



[HOME](#)

[2007 ELECTION INFO](#)

[VOTER REGISTRATION](#)

[FALL 2007 CANDIDATE GUIDE-ORLEANS](#)

[FALL 2007 CANDIDATE GUIDE-JEFFERSON](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[LWVNO NEWSLETTERS](#)

[LINKS](#)

[ELECTION ARCHIVES](#)

[JOIN LWV](#)

[DONATE TO US](#)

[ABOUT LWV](#)

- [Voter Education](#)
- [Vision, Beliefs, & Intentions](#)
- [History of the League](#)
- [Action & Advocacy](#)

State Senator, 9th Senatorial District

[David Gereighty](#). [Stephen J. Scalise](#). ["Polly" Thomas](#).

David Gereighty

NO RESPONSE



Stephen J. Scalise

NAME: Steve Joseph Scalise

CAMPAIGN WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.stevescalise.com>

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PUBLICATION:

Address: 3100 Ridgelake, Suite 309, Metairie, LA, 70002

Phone: (504)831-3105

FAX: (504)831-3108

E-mail: steve@stevescalise.com

PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

PROFESSION: Technology industry

PRESENT EMPLOYER/POSITION Eventure Technologies/ Systems Engineer

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date): Bachelor of Science from LSU, 1989

APPLICABLE TRAINING: BS in Computer Science, Minor in Political Science

CIVIC EXPERIENCE: Serve on the following boards: Teach for America of New Orleans, Jefferson Senior Center, American Italian Renaissance Foundation. Also member of Suburban Terrace Civic Association, East Jefferson Italian American Society, and Young Leadership Council to name a few.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

State Representative, District 82, 1996-present; member of the Republican Legislative Delegation, Taxpayer Protection Caucus (Chairman), Jefferson and Orleans Legislative Delegations, Greater New Orleans Pachyderms.

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

Speed of the Recovery
Improve ethics
Reform the budget and tax code

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

Recovery: Address the insurance crisis by creating incentives to bring more companies to the state to increase competition and lower rates for homeowners; Improve flood protection so people can feel safe in their homes; fund comprehensive coastal restoration program so we can

replenish the marsh and coastland that used to serve as barriers to big storms.

Crime: Give law enforcement the tools they need to stop the increase in violent crime in our communities. Provide additional funding to maintain the presence of national guard troops and state police in the City of New Orleans until they can rebuild the criminal justice system and prevent crime from coming into surrounding parishes.

Ethics: Increase financial disclosure laws for elected officials. Implement a zero-tolerance policy against political corruption by eliminating taxpayer-funded retirement benefits from politicians convicted of public corruption.

Budget and Tax Reform: Cut the bloated state budget and require that government live within its means. Eliminate taxes that make our state less competitive for families and businesses.

Education: Maintain strong accountability laws and fully-fund the TOPS scholarship program. Continue to support the successful charter school movement that is reforming public education in New Orleans. Make sure education funding is focused in the classroom so teachers get the pay they deserve.

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

I don't think the recent proposals go far enough. We need the strongest penalties in the nation so we send the message that political corruption will not be tolerated in Louisiana. People need to know they do not have to pay someone off to do business in our state.

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.

They are all important but we need to begin restoring our coast before it's too late. State funds need to be leveraged with federal funds to fully-fund the master coastal restoration plan and maximize the OCS revenue we will receive. We need to spend less on a large transportation bureaucracy in Baton Rouge and put more dollars into rebuilding our roads across the state. We need to ensure that our bridges are safe. Tax revenue generated from automobile purchases need to be spent on infrastructure improvements in the parishes where the purchasers live.

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

We need to revamp our state Department of Labor to put more emphasis on educating people for the jobs that exist. That means establishing a stronger link between vocational-technical schools and community colleges and the businesses that are in need of workers with specific skills so our workforce dollars are being spent training people for the jobs that exist.



"Polly" Thomas

NAME: Polly Thomas

CAMPAIGN WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.pollythomas.com>

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PUBLICATION:

Address: 3204 A Lake Villa Drive, Metairie, LA 70002

Phone: 504-455-4858

FAX: 504-455-4859

E-mail: polly@pollythomas.com

PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican

PROFESSION: Professor of Special Education

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

University of New Orleans

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION (include graduation date): Ph.D., 1977

APPLICABLE TRAINING: wife, mother, grandmother, daughter; community

volunteer; served in Baton Rouge for 18 months as Assistant Superintendent of Special Educational Services

CIVIC EXPERIENCE:

Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, Board Member (1999-2006, 2007); Government Committee (2006-2007); Special Events Committee ((2006-2007)

Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, Political Action Committee, Board Member (2002-present); Chair (2004-2006)

FBI Citizens Academy (2007)

Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation Board (2001-present)

Jefferson Parish Charter Advisory Committee (2001-2002)

Jefferson Beautification Board (2001-2005)

Top 10 by 2010 (2001)

East Jefferson Hospital Foundation Board (1999-present)

Gala Committee (2005-2006)

Annual Giving Committee (2007)

Metairie Woman's Club (1999-present); Civic Chairman (2004-2007); Treasurer (2007-present)

League of Women Voters, Secretary (2001)

Member, St. Catherine of Siena School Board, 1978-89 (President, 1983-85)

Co-chairman, Project Lazarus Annual Dinner (1998)

Editor, Jefferson Twenty five Newsletter (1998-2005)

Host Committee, Great Chefs of Jefferson, Jefferson Community School (1998, 1999)

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Advisory Council (1996-1999)

Jeff 2000, Quality of Life Committee, Education Subcommittee (1996-97)

Archbishop's Community Appeal (1996, 1997, 1999, 2000)

Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL), Board Member (1992-2001)

Steering Committee, Jefferson Dollars for Scholars (1993-94)

Education Committee of the East Jefferson Chamber of Commerce (1992-98)

Board Member, Louisiana Branch of the Orton Dyslexia Society (1991-96)

Education Committee of the East New Orleans Chamber of Commerce (1990-91)

Judge, Teacher of the Year, East Jefferson Chamber of Commerce (1991)

Development Advisory Board, St. Catherine of Siena (1991)

MAC Leadership Forum Resource Person, Creating a Learning Society (1991)

Committee member, Jewish National Fund "Tree of Life" Award Dinner (1989)

Honorary chairman, Gotham City Gala, Benefit for EENT Hospital (1989)

Judge, Essays on hearing facility, Southern New Orleans Assoc. of the Deaf (1981-87)

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

MEMBERSHIPS:

Jefferson Parish School Board, District VIII (1992-1999); Vice President (1994, 1999); President (1995)

Vice Chairman, Republican Party of Louisiana (2004-2008)

State Central Committee, District 80C, Republican Party (1999-2004)
State Central Committee, District 80B, Republican Party (2004-2008)
Jefferson Parish Executive Committee, District 6, Republican Party (1999-2004)
Jefferson Parish Executive Committee, At Large, Republican Party (2004-2008)
East Jefferson Republican Women, President (2002)
Pelican State Pachyderm Club, Board Member (2005-2006)
Fellow, Institute of Politics, Loyola University (1990-91)

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

a. Making home-owners' insurance available and affordable. Lack of available and affordable insurance is the single biggest deterrent to maintaining our population and creating a new group of homeowners.

b. Maintaining effective education reforms and instituting new initiatives (e.g., requiring all elementary students to master grade-appropriate basic math and reading skills before moving on to the next grade) to improve education at all levels from preschool through post-secondary education including workforce development. These reforms are both short-term and long-term solutions. According to the Southern Education Foundation, Louisiana's rank of 50th in per capita income is due largely to our low levels of education. We must raise the education level of all our citizens in order to be economically prosperous.

c. Continuing to educate our citizens and our fellow countrymen about the economic, cultural, and ecologic value of our coast - America's WETLAND - to the nation and to our quality of life. Our coastal waters transport 30% of the oil and gas that enters the U.S., are the nursery that provides 40% of the commercial fisheries in the lower 48 states, provide 50% of the shrimp, and are the largest producer of oysters. The port system is the most important in the U.S. for total tonnage shipped. Together, coastal fisheries and the port have an annual economic impact of over \$30 billion and support over 280,000 jobs.

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

a. Support a local, state, and national alliance like that proposed in the last regular session to achieve availability and affordability of insurance for our citizens. I support the proposed Gulf Coast Insurance Summit. Gulf states must work together to produce a coordinated and comprehensive plan to overcome this very real threat to our lifestyles and livelihoods.

b. Expand and fund LA-4 programs; institute programs that would ensure that students in grades 1-4 have mastered basic skills in math and reading appropriate for their grade level before moving to the next grade and provide the resources necessary; support career education at secondary level; support rapid-response technical education at post-secondary level; support workforce training programs in concert with employers; support higher education.

c. Support the Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, and the emerging comprehensive recommendations supporting the multiple lines of defense strategy; support and will take a leadership role in the development of a Louisiana Coastal Land Trust which will allow landowners to place surface management rights of

their coastal properties under a unified coastal program. (The trust will best be operated by a not-for-profit organization and the owners will retain their mineral rights.); continue to develop and expand Wetlands Trust Funds to use as a match when attracting the federal dollars (in order to avoid taxing citizens).

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

Support financial disclosure for members of the legislature to include ranges and sources of income; remove the loophole that allows legislators to accept tickets to sporting and cultural events under \$100 each from lobbyists; require legislators to identify themselves as requesting "earmark" appropriations for recipients and certain pertinent information about the organization (e.g., board of directors, purpose of the funds, detailed budget subject to audit); conduct all business in the light of day; make available as much information as is possible to the public; enforce the existing ethics laws and remove any loopholes. I have signed to support Blueprint 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.

Transportation needs, ports, and ecosystem reconstruction

Transportation needs include roads and bridges which are funded primarily from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). This fund receives revenue from a gas and diesel tax which is projected to have a shortfall for the federal match by 2009. CABL and Blueprint Louisiana both recommend redirecting existing transportation-related revenues into the TTF. According to CABL and Gary LaGrange, CEO of the Port of New Orleans, the ports need \$750 -850 million to upgrade facilities to compete with Mobile and Houston. LaGrange expects the funding to come from a combination of state and private money. I consider ecosystem reconstruction to come under the umbrella of restoring coastal Louisiana. Funding comes from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, Outer Continental Shelf funds, and the CIAP and CWPPRA programs.

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

Require public high schools to offer technical and career-oriented courses that can lead to industry certificates and/or apprenticeships for training. Fund rapid response initial and incumbent worker training programs that meet the immediate needs of employers in critical need areas. See answer 1 b.

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

© Copyright League of Women Voters of New Orleans, Louisiana. All rights reserved.