

Candidate Responses

The Urban Water Plan has set the foundation for New Orleans' pathway to living with water and for complementing our traditional pumps, pipes and canals approach with green infrastructure. How will you spur investment into water-inclusive infrastructure projects, such as those in the plan, and how would your administration support a community-driven process of implementation?

Brandon Dorrington

Investment, proper budgeting, and prioritizing effectively. Supporting a community driven process implementation program would include the environmental justice experts, researchers, and qualified recommendations from concerned citizens and a plan that is executed on a weekly, monthly, and quarterly bases.

LaToya Cantrell

- I've always supported community-driven processes
- Prioritize parts of the Urban Water Plan, including looking at ways to include water retention in new developments.
- The federal government awarded \$141 million for water projects and resiliency, but the City has been slow to spend it. We need to spend the money, show success and collaborate with state and federal officials to get more funding.
- Look into other federal programs for funding such as the Water Infrastructure Act which dispensed 6 billion dollars in loan funding in 2017.
- Prioritize investment into our water management

Matthew Hill

I will wield more funds by dissolving the SWB and reorganizing it under Public Works. Since I will be combining Streets, Storm Surge, and Rain Water I will be able to wield new grants and funding streams. I will be construction of a new street system that will combine all three of these systems. Since we need to find sinkholes, we must dig up our streets and replace the foundation. If we do that then I want to replace it with porous street and traditional sewer system. I want the top layer of street to be porous recycled plastic (no more potholes) and under that layer I want a traditional sewer system so that our streets act as drainage canals as well as driveable streets. Once connected all of our streets will create a giant irrigation canal system. I am designing our entire system to take on billions of gallons of water and never flood. We are smarter than the problems that face us.

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

Michael Bagneris

First thing we've got to do is take full advantage of the money we already have on the table. Including some \$140 million from HUD that's been sitting there for over a year. I know there can be some bureaucratic hurdles in freeing that money up, but between my experience as a judge and as Executive Council for mayor Dutch Morial, I know how to make things happen and I will free that money up.

Same thing with the \$2 billion from FEMA. We've received about \$700 million but need to take full advantage of that money before the feds change their mind... which they're already starting to do.

So first thing is to take advantage of the money already available, which we have not done. Which speaks to the larger issue we've seen at city hall- the city has dropped the ball. Between failures and S&WB, mismanaging federal housing dollars, and the horrible attrition rate at NOPD... everything comes back to leadership. I have the experience in private industry and all three branches of government. I can – and will - make it happen. We don't have a revenue problem at the city- we have a spending AND accountability issue.

As for supporting water-inclusive infrastructure programs—as of now, it's the law. Article 23 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance requires new builds account for the first inch and a quarter of rainfall, the city has to do its job to treat all parties fairly and enforce the law equally. I also believe we need to lead by example.

Troy Henry

I am very supportive of idea of green infrastructure but we will need to establish that the cost-benefit calculation for these projects is superior to the investments in drains, pumps, and turbines. Using S&WB funds may be a challenge but if the numbers pan out I will support it. Also, I am a big fan of community input into resource planning – my consulting firm managed the overall UNOP process and I saw firsthand how well it can work.

How will you incentivize small scale stormwater management interventions at the neighborhood and homeowner levels?

Brandon Dorrington

Investment, proper budgeting, and prioritizing effectively. Supporting a community driven process implementation program would include the environmental justice experts, researchers, and qualified recommendations from concerned citizens and a plan that is executed on a weekly, monthly, and quarterly bases.

LaToya Cantrell

- We would explore using existing city funds, such as CDBG funds, and using infrastructure funds for water management that ties to affordability and sustainability of city projects.
- Look at providing offsets on individual S&WB bills for those homeowners that capture water on their properties.

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- Leverage the work currently being done by NORA to create stormwater drainage projects on vacant lots.
- Empower neighborhoods to green and clean vacant and blighted lots, in order to store additional storm water.
- Encourage a storm water PACE program (property assessed clean energy) that would allow land owners to finance storm water management projects.

Matthew Hill

I won't because my street system will take on ALL rain water and storm surge. I believe that rainwater storage is smart for many reasons but not to fix solutions that the city is responsible for. Having a porous road system with sewer system under it will end flooding all together and it will minimize the amount of water that gets into the water table. Since less water will be sitting and sinking into the water table we will not be pumping as much ground water. The pumping is what causes subsidence. The way we currently manage our water is the reason why this city is sinking, this is why we must manage our water in a different way. It is up to the city to solve infrastructure problems, not the citizen. I will not introduce fees, taxes, or interventions that the citizen will be responsible for. Storm drains should be cleaned out by the city not the citizens.

Michael Bagneris

People respond to incentives, that's economics 101. Rather than charging additional stormwater fees, I'd rather incentivize people and businesses to integrate green infrastructure and permeable concrete in to houses and businesses. We have \$40 million in HUD money available to, in part, incentivize private entities to retain water on their own property within the Gentilly Resilience District. I believe they're soon to issue an RFP for this. I'd like to see what proposals we get and how well the various programs work. One we find something effective, we bring it to scale. We have to face the facts: We can't pump our way out of this problem. We're already retaining water during water events. The question is – do you want that to be in the middle of the street, or in your house? Or do you want it in a designed retention pond. Lastly - and again - we have to do a better job with enforcement. Article 23 of the comprehensive zoning ordinance REQUIRES new builds meet the criteria for storm water management plan. Again-city hall dropped the ball. This is not evenly and fairly enforced. It's unfair, it's wrong, and it hurts all of us when some people have to follow all the rules and others don't. I was a judge for a long time. I know something about upholding the law.

Troy Henry

This is important to the city and its citizens; my expectation is that any public investment in projects on private and will be multiplied by the property-owner's investments. But again, the cost-benefit analysis is critical and may yield different answers in different locations. The ideal incentive program will require some actual measurement of effectiveness.

What steps would you take as Mayor to improve transparency and effectiveness of the SWB?

Brandon Dorrington

Selection of better qualified personnel and staff with proper backgrounds relating to sewage and water and through hands on interaction with equipment, maintenance, and inspections.

LaToya Cantrell

- Better use of technology for transparency and customer service. No more paper logs. Apps for real time condition and status of our pumping infrastructure so people know what is going on.
- Consider folding SWB in to city government as a department so make it more accountable to citizens.
- Improve communication between DPW, S&WB and the Corps of Engineers, especially during large rain events.

Matthew Hill

I plan on dissolving the SWB so that the entity does not exist anymore. It will be reorganized under Public Works so that it is directly under the executive branch where it belongs. Roads, Rainwater, and Storm Surge will all be under one department so that it can be directly managed and have proper oversight. As far as transparency is concerned, we are going to begin measuring every aspect of the performance of the department so that we can measure the performance of the department and how effective it is. With constant measuring we will be able to tailor specific projects to be more efficient. This measuring will go on indefinitely so that we will always know how the system is performing and be able to pinpoint anomalies in service so that we can address problems.

Michael Bagneris

First we must conduct a comprehensive audit by a third party. We need to fully understand what's going on in terms of operations, true condition of assets, capacity, infrastructure and waste. The Board and City government have been less than forthright. We need a complete and accurate picture before we can address the systemic deficiencies therein. And to ensure complete transparency and accountability, the firm selected to conduct that assessment should not be eligible to contract for long-term management responsibilities. We need to have the facts before we act.

Once the audit is complete, I will solicit policy recommendations from the National Regulatory Research Institute to help build out the best organizational and governance structure for the Sewerage and Water Board. I will not privatize our water. Yet it should be clear to all that the current governance structure simply does not work. Our water and drainage systems are far too critical to the livability of our City to risk another misstep. How we restructure this entity must be done right and I will not indulge idle speculation as to what that may look like for the sake of political expediency.

Simultaneous to this, we will take informed emergency steps to get our pumping stations working at capacity. I realize this will be a short term fix and costly at that, but our homes, history, and livelihoods are worth it. It's clear that those turbines and pumps have been held together with spit and glue for decades now, and it will take a lot of both to get them up and running until we have a functional system with true – and trustworthy leadership at the top.

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Troy Henry

- Appoint executives and board members with a tradition of honesty and trustworthiness, and actual experience in the industry.
- Serve as an active member of the Board and carefully monitor the activities of the senior staff.
- Insist that the objectives and performance of the organization are posted on the web for everyone to see, and that the information is tested for accuracy.
- Dismiss anyone who doesn't tell the truth – to me or to the public.
- Deploy Performance Management Systems throughout the S&WB organization so that each and every employee knows exactly what is expected and necessary for them to do.
- Start a Barrel management program so that orange barrels don't clutter our streets indefinitely and that the underlying problems are fixed in a timely manner.
- Begin the process of migrating away from 25 Cycle power to a modern standard
- Implement an automated metering program
- Reduce the water main replacement interval to a national standard
- Keep the catch basins clean and clear

Our water resources are not confined to the borders of Orleans Parish, but how they are managed often changes at the Parish line. What role, if any, should New Orleans take towards coordinating water management and coastal restoration on a regional level?

Brandon Dorrington

Collaborating with bordering parishes initially and management not changing at the Orleans parish line through innovation, 21st century technology, and accountability and better responsibility.

LaToya Cantrell

- We need collaborative effort with other parishes.
- We should look at ways to limit our runoff and work with other parishes to have uniform amounts and metrics.
- The first step is reaching out to other parishes in the spirit of partnership.

Matthew Hill

We already coordinate with Jefferson Parish as well as St. Bernard Parish. What we need to do is improve our systems and structures. Our equipment needs to be updated and our tools need to be up to date. We do a good job of coordinating with other Parishes, we need to focus on Orleans Parish and updating our infrastructure.

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

Michael Bagneris

City hall isn't even communicating among its own departments on this subject let alone considering working with neighboring parishes. We absolutely have to do a better job of regionalization. There's a lot we can learn from Jefferson Parish on water management. They got the same 8 inches of rain fall we did on August 5th but didn't flood. Why's that? Wally Pontiff Park. It doubles as a retention pond. We have plenty of parks, but we're not using them in the same way. And I understand that lots of residents are wary about the idea of retention ponds. I get it. We've been taught our whole life to pump it out. Fact is – WE ARE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO RETAIN WATER. The question is if you want it held in a green space by design, or do you want it in the street or in your house.

Troy Henry

There are always many opportunities for the City to coordinate with state and other local authorities, on water and other issues. The first step is to establish positive, forward-thinking relationships with public officials in other communities, which a good Mayor should do under any circumstances, and which I have done, often, as a private citizen, stakeholder, and consultant. Secondly, planning staff at the S&WB and DPW will be responsible for identifying opportunities at the regional level.

Water management is the fastest growing and highest paying sector in the state. What workforce training and placement strategies will you implement in line with the large green infrastructure and water resilience investments that are being made in the next few years in our City? And how will you publicize it to eligible participants?

Brandon Dorrington

Allowing local community colleges to expand curriculum concerning water management and repair and through townhall meetings, forums, and seminars throughout Orleans parish.

LaToya Cantrell

- Partner with local businesses and entrepreneurs to tailor training programs to business needs. New Orleans should be the leader in these industries.
- Encourage local colleges and universities to offer training and degrees in areas relevant to water management.
- Work with area high schools, Job Corps and the new citywide Career Technical Education currently being developed by OPS to develop vocational training programs.

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Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

- Use all available communications to publicize the training opportunities: traditional media, City announcements, schools, social media, television, radio and digital advertising.

Matthew Hill

There are 300 open positions that we cannot fill in the SWB because we cannot find qualified candidates. We could just do old fashioned "on the job training" to get our workers up to date. At this point we need to hire people and train them after the fact. This is where we can begin teaching green behavior. I would like to point out that MOST people who live in Orleans Parish do NOT recycle. They are not used to separating trash and recycling so they don't. If we want to train people in green infrastructure we need to begin with making sure that they recycle in the first place. This may seem mundane, but if we do not change people's habits then we cannot hope to make much headway when it comes to dealing with green infrastructure. If people do not care enough to separate trash then or stop littering then training green strategies is not going to get far. We need to lead by example when it comes to recycling and composting. I will introduce a very robust recycling and composting program to get trash companies, recycling companies, and citizens to be on the same page.

Michael Bagneris

New Orleans is ground zero for green infrastructure and civil engineering. We have some incredible minds that have been drawn here because of the challenges our unique environment and relationship with water creates. Some of those minds helped create the Urban Water Plan that set the standard for what modern water management should look like. I believe in hiring the best person for the job. Simple as that. As for workforce development- one of the things I've indicated is that I would like to open an Office of Family Services and Education in City Hall. This office will focus on – among other things – getting vocational training programs back in our schools. I would like you see our youth and workforce training greatly diversified. Right now, everything is geared toward a 4 year degree. We have great industrial potential, a medical corridor, massive infrastructure needs and obviously- massive GREEN infrastructure needs. We need our youth to be better prepared for the jobs that are going to be available here. As for publicizing to participants- we have the RFP process for contractors, as well as the office of workforce development, STRIVE, NOLA YouthWorks as well as the city's social media platforms to solicit applications.

Troy Henry

I am already on record as supportive of training programs that match the new jobs that I will bring to New Orleans. To make this work, I will convene meetings between public water-related agencies and their contractors on one hand, and the local educational institutions on the other. Individuals will still need to make their own decisions about which training to pursue, but the mayor's job is to ensure that the right training programs are in place.

Do you plan to continue or improve upon the city's existing Climate Action Strategy, and why or why not?

Brandon Dorrington

Yes. I plan to continue but would like to modify, amend, and adjust outdated policy and ineffective guidelines and establish 21st century methods.

2017 Mayoral Race Candidates Forum

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

LaToya Cantrell

- Yes, I support the climate strategy, which is part of the Resilience Strategy.
- A couple of improvements : recycling program that includes glass and a waste program that encourages composting.
- We need to continue to keep the strategy relevant by updating it to incorporate new technologies and strategies from best practices.

Matthew Hill

The Climate Action Strategy is full of holes and should be scrapped and started over. This city does not even recycle GLASS, this action strategy is not going to work if we don't do a few things first. 1) We need a better recycling program. 2) We need to start using more propane in our vehicles. 3) We need to pull power lines out of the sky and put them into the ground. 4) Solar Power Sidewalks. 5) End Entergy's Monopoly of the electrical grid. Call in a company to compete and have them build a plant that is more green (Nuclear is very green but it is not what anyone wants in their back yard.) We do not have enough land for solar farms but we do have water that moves and we can build floating solar farms. 6) Our roads need to drain all water, runoff, storm surge, and flood water so that we reduce pumping water out of the ground. 7) Reduce the amount of water we let into the ground. 8) Change personal behaviors that are detrimental to the environment. Littering is out of control in this city. The city's plan needs more imagination.

Michael Bagneris

Yes. Right now, we produce about 3.6 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent, the vast majority from energy production and transportation. Reduce reliance on carbon-intensive fuels and move toward renewables, especially solar. New Orleans is #9th per capita in solar usage nationally. A lot of that is because of state tax credits that covered half the cost of solar panels. I'm sad to say, due to the current budget situation at the state level – and possibly other, more nefarious reasons – those tax credits no longer exist. We need the state to reinstate those tax credits if we're going to halve our carbon footprint by 2030. Even ranked 9th in the nation, we're still only using 3% of our solar potential. We've got a lot of room for growth. Lastly- the most important thing I plan to do with this plan is act on it. It's called an action strategy but the way the current administration operates it plays more as a PR strategy. That's not how I plan to run this city.

Troy Henry

I do plan to promote actions that reduce the City's carbon footprint. I will continue the Office of Resilience and Sustainability (ORS), but make it more effective than it is now. The Climate Action Strategy did a great job of identifying many specific ways in which the citizens of New Orleans and their city government can minimize climate impact and adapt to climate change. Although we can and should modify the Strategy over time, the time for implementation is now. The road will be long and many of these initiatives are only in the early stages. Continued success will depend on attention to the facts: actual reductions in emissions and the costs incurred.

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State law requires agencies to evaluate a project's compatibility with the State Coastal Master Plan before giving it the green light. By contrast, the city scrutinizes only a limited number of local projects for compatibility with New Orleans' Resilience Strategy which has resulted in uncoordinated development activity. Should the full range of capital and road projects in the city be screened for best practices under both plans?

Brandon Dorrington

Yes.

LaToya Cantrell

- Every infrastructure the city invests in should be an improvement from what exists.
- Roadway projects will be vetted for improvements that reduce storm water runoff and provide better urban spaces for people.
- The Resilience Strategies goals will be implemented as often as possible in DPW's roadway projects.

Matthew Hill

The city's Resilience Strategy is the reason why we have skyrocketing rents, increased cost of living, and mass gentrification. The Resilience Strategy is WRONG and I will end it. We will move to coordinated growth and planned community development. The city's CZO and Master Plan exacerbate the situation so they must be reviewed as well. If we want to curb gentrification we need to END the Resilience Strategy.

Michael Bagneris

This is another great example of how City Hall has dropped the ball. There is zero coordination between departments at city hall. We need a comprehensive solution to our water and drainage problem. For that to take place, we need collective buy-in and a mayor who leads. Instead of cleaning catch basins, the city's been paving over them. All the SELA projects we've got now at Jackson, Louisiana, Napoelon, and Florida don't meet the city's own standard now dictated in the CZO. There is no lateral communications among departments so time, energy and money is wasted. The office of resilience, Department of public works, parks and parkways, permitting, and Sewerage and water board DON'T WORK TOGETHER. Again, this goes back to the main theme we're hearing. City hall has dropped the ball and is more interested in PR strategies than action plans.

Troy Henry

Yes

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Due to the BP oil spill settlement, the city is eligible to receive millions of dollars for coastal restoration projects and can compete for millions more in settlement and matching funds. As these projects are critical to community protection and the city's resilience, how would you take full advantage of these funding opportunities?

Brandon Dorrington

Through investing and establishing a staff of environmental justice experts, researchers, and qualified personnel in order to impact future preventive measures.

LaToya Cantrell

- I would look to not only use the funds currently available, but also use those funded projects as examples for getting more money.
- New Orleans needs to become known for addressing climate change and protecting its citizenry. By doing so, we will encourage federal and private investment.

Matthew Hill

I want to protect us from storm surge and end our subsidence/sinking. Coastal Restoration past Lake Borgne. We need to continue to watch the balance of brackish water and make sure that we keep salt water out of our area. I want to invest in better monitoring of Lake Borgne and work with St. Bernard Parish to rebuild land that is disappearing. On the home front I want to begin stabilizing our ground. Aside from sinking, which is the result of how we regulate the water table, we need to begin rebuilding the ground under us. We can use a wedging system under the Mississippi River to deposit silt underground rather than on the surface. Sink holes are the result of not replacing silt and a constantly fluctuating water table. We are smarter than the problems that face us.

Michael Bagneris

First and foremost, one-time funds should not be spent on projects that have residual costs associated to them. We cannot treat onetime funds like recurring revenue. Second- we need to be sure that any proposed projects are sustainable and done in a collaborative manner. Lastly, we need to look for projects that will reduce our carbon footprint while improving quality of life for our citizens. Water threatens the very existence of our city. I don't want to sound bleak, but it does. Coastal erosion, sea level rise, and subsidence are a three-pronged threat that we must deal with, and must deal with now. I will pull out all the plugs to do it.

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

Troy Henry

We will pursue every dollar that might be available to us, and use what we get on projects that fit the eligibility requirements.

Would you consider turning sewer and water over to a private contractor?

Brandon Dorrington

No

LaToya Cantrell

No

Matthew Hill

No

Michael Bagneris

No

Troy Henry

(Did not respond)

Will you commit to meeting regularly with environmental experts and citizen stakeholders assembled by the Water Collaborative to maintain open dialogue about city projects and policies?

Brandon Dorrington

Yes

LaToya Cantrell

Yes

Matthew Hill

Yes

Michael Bagneris

Yes

Troy Henry

Yes

Would you push for wider application of Article 23 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance? For example, requiring new residential developments to manage the first inch and a quarter of water onsite?

Brandon Dorrington

Yes

LaToya Cantrell

Yes

Matthew Hill

Yes

Michael Bagneris

Yes

Troy Henry

(Did not respond)

Final Statement

Brandon Dorrington

The issue of living with water, proper planning prior to hurricane season, and sewage and flood prevention measures in infrastructure is my top priority and will be brought to 21st century green standards.

LaToya Cantrell

For more on my plan to address drainage infrastructure and living with water, see:
<https://latoyacantrell.com/2017/09/07/latoyas-plan-improving-drainage-infrastructure/>

Matthew Hill

We are smarter than the problems that face us and it is time to innovate our way past our problems. My road system will end flooding and significantly reduce our sinking. It will be expensive but as I said before, we will be able to wield different sources of money to help fund it. We need to have a better recycling program and we need our citizens to change their behaviors. Our future is not incumbent upon any one Mayor, our future is incumbent on you.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

(Did not respond)

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If applicable, can you commit to participating in a runoff debate sponsored by the same parties?

Brandon Dorrington

Yes

LaToya Cantrell

Yes

Matthew Hill

Yes

Michael Bagneris

Yes

Troy Henry

Yes

Audience Questions

The cost of protecting the city from hurricanes is only increasing. There have been 500 year and 1000 year storms in Baton Rouge, Houston, and Florida in just the last 2 years. By their own admission, oil and pipeline companies have caused a significant part of land loss which used to protect Orleans from storm surge. Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and four other parishes have sued industry. John Bel Edwards has said he will too. If elected, will you commit to filing a lawsuit - yes or no?

2017 Mayoral Race Candidates Forum

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

Brandon Dorrington

No

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

No

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

(Did not respond)

In the event of flooding, evacuation, and the possible need for shelter, what are your views on protecting the rights of immigrant families?

Brandon Dorrington

Assurance to be relocated.

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

Yes, of course. As an immigrant and the only Hispanic Candidate running for Mayor I find that question to be very shallow.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

Immigrants should have the same rights to safety and storm evacuation as anyone else. Bringing this promise to a reality requires that, first, services and communications are available to immigrants in their native languages, and second, immigrants can communicate with City representatives without the risk of deportation. For instance, it is not the job of the NOPD to do immigration enforcement, and if they do, their major mission is compromised.

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For residents of Lakeview/Mid-City, what is being done to fix our roadways? (They look like Nazi Germany after WWII.) The Emergency Response System should be able to send out alerts to all residents of a neighborhood as well as all cell phone of the local area code. Mail service is horrible. What can be done to correct this locally?

Brandon Dorrington

Collective collaboration with qualified, motivated, and dedicated concerned citizens, professionals, and governmental agencies.

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

For the residents of Lakeview/Mid-City there is nothing effective currently being done to fix your roads. They are patching some potholes but the answer is nothing. You need to take that up with your CURRENT Council member and or the CURRENT Mayoral Administration. The emergency response system is not designed to spread alerts by proximity. This will have to be addressed on the programming used by cell phone providers. Mail service is a Federal service, write to them or call your congressman. As far as the Mayor's office is concerned, I can reach out to the USPS and work with Cedric Richmond to get better services, kiosks, and more Post Offices.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

The answer to these problems is technology and publicity. I will have the City IT department develop and distribute a smartphone app that allows any citizen to take a picture of an infrastructure problem (a leak, a pothole, etc.), send it to the City, and receive a tracking number that will enable them to watch how long it takes to get fixed.

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

Where do you stand on water privatization, including public private partnerships and contracting out critical water system work?

Brandon Dorrington

Creating dialogue initiatives.

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

We will deal with our problems in house. I will not contract out water systems.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

There are several functions and projects for which the S&WB already uses private contractors. From my previous experience in the water industry, I am familiar with the advantages and risks of private contracting of public services. I will consider expanding the role of private contractors, but only where it makes sense. There are some functions which no private contractor would be willing to take on without protections that the City should not give.

I recently took on 4 feet of water in the last flood. Additionally, I file S&WB monthly complaints for my water bill being too high. My house is a new build, 400 sq. ft., energy/water saving appliances, and I pay on average \$350/mo. for water. The only bill ever overturned was one for \$96,000, which I have a copy of. If elected, how will you change the S&WB's oversight, structure, billing, draining and everything else that they touch?

2017 Mayoral Race Candidates Forum

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

Brandon Dorrington

Through innovative policy reconstruction.

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

I will dissolve the SWB and reorganize the duties under Public Works so that it falls directly under the Mayor's Office. I will have direct oversight and we will overhaul the management structure to streamline communication. I will overhaul all of the paperwork so that we reduce operational costs and improve quality. I will overhaul your billing so that we can reduce the cost and stop playing games. Also the practice of shakedowns will end. Employees will no longer be accepting bribes and or perform shakedowns to get side income. I will do this by fixing our process and overhauling practices within the organization. In the end the situation needs proper management and that is what I specialize in. If you want to fix the problem you need to fix the system.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

I have extensive experience with the water utility industry. The S&WB needs a complete overhaul, most importantly a new Board and Executive Team. Competent professionals should be able to solve the problems you mentioned, and as an experienced manager of water system and Chair of the Sewerage and Water Board I will watch them closely and hold them accountable.

How important do you think appointment of individuals to the Sewerage & Water Board Directors who have strong backgrounds in civil engineering, especially related to water management? If you think it is important, how would you as mayor and appointing authority, assume significant representation of individuals with these backgrounds on the S&WB Board of Directors?

2017 Mayoral Race Candidates Forum

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

Brandon Dorrington

Very important. First priority.

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

I will dissolve the SWB so there will be no more appointees, or appointees other than management. As I said before, I will reorganize SWB's responsibilities under Public Works so that it directly managed as a department within the Executive Branch. We will reduce operational costs and overhaul services so that we can reduce the cost to the citizen.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

I have written and spoken several times regarding the composition of the S&WB directors. We all need directors with experience in the water industry. From my days at United Water, I have an extensive network of professional contacts all over the country with experience in the water utility business. I intend to bring some of them to the Board in New Orleans.

Flood risk adaptation is not just about the Sewerage & Water Board. Where is the maintenance money for the levees? Do you support maintenance for the levees? How are you going to make sure fees are put in place for protection?

Brandon Dorrington

Transparency, accountability, and checks and balances.

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

I will not add or increase any fees. Fees do not guarantee your protection, August 5th was a very good example of that. Our levees need to be reevaluated for their protection potential. We do not have a good way of performing stress tests on our levees. We need to do more than have levees, we need to be able to channel water and mitigate

2017 Mayoral Race Candidates Forum

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

its ability to destroy levees. I believe that cisterns and holding tanks may need to be used to help stabilize levees. The Army Corps of Engineers needs to learn to think outside of the box because we need smarter solutions.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

Levee maintenance is now in the hands the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority, an agency of the State of Louisiana. The SLFPA continuously and consistently inspects, exercises and maintains all components of the flood protection systems (including the levees) year-round.

Animal agriculture has more greenhouse gas emissions than all global transportation combined. A 2016 Oxford University study recommended a 40% tax on meat to reduce consumption of meat and dairy due to its impact on climate change. What will you do to reduce consumption of meat and dairy?

Brandon Dorrington

Creating more agricultural green space, farms, and increasing supermarkets similar to whole foods with flexible prices.

LaToya Cantrell

(Did not respond)

Matthew Hill

It is not the city government's job to tell you what to eat or not eat. With the levels of child hunger and poverty in this city maybe we should focus on feeding people not raising the cost of food. By raising the cost of meat you are hurting the poor and elderly on fixed incomes. Rich Vegans can afford to eat that way not 65% of the population of Orleans Parish.

Michael Bagneris

(Did not respond)

Troy Henry

I've been a vegetarian for almost 40 years. In this matter I will lead by example.

2017 Mayoral Race Candidates Forum

Flood Risk & Adapting to Environmental Change

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