



## Begin preparing now for general election

October 22, 2007

We salute all those who went to the polls yesterday. You faced a very long ballot that in many places included statewide offices, seats on the Board of Elementary and Secondary education, legislative races, constitutional amendments and local propositions. The Council for a Better Louisiana says approximately 2,500 people were fighting for election or re-election.

It is time now to begin preparing for the Nov. 17 general election. The ballot will not be as long, but every vote will be important.

There may be some voters whose choices for public office all survived the primary, but many of you will need to re-think races in which candidates you supported lost. The task now is to look for run-off candidates who campaign on platforms duplicating or coming close to matching those of the unsuccessful contenders you supported in the primary vote.

Between now and the general election, *The Advertiser* will endorse candidates for statewide office. Beyond that, there will be *Advertiser* articles and candidate Web sites that will help you cast an informed vote.

CABL has done extensive interviews with the candidates, and you can access responses at [cabl.org](http://cabl.org). CABL maintains a non-partisan attitude in its questioning of candidates for statewide office and the Legislature. There are several other important features on its Web site, including copies of the organization's *Louisiana Fact Book for the 2007 Election* - described as "an easy-to-understand booklet with more than 200 data points showing where the state stands on important indicators."

If you expect to meet with candidates for office, the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana has constructed a booklet called *Questioning Candidates Beyond Platitudes*. It offers tough, meaningful questions for candidates, addressing such issues as restructuring tax and spending policies, strengthening the workforce through educational realignment, meeting the standards of education accountability, funding health care for the uninsured, and funding the "big ticket" needs. Those needs include several multi-billion dollar projects that the council says should be addressed to improve the quality of life.

If you are going to be talking to candidates, we suggest you visit [la-par.org/](http://la-par.org/) and arm yourself with strong, significant questions.

Along with these information sources, you will want to know how candidates stand on Blueprint Louisiana. Proposals for reform have been gathered at meetings of representatives from business, civic, religious and other organizations. The end result is a reform agenda to be presented to candidates for office. Bills will be written for submission to the Legislature. Candidates should endorse Blueprint Louisiana.

Selections should be made on the basis of thorough study and thoughtful consideration. To cast an informed vote, it is necessary to understand the functions and duties of each office on the

ballot and the qualifications that would make a candidate effective in fulfilling them. Do your homework.