



## **Our view: Smart voters know the issues, the candidates**

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Southern Louisiana has dominated and may continue to dominate the conversation in the state capital, but Central Louisiana has needs, too. We will soon elect two new state representatives in districts 25 and 26 and may send one incumbent back for his last term or send a new one in his place in District 27. It's important for the future of this region that the right candidates represent us.

Here are some questions that, we hope, will get meaningful responses. Some are our own, others are courtesy of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana's election guide, "Questioning Candidates Beyond the Platitudes":

On taxes:

- Do you support further modifications to the Stelly Plan tax reforms? Why or why not?
- How would you adjust the corporate tax structure to improve the state's rankings on business climate indices?
- Are there business tax incentives you would implement to expand and diversify industry in the state?
- Do you support the continued use of tax credits like those for movie productions? Why?

On workforce development:

- Which public entity should be responsible for tracking and planning the state's workforce development? Why?
- Which public entity should be responsible for implementing workforce training programs?
- How can institutions be encouraged to respond more quickly to industry demands?
- How do we stop brain drain?

On education accountability:

- How can we attract and keep highly qualified, effective teachers and principals?
- Do you support the continued use of high-stakes testing and the current accountability system?
- Do you support vouchers or tax credits to help families pay for private school tuition?

On health care:

- Do you prefer expanding private insurance coverage, expanding Medicaid coverage or some other approach for improving access to primary care for the state's poor and uninsured?
- Do you see the need for the state to continue to operate 10 charity hospitals?

On transportation:

- How would you propose the state fund its \$14 billion backlog in highway construction and maintenance needs?
- Would you support an increase in the gas tax, vehicle registration, license fees and such?
- Would you support the construction of toll roads?

On ethics reform?

- Do you support "glass pockets" legislation that would require lawmakers and other public officials to disclose all income and its sources?

Be a smart voter, know the candidates and the issues.