment Real Estate
 PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION NAI / Latter & Blum, Inc.
 HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date): B.A., LSU, 1979
 APPLICABLE TRAINING: Graduate, New Orleans Regional Chamber, Jefferson Council Leadership Institute (1999), Fellow, Metropolitan Area Committee, Metropolitan Leadership Conference, Fellow, Loyola Institute of Politics (IOP)
 CIVIC EXPERIENCE: Louisiana Realtors, New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, NOMAR, Louisiana Commercial Investment Division; Harvey Canal Industrial Association; Gretna Economic Development Corporation; Board Member, Past-President, Founder, Algiers Economic Foundation (AEDF); Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; Advisory Board, Delgado Community College - Westbank; Advisory Board, Our Lady of Holy Cross College; Board Member, Arts Council of New Orleans; Board Member, Algiers Community Foundation; Board Member, Westbank Redevelopment Corporation (501 c-3); Board Member, De LaSalle Alumni Association; Board Member, Woodlands Park and Trails; Member, Steering Committee, Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) - Algiers District 12; Member, Steering Committee, Algiers Nexus; Member, Algiers Kiwanis Club - Morning Edition; Member, Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE); Alla Gras Community Festival; The Algiers Group (TAG); Captain, Manresa House of Retreats
 POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION
 MEMBERSHIPS:
 Director of Development, City of Gretna, (3 + Years)
 Jackie Clarkson for City Council & State Representative
 Jim Tucker for State Representative

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

Ethics in Government: We must restore ethics and integrity to the government: our elected officials must dedicate themselves to public service.

Coastal Erosion - Insurance Reform: We must fully fund Louisiana's Master Plan for Coastal Erosion to address our hurricane vulnerability; build the Hero Cut flood gate and finish the levee walls along the Harvey Canal; and complete the Corps of Engineers "1% Storm" solution. This must be done in combination with a Louisiana Insurance Reform Package which will help reduce insurance rates. There is no "de-linking" of these issues.

Health Care: We must end our healthcare crisis by allowing the money to follow the patient; creating community health centers within neighborhoods; address the uncompensated care issue affecting hospitals and medical professionals.

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

I fully support the Ethics 1 package regarding ethics and transparency for the Legislature.

Regarding coastal erosion, I will pass Legislation that will mandate funding of Louisiana's Master Plan for Coastal Erosion and earmark an allocation from the budget surplus that will be dedicated to coastal restoration and hurricane protection

I will also remain vigilant that the Corps will complete the 1% Storm Solution on the announced schedule, and endeavor to guarantee that the approximately \$200 million in Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues that will be deposited into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund will be strategically invested to stop coastal erosion and rebuild Louisiana's fragile coastline.

In addition, I will diligently monitor the 20 percent of the proceeds from the securitization of the Louisiana tobacco settlement that it be deposited into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund with a portion to be used for barrier island stabilization and preservation.

Finally, I will work closely with the Department of Insurance and with our Congressional Delegation to help develop a "best practices and programs" to address the cost of insurance in Louisiana. The insurance challenge will not be solved without developing a model that includes a federal solution. The insurance issue is a national coastal phenomenon that is too big for any one state to cover individually.

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

The existing ethics reform legislation is limited to the Legislature. What is good for the Legislature should be good for all levels of Government in Louisiana.

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.

Even though the State of Louisiana has a \$14 billion backlog of road improvements, it is imperative that the LA DOTD first address the impacted areas of Katrina and Rita. We cannot rebuild the Gulf Opportunity Zone area without rebuilding and/or repairing its roads, bridges, levees, municipal water and sewer systems. The cost should be covered by a leveraged funding model that includes FEMA, Federal Transportation dollars, and whatever match is available from DOTD and the Legislature. The Legislature must create a long-term transportation trust fund seeded by a portion of the short-term state surplus.

5. What legislation would you support to educate a workforce for advancing the

economic development of Louisiana?

I will propose Legislation to link workforce development with industry need and suggest funding to provide connectivity with the Community Colleges and Louisiana Technical Institute (LTI) through the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). I also believe BESE and the Legislature should accelerate the "high school re-design initiative," guarantee that there is coordination and alignment between the Board of Regents and LCTCS, and provide a dual track option for all students. In every scenario, an additional unit of math should be mandated for all secondary schools.

Finally, we must "connect the dots" within and across communities, political jurisdictions and/or regions by identifying available capital and knowledge-based assets and connecting them to industry and business needs. This will entail a regional labor and/or development based initiative to position the State to compete in today's global economy. It will require aggressive leadership and a coordinated, strategic, and cohesive effort.

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

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