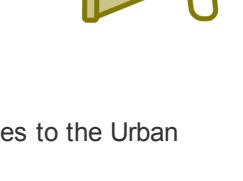


November 2021

Candidates Respond to UC Questionnaire



Vote informed this Saturday, November 13th! Learn where Council candidates stand on important issues such as: Infrastructure, Neighborhoods, Transit, and the Local Economy. Check out the responses to the Urban Conservancy's questionnaire [here](#).

Some of the candidates' responses exceeded the character limit of our design. Read their complete answers on our [public spreadsheet](#).

[Read Candidate Responses](#)



Local Holiday Shopping Matters More this Year

When you choose to support local retailers and restaurateurs this holiday season, you are not only keeping New Orleans' economy strong, you're helping keep the path to prosperity illuminated for our local business owners. For the independent business owner, the road ahead could –finally–look clear, if only unregulated e-commerce was made to stick to the rules of the road.

As small businesses begin to recover locally, their voices are being heard at a national level. Congress is set to consider bills in the House and Senate this fall which would remove one of the last roadblocks that keep local, neighborhood shop owners, pharmacists, grocers, booksellers and others from truly prospering. Congress will vote to regulate the nation's biggest mega corporations by preventing monopolies from leveraging control over multiple business lines, banning self-preferencing and other discriminatory conduct, and reducing consolidation within industries.

Business owners have built and operated their businesses without protection from aggressors who speed through the digital marketplace. It's time to stop this. Tell your elected official to keep markets fair and open to independent businesses [here](#).



UC President Clark Thompson speaks at Ride for Your Lives

Complete Streets Advocacy

As we get ready for the elections on November 13th, it is important to understand where future city leaders stand on the issue of Complete Streets, and how they plan to create more equitable transportation, smart and resilient infrastructure, and innovative uses of public space.

On October 9, cyclists from across New Orleans biked to City Hall to promote bike safety at the Ride for Your Lives rally. UC Board President, Clark Thompson, can be seen here speaking at the event, reminding mayoral and council candidates that cyclists are voters too, and calling for continued investment in the Complete Streets vision that prioritizes safe, connected passage for all people, including cyclists, regardless of mode of transit. Speakers reminded the audience of those lost to traffic accidents, and urged attendees to “stand up, speak out, and ride together.”

At an at-large council candidate forum held October 19 and organized by the New Orleans Complete Street Coalition, of which the Urban Conservancy is a member, UC director Dana Eness asked candidates, “How will you prioritize green infrastructure to create safer, less flood-prone streets?” [Read more about where Council and Mayoral candidates stand on these important issues](#).

Board Member Spotlight



Clark Thompson

About Clark

by R. Stephanie Bruno

Clark Thompson - the president of the Urban Conservancy Board of Directors - is many things to many people. To Toni Thompson, he is a husband and the father of their three children. To Gibbs & Cox, Inc., his employer, he's a superior naval engineer who has distinguished himself by becoming an expert in designing research vessels. As a committed cyclist, he advocates for complete streets and champions legislation aimed at protecting “vulnerable road users.” The list goes on and on and on.

Thompson says he joined the board of the Urban Conservancy five years ago because the nonprofit's mission and programs are closely aligned with his personal sense of civic purpose, especially the importance of each person adopting green infrastructure practices.

“I read the water management plan for the city from cover to cover and started implementing some of the strategies at home,” Thompson said. “It seems evident to me that we can lessen street flooding by capturing rain water where it falls and keeping it out of the streets and storm drains.”

Water conservation efforts include installing trees and native plants, a strategy Thompson implemented at home when he and his family moved to Faubourg St. John four years ago.

“Since then I've planted 11 trees - live oaks, hollies, crape myrtles. And now I have a wild garden, planted with lots of native plants,” he said. “It's exciting to see that a number of my neighbors have been inspired by it and ask me for advice about their gardens and landscapes.”

The neighbors aren't the only ones getting the message. Thompson said he was riding in the car with his 10-year-old daughter, Piper, one day when the child said something that was music to Thompson's ears. She said, “You know, dad, I can't decide if I want to be the scientist who discovers how to end climate change, or the politician who fights to fund the research.”

The Water Runoff At-Large Candidate Forum

The Urban Conservancy is co-hosting a New Orleans City Council candidate forum focused on water management in partnership with [The Water Collaborative](#) and [The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#).

City Council candidates still in the running after the primary election will discuss policy and budgetary issues facing Orleans Parish in the coming years. Specifically, we will discuss:

- Increased transparency and equity at Sewerage and Water Board
- Expanding Green Infrastructure to reduce localized flooding and enacting a Stormwater Fee
- Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Hurricane Preparedness

The forum will be held at The Broadside (600 N. Broad St.) on Tuesday, November 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. [Register for the event here!](#)

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is November 30th!

Participate in the global generosity movement this giving season.

[Donate](#)

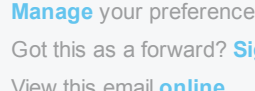
Our Initiatives

We create projects to meet the needs of our constituents; that's how [FYI](#), [BASIN](#), and [StayLocal](#) came about. Sometimes we just lend a hand to get big ideas off the ground. The Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative and the Lafitte Greenway are examples of some of our most recent collaborative efforts.



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