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# 2010 Election Guide



*The Soul of New Orleans*

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# 2010 Mid-Term Election Guide

by Cheryl Mainor

Across America, voters are getting ready to go to the polls again to make their choices for members of the United States Congress. Many are calling this 2010 Mid-Term Election the most important of our time, with some even saying the "Soul of America" is at stake. With such serious interests on the line, Data News Weekly has decided that as a service to our readers, to provide a complete guide to the election, so that you, the voter can see and know, in advance, who the candidates are you will be charged with selecting, what are their positions and qualifications and which referendum and amendment items you will be voting on in next week's election.

As is customary, Data News Weekly and our editorial committee, have our decisions on which candidates we endorse for the offices they seek, and we are happy to present them to you here, but no matter whether you agree or disagree with our selections, as always, we urge you, first and most importantly to VOTE!

See you at the Polls on Tuesday, November 2nd.

## Candidates For US Senate

**Data News Endorsed - Congressman Charles (Charlie) Melancon - Democrat**

**General Legislative Experience:** Charlie Melancon is currently serving his first term in Congress representing the 3rd District of Louisiana. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman Melancon has an impact on a broad range of issues affecting Louisiana, including the oil and gas industry, health care, and telecommunications. He serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment and the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet. Congressman Melancon is also a member of the Committee on Budget. As a member of the Agriculture, Resources, and Science committees, he has an impact on nearly every facet of life and business in Louisiana including farm and agriculture policy, management of our oil and gas resources, and fisheries.

From 1987 to 1993 Congressman Melancon served in the Louisiana legislature as a State Representative.

**Major Policy Positions:** Charlie states as his top priorities: creating more jobs and economic opportunities in the 3rd District and across rural America,

lowering the costs of healthcare, and giving our children the education they need to succeed.

**Personal:** Melancon was born and lives in Napoleonville. He and his wife of 32 years have two children. He is a graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a degree in Agri-Business.

**Sen. David Vitter - Republican (Incumbent)**

**General Legislative Experience:** As U.S. Senator, David Vitter says he is focused on putting Louisiana first as an independent and outspoken reformer, and on advancing mainstream conservative principles. He opposes President Obama and his agenda. In the Senate, David serves on the Committees on Armed Services; Banking, Housing and Urban Development; Commerce, Science and Transportation; Environment and Public Works; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Working on these committees allows David to focus on jobs, infrastructure, and economic development for every region of the state.

Prior to his service in the U.S. Senate, David represented the First Congressional District of Louisiana from 1999 - 2004.

Born and raised in Louisiana, David resides in Metairie with his wife and their four children.

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## Data News Weekly Endorses the following candidates for the office of:

### US Senator



Congressman Charles  
(Charlie) Melancon  
Democrat

### US Representative 2nd District



Cedric Richmond  
Democrat

### Lt. Governor, State of Louisiana



Caroline Fayard  
Democrat

Sen. Vitter earned his law degree from Tulane Law School, he earned an economics degree with highest honors from Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

**Major Policy Positions:** Sen. Vitter says his priorities are focusing on jobs, infrastructure, and economic development for every region of the state and that he has been particularly focused on lowering prescription drug prices, saving our coast, and preserving and improving Social Security for future generations.

### Candidates for US House of Representatives - 2nd Congressional District

**Congressman Joseph Cao  
- Republican (Incumbent)**

General Legislative Experience: On December 6, 2008,

Cao was elected as Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District Representative making him the first Vietnamese-American elected to the United States Congress where he serves on the Committees on Homeland Security, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform.

Joseph Cao was born in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam. He currently resides in New Orleans, LA with his wife and two daughters. He earned a Master's degree in Philosophy from New York's Fordham University. He attained a law degree from Loyola Law School and he also taught Philosophy and Ethics at Loyola University.

**Major Policy Positions:** Congressman Cao states as his priorities Rebuilding Greater New Orleans as a place of progress and prosperity, Renewing the spirit of hope within our community, and Restoring integrity and honesty to government.

**Data News Endorsed - Cedric**

### Richmond - Democrat

General Legislative Experience: Cedric Richmond was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives where he has been a leader and served with distinction since 2000. Currently, he is the Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and a Member of the Ways and Means, House Executive, and Legislative Audit Advisory committees.

Cedric Richmond is a lifelong resident of New Orleans where he currently resides. Cedric graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School, Morehouse College, Tulane School of Law and the Harvard University Executive Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

**Major Policy Positions:** Richmond states that his priorities are to provide appropriate assistance for those who have come back to New Orleans to start the recovery process, and provide an avenue for those who have yet to return. Putting the best interest of homeowners ahead of the inter-

est of the mortgage industry. To investing in a strong and more educated workforce that has economic security and is better prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. And to provide a system that effectively educates our youth in their developmental stages, and to make sure that college is affordable to our best and brightest children.

### Candidates for Lt. Governor of the State of Louisiana (Runoff)

#### Data News Endorsed

**Caroline Fayard - Democrat**

General Legislative Experience: Caroline Fayard is a lifelong Democrat, who is a former staff member at both the White House serving under President Clinton and Congress before taking a position at Goldman Sachs. She later worked at the Washington-based firm of Williams and

Connolly before returning to government service, and to Louisiana, to work as a Law Clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Stanwood R. Duval Jr. of the Eastern District of Louisiana. Caroline was later appointed to the faculty of College of Law at Loyola University New Orleans and served there until 2009 when she returned to private practice.

**Major Policy Positions:** Caroline says, we need to create economic opportunities to retain our workforce. Recent events such as the oil spill and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrate the need for strategic planning to diversify and develop our economy so that Louisiana can continue to triumph over tragedy. Caroline promises to advocate for better government — not more government. Caroline will reduce the size of government and eliminate wasteful spending. Caroline says she will work hard to diversify and modernize Louisiana's economy, creating new job opportunities but never forgetting the industries

**Your voice.  
Your choice.  
Our children's future.**

**Vote November 2.**

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*Cover Story, Continued from page 3.*

which remain Louisiana's financial foundation.

Caroline Fayard currently serves as Vice President on the Board of Louisiana Appleseed, a non-profit organization that promotes access to justice. She is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Junior League of New Orleans. Caroline is licensed to practice law in Louisiana and New York.

#### Secretary of State Jay Dardenne – Republican

**General Government Experience:** As the current Secretary of State, Jay Dardenne lists as some of the accomplishments of his office: Developed GeauxVote.com and GeauxBiz.com websites as user friendly ways to access information; Championed increased early voting sites and hours; Advocated fewer election dates and less use of special elections; Initiated a compact with other states to fight election fraud; Streamlined laws to punish election law violators and establishing the Secretary of State Museum System with standard policies and procedures and the annual museum summit.

Secretary Dardenne is an Attorney and a graduate of Baton Rouge High School, Louisiana State University and the LSU Law Center. He and his wife, have two grown sons.

**Major Policy Positions:** Jay lists as some of his priorities: Rebrand Louisiana as a destination for adventure and eco-tourism. To create a robust message to dispel negative perceptions about our natural resources. Developing a comprehensive plan to celebrate Louisiana's bi-centennial and to market the state as a welcoming place to do business.

Revitalizing and restructuring a measurable program to attract and retain retirees.

And on the economy, using performance indicators to cut wasteful spending and then invest in marketing Louisiana to boost our



Congressman Joseph Cao - Republican (Incumbent) - U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd District

state's economy.

## Ballot Initiatives and Referendums

PLEASE READ EACH ONE CAREFULLY!

There are no less than 10 Referendums on this year's ballot. Take time to acquaint yourself with these referendums and Amendments to our State Constitution prior to entering the polling booth. This is NOT to be done in the polling booth. READ these initiatives, and if you need help in understanding what they are proposing, ask someone to explain so you can make an informed and the best decision for yourself and your voice is really heard.

#### Proposed Amendment No. 1 - Salary Increase For Certain State Elected Officials

To provide that any salary increase enacted by law for certain state elected officials, including statewide elected officials, members of the Public Service Commission, and members of

the legislature, not be implemented until a subsequent term of office. (Amends Article IV, Section 4; Adds Article III, Section 4(G) and Article IV, Section 21(F))

#### Proposed Amendment No. 2 - To Decrease The Amount Of Taxes Retained By The State On The Severance Of Natural Resources

To decrease the amount of taxes retained by the state on the severance of natural resources, other than sulphur, lignite, and timber, and to increase the maximum amount of such revenues which are remitted to the parish governing authority from where the severance occurs, to be implemented in the event that the official forecast of severance tax revenues for any fiscal year includes an estimate for severance tax collections which will exceed that actually collected by the state in Fiscal Year 2008-2009; to change the annual maximum amount to be remitted to a parish governing authority from eight hundred fifty thousand dollars to one million



Sen. David Vitter - Republican (Incumbent), U.S. Senate

eight hundred fifty thousand for the first fiscal year of implementation, which amount would increase to two million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars for the following and subsequent fiscal years; to provide for annual adjustment of the maximum amounts in accordance with the consumer price index; to require that of the revenues received by a parish governing authority under these provisions, that portion which is in excess of the amount of such revenues received in Fiscal Year 2011-2012 be used within the parish for the same purposes as monies received from the Parish Transportation Fund; to require that of the severance taxes and royalty revenues retained by the state from activity on state lands within the Atchafalaya Basin, up to ten million dollars per year be deposited into a special fund created in the state treasury to be known as the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund; to provide that monies in this fund be used exclusively for conservation, improvement, and management of

the Atchafalaya Basin in accordance with formal state and federal plans; to require legislative approval for and specific limitations on the use of monies appropriated from the fund. (Effective April 1, 2012.) (Adds Article VII, Section 4(D)(4))

#### Proposed Amendment No. 3 - To Exempt From Ad Valorem Tax, In Addition To The Homestead Exemption

To exempt from ad valorem tax, in addition to the homestead exemption, the next seventy-five thousand dollars of value of property which is owned and occupied by a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of one hundred percent; to authorize the exemption to apply to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran if the exemption was in effect on the property prior to the death of the veteran and the surviving spouse remains the owner of the property; to require the taxing authority to absorb any decrease in the total amount of ad valorem taxes collected as a result of this exemption; to prohibit the exemption

from creating any additional tax liability for other property taxpayers; to prohibit implementation of the exemption from triggering reappraisal of property or adjustment of millages; provides that the exemption shall only extend and apply if established through an election called by the local governing authority and approved by a majority of the registered voters in an election held for that purpose. (Effective January 1, 2011) (Adds Article VII, Section 21(K))

#### Proposed Amendment No. 4 - To Provide That The Power Of A Taxing Authority With A Governing Authority Which Is Not Elected To Increase Millage Rates Without Voter Approval After Reappraisal

To provide that the power of a taxing authority with a governing authority which is not elected to increase millage rates without voter approval after reappraisal, which is presently limited by the prior year's maximum millage rate, be further limited to annual increases which do not exceed two and one-half percent of the property tax collections for the immediately preceding calendar year; to exclude from such restriction taxing authorities which are special fire protection or fire department districts or ports, port harbor, and terminal districts, and millages levied by certain levee districts under authority granted by the Constitution of Louisiana. (Amends Art. VII, Section 23(C))

#### Proposed Amendment No. 5 - To Authorize Continuation Of The Homestead Exemption

To authorize continuation of the homestead exemption and the special assessment level for a homestead that has been destroyed or is uninhabitable due to a disaster for two years if the homeowner's claim for damages is pending in a formal appeal process with a



# Hip-Hop Legends in the Crescent

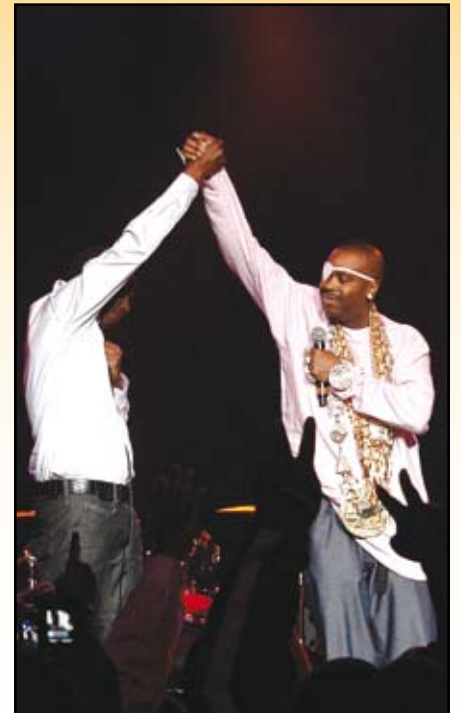
By Edwin Buggage  
Photos by Glenn Summers



MC Lyte represents for the ladies



Doug E. Fresh shows what legends are made of



Legends Doug E. Fresh and Slick Rick rip the stage



Big Daddy Kane



Whodini and Mannie Fresh



Yo Yo, Doug E. Fresh & Edwin Buggage

Hip-Hop has grown up from its infancy in the streets of New York where it, like many African traditions, embodied music, the spoken word and dance to convey the living culture of a people. What was once thought of as a passing fad, three decades later, has made an impact across the globe. Anywhere in the world you will see people using hip-hop as a means of expression or companies co-opting it to sell products. From the streets to the elite, hip-hop's impact is undeniable and transcends race, class and geography.

Today it is at a crossroads, while contemporary artists enjoy increased visibility; money and fame, much of the creativity and showmanship that embodied early hip-hop has been sapped out of the genre. What was once the sonic equivalent of a Romare Bearden collage has been reduced to clip art and clichés.

During its golden age, hip-hop with its fresh and exuberant energy, changed the scope and landscape of what it meant to be an entertainer. That time was recaptured in New Orleans recently as the Legends of Hip-Hop show touched down in the Crescent City. On this night the days of fat gold chains and Adidas and Kangols were revisited.

It was a night for those who grew up on hip-hop coming to see some of legends who laid down the foundation of the music. Avian Gray who attended the show said, "They just don't make hip-hop like this anymore, I just wanted to come out and enjoy a show that would take me back to when the music inspired something in me and was also fun." The show was a definitely a grown folks affair that had a nostalgic feel to it. B-boy swag was in full effect as the architects of hip-hop laid it down and showed

how it should be done. The night started with house DJ Raj Smoove on the ones and twos and WQUE Uptown Angela was holding down the stage as the mistress of ceremonies.

It was a star-studded affair as Big Daddy Kane with his rapid-fire style of rhymes, finesse and dance moves for the ladies, cameout and showed that he could still, as the great Rakim said, "move the crowd". MC Lyte in the hip-hop vernacular showed and proved she still had the skills to pay the bills and Yo-Yo, was accompanied onstage by New Orleans own legend Mannie Fresh, represented for the ladies with a set that kept people on their feet reciting the lyrics of some of their favorite songs.

But the night belonged to Whodini and Doug E. Fresh who both owned the stage with show stopping sets that were the essence of what hip-hop and showmanship repre-

sents. Whodini went through their hits Friends, One Love, Freaks Come Out at Night and many others as the crowd was on their feet the whole time. The audience was also treated DJ Grandmaster Dee setting the turntables on fire and to the moves of Doctor Ice from UTFO showcasing he still has dancing skills that rival any young guys today. This well-choreographed show was a treat to watch as people sang along with the classic songs from hip-hop's heyday.

The show ended with a rousing set from Doug E. Fresh who calls himself the World's Greatest Entertainer and true to form he delivered the goods. In an energetic he set it off in grand style doing his hits the Show, I Get Ready and La-Di-Da-Di. Onstage with him was his original Get Fresh Crew: Barry Bee, Chill Will and the man who first brought bling to the masses Slick Rick. Doug E.

who has become an adopted son of New Orleans kept the crowd on its feet. He even gave a nod to the new kids out there, showing them how the Doug E. dance really goes from the man himself as the crowd went wild. With the stage presence of a rock star Doug received a standing ovation as his set ended. It was a great way to end a night of legends that laid it down in grand style.

Leaving this concert I thought that hip-hop has grown up, that today those of us who came of age during its golden golden years are now mothers, fathers and some even grandmothers and grandfathers. And judging by the packed house that in the near future that there may soon be a category called adult contemporary hip-hop. Maybe it's just wishful thinking, but it would be nice to have a music that has matured with its audience.



# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Data Around Town

All over New Orleans, friends were having fun and at Club 7140 last week, Data was there!



## Tickets Move Quickly for Scholarship Benefit Concert

Rave Reviews for 3rd Annual Dr. Norman C. Francis Endowed Scholarship Benefit

Concert reviewers across the country are unanimous in their praise for four of America's finest Rhythm & Blues vocalists – Peabo Bryson, Jeffrey Osborne, Howard Hewett and Freddie Jackson – as their “Men of Soul” tour makes its way toward New Orleans next month for a very special scholarship benefit concert.

Xavier University of Louisiana is pleased to announce that, in addition to the “Men of Soul,” world renowned story teller William “Bill” Cosby will return once again to perform the opening act for the 3rd Annual Dr. Norman C. Francis Endowed Scholarship Benefit Concert on Friday evening, November 19, 2010 sponsored by AT&T\*

at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center's New Orleans Theater.

The Friday evening concert began three years ago to celebrate Francis' 40th Anniversary as President of the nation's only Historically Black and Roman Catholic institution of higher education, and to raise funds for the special endowed scholarship fund created in his honor.

The University is also pleased to announce that – besides AT&T Louisiana serving as primary sponsor of the 3rd Annual fundraiser – other corporate sponsors have signed on to support the event including BP, Liberty Bank, People's Health, First NBC, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Humana, the Louisiana Weekly and others.

AT&T Louisiana's President Sonia Perez

says, “We are pleased to support Xavier University's important role in educating future leaders of New Orleans, and we also salute Dr. Francis' decades of exemplary leadership in service to our community.”

Tickets are on sale through the Ticket Master hot line #1-866-448-7849 or online at: <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. Complete concert information, with links to the Ticket Master site as well as links to recent “Men of Soul” concert reviews, is also available through the Xavier web site at: [http://www.xula.edu/mediarelations/ncfconcert\\_2010.php](http://www.xula.edu/mediarelations/ncfconcert_2010.php). Limited sponsor and patron packages with concert tickets are available through the Office of Institutional Advancement's special concert hot line at #504-520-4252.



# End Gay Discrimination



Judge Greg Mathis

## Mathis' Mind

The United States is suffering from an identity crisis when it comes to the rights and safety of homosexuals and lesbians. On the one hand, the government says it

respects the rights of gays to live as domestic partners, to be free from violence, and to work in whatever field they choose, even the military. Yet, the government seems to do very little – and even contradicts itself – when it comes to making these ideas reality.

Recently, a federal court lifted the controversial “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that prohibited gays in the military from openly declaring their homosexuality. Anyone caught doing so, under the law, could be immediately discharged from service. President Obama has often stated that he wanted to bring an end to the policy during his presidency. However, as soon as the ruling came down, his Justice Department began working on an appeal that would keep the ban in place...at least temporarily. And, they won. The President still maintains that he wants “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” to die, but

he says he wants Congress to bring an end to it. It’s highly unlikely that the President will get his wish with such strong opposition from Republicans in Congress, a group that is expected to take control after the November elections. Why, then, didn’t his administration let the ruling stand? Your guess is as good as any.

The confusion doesn’t end there. In recent weeks, we’ve been sobered with stories of young gay men across the country who committed suicide because they were tired of being bullied by their peers. Research shows that gay and lesbian teens are four times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual counterparts. There is currently a national campaign aimed at young homosexuals, designed to lift their spirits, encourage them to get help and let them know that things will get better for them. In the midst of all this support, one

thing is missing: a government stance on bullying, specifically bullying of gay students. Where is the national policy that cracks down hard on bullies and charges any young person who bullies a gay teen (or a Black or Latino or Asian one) with a hate crime? There isn’t one.

Gay rights are civil rights and we must protect them. Any American, regardless of race, gender, religion or sexual orientation should be free to live life openly and safely. America, as open as it is in other areas, is not at that place yet and it should be. Let’s force our elected officials to take a stand for the rights of all citizens by standing up for gay rights. How can we do that? We can do it by casting our vote in the upcoming election for those who fall on the side of justice, fairness, and equality for everyone.

## “Why We Must Vote on Nov. 2nd 2010”

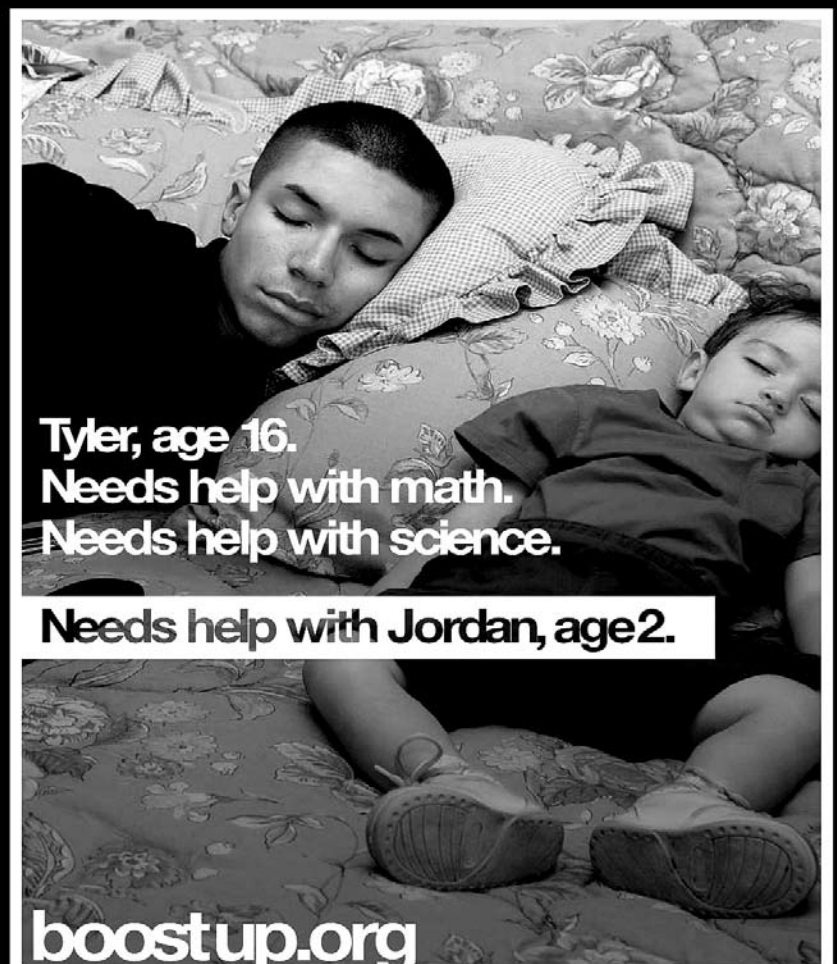
By Dr. John E. Warren

There is no question that everyone who is able should vote in each election and especially in the Tuesday November 2nd Mid-Term Election. But for African-Americans, the stakes are higher than they have ever been. Higher because the American political process has moved from resisting the Black vote as many did before the Voting Rights Act of the 1960s to a lack of concern over Black voter participation because of a greater concern over the Latino and Asian votes. Why? Because these groups have demonstrated an interest and seriousness about participation in the political process as a means of getting leverage and respect that African-Americans once had. It appears that with the election of President Obama, a number of African-Americans assumed that “we” have arrived and decided to take a vacation from the Struggle. Unfortunately, this is the same time that conservative “White America” decided that the economic stimulus, Health Care Reform, bailouts and job assistance for the unemployed are all socialist programs intended to undermine America and that such change, at the hands of a Black man represented more than this nation could stand. Conclusion, this election is not about programs that have saved millions. It is about stopping a Black man in the White House until the next Presidential election with a view toward never allowing this to happen again. The so called political issues on the table are merely distractions. The question is will we be distracted or focused and get out the vote as we did two years.

Those candidates, who have not treated

our voters with the respect of declaring their position on issues and seeking our concerns, should not be allowed the traditional last minute rush to Black churches this Sunday with a smile and a hand shake; those who can vote should do so. Those who cannot vote should provide transportation and assistance to friends and neighbors who can vote and should vote. Those who are not sure or who have been told that they are not in the files as a registered voter, should insist on voting “Challenged Ballots.” This means that you will be allowed to vote but that your vote would be sealed until registration can be verified. Where you find no candidate that you know enough about to vote for, there is usually a place for a “write in” which allows you to place a name of your choice. Where you only chose to vote for say one person and no one else on the ballot, that is your right also.

It has been estimated that the Black vote can determine at least 20 seats in the congressional races for the U.S. House of Representatives. There are 39 seats up for election. Each one with a Democrat is key to President Obama maintaining the majority needed in the Congress to continue his programs. The so-called Tea Party conservatives and the Republicans want those seats and at least as many of the 12 seats up for election in the United States Senate. It has been said that the Latino vote may decide to sit out this election. But the Black vote has no such luxury. Every vote counts and that includes your vote. Now is our time to once again be heard at the ballot box.



lets you give students at risk of dropping out the boost they need to make it through high school. Because over 30% of students in the U.S. aren't graduating. And they've got a lot more to tackle than just their schoolwork.



# Carol Bebelle

## *Phenomenal Woman*

by: Edwin Buggage

She has dedicated her life to serving others and is the living embodiment of Maya Angelou's poem 'Phenomenal Woman.' Carol Bebelle has spent her entire life dedicated to the spirit of giving. "I have always seen people in my community serve, so it was just natural for me to dedicate my life to serving others," says Bebelle. "It all began with my grandfather A.J. Bebelle, a minister, who taught me the importance of helping people and giving them the tools to live a more quality life."

Throughout her life she has always found a way to serve those in need. "In whatever I have done in my professional life it has always been connected to uplifting people in the community, whether it's been in education, drug prevention or public health."

Bebelle has been able to turn her passion for giving into a space that uses the cultural arts as a way to connect people in the community in the true spirit of the old adage 'each one teach one.' The Ashe Cultural Arts Center was co-founded by Bebelle and the late artist/activist Doug Redd. It is a space that lies in New Orleans Central City and is a beacon of light where there is much darkness. "We're committed to the commu-

nity and this multi-purpose space serves the people of not just Central City, but the entire New Orleans community," says Bebelle.

The center has helped people both young and old and from many walks of life since its inception. "What we do is about helping people know their own personal power and that they can overcome whatever obstacles are in their way," says Bebelle. Bebelle is an artist in her own right; a writer/poet who has been published in several anthologies and her own volume of work entitled "In a Manner of Speaking."

The Ashe Cultural Center is dedicated to using culture as a means to uplift the community. She says it is important that young people know that many sacrifices were made for the opportunities they now enjoy. "Today I see so many things have changed and doors are now open that were closed previously; I think today some of our young tend to take this for granted so it is up to us, the elders, to let them know where we've come from, so that they can have the tools to move us further down the road of progress."

In life Bebelle has done similarly in leading a fruitful life en-

riched by giving. She is also known as Akua Wambui, which means "sweet messenger singer of songs". And it has been through the Ashe Cultural Center that she has been able to connect and uplift the community through cultural, spiritual and creative enrichment. These are the tools that she uses to build hope and help people reach their full potential and aspire to reach higher.

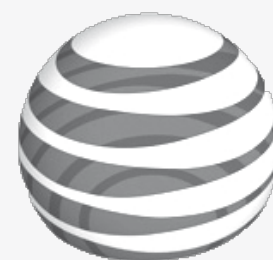
She says to young people who are the gatekeepers of our legacy, "Invest in yourself and imagine yourself living your dream and having the life you want and that it is never too late to change your path in life."

Ashe is a word that means Amen, and it is a blessing to have a phenomenal woman such as Carol Bebelle continuing to be the visionary leader in the City of New Orleans. And it is our pleasure at Data News Weekly to recognize her as our Trailblazer for the month of October 2010.



Carol Bebelle

**JMJ**  
Joseph M. Jones  
Continuing Education Fund



at&t

# \$100,000 Up for Grabs Through Sprite® Refresh Your School Playground Sweepstakes

Submit My Coke Rewards Points to Help Your Local K-12 Schools Win One of Two \$25,000 Playground Makeovers or \$5,000 Towards Physical Education Equipment

Sprite is working to keep students physically active at school with the second Sprite Refresh Your School Playground Sweepstakes. From now through November 30, Sprite is giving schools across the United States the opportunity to win one of two \$25,000 school playgrounds or one of 10, \$5,000 runner-up prizes

that can be used towards athletic equipment. Community members can donate points to their schools by entering the code found on any of their 13 favorite participating Coca-Cola products at [www.mycokerewards.com](http://www.mycokerewards.com).

"We are excited to bring back the Sprite Refresh Your School Playground Sweepstakes to rally parents and community members to help schools obtain the physical fitness equipment students need to stay active," said Caren Pasquale Seckler, Non-Cola Brands, and Coca-Cola North

America. "Even more, all of the schools that receive donated points can use them for much needed sports equipment and school supplies through the My Coke Rewards for Schools program year round."

St. Benedict Cathedral School in Evansville, Ind. was the grand prize winner of the first Sprite Refresh Your School Playground Sweepstakes held during the 2009-2010 school year. The school was awarded a \$25,000 playground makeover made of recyclable material and is currently working

with Sprite to select playground equipment for construction in the coming months.

"Schools registered in the My Coke Rewards program, and who receive donated points between October 1 and November 30, will be eligible to win one of two \$25,000 playground makeovers made from recycled materials or one of 10, \$5,000 prizes for athletic equipment. For every five My Coke Rewards points donated, the selected school will earn one sweepstakes entry to the Sprite Refresh Your School Playground

Sweepstakes. Sprite will work with the winning school to remove all old equipment and will design, ship and install the new playground. Schools that are not currently registered for the My Coke Rewards program can receive point donations, but will not earn entries for the sweepstakes unless officially registered by a school administrator. For more information on how to register a school please visit [www.mycokerewards.com/schools](http://www.mycokerewards.com/schools).

## For Gulf Coast Vacation Homeowners:

### *November 23 Deadline for Filing Emergency Advance Payment Claims*

If you're hoping for restitution for income lost due to the oil spill, you'd better get moving.

If you're a vacation homeowner with property on the Gulf Coast, November 23 is D-Day. (The D is for "Deadline.") Yes, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving is the last day you can file with the new Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) for an Emergency Advance Payment on losses you've experienced as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

"According to GCCF representatives and the website itself, if you don't meet the November 23 deadline, you can still file for a claim—it just will not be paid as expeditiously as an emergency claim, and you have up to three years to do so," says Christine Karpinski, director of Owner Community for HomeAway. "I learned this during conversations I've had and research I've done regarding my own personal claims and those of other homeowners."

The GCCF, under the direction of Kenneth Feinberg, is working to allocate a lump sum settle-

ment for each claimant, she explains. Any Emergency Advance Payment you may receive will ultimately be deducted from that allocated sum. And while there appears to be no definitive information on how final claim amounts will be determined, Karpinski advises vacation property owners to file for the emergency payment.

"If you let the deadline pass, you may spend a long time waiting for compensation," she asserts. "I say that based on that fact that despite all the conversations I've had, despite reading the GCCF website and compiling pages of claims documentation, no one seems to be able to cite a date by which homeowners will receive final payment. No one's offering guarantees of any sort."

For details on the claim process, visit [www.gulfcoastclaimsfacility.com](http://www.gulfcoastclaimsfacility.com). Additional information and perspectives from second homeowners are available on the HomeAway Gulf Coast Response Center at [www.oilspillhomeaway.ning.com](http://www.oilspillhomeaway.ning.com). The site provides news, expert advice, and a popular fo-

rum where Gulf Coast vacation homeowners can connect with each other for mutual learning and support.

"I spoke with Peter Taaffe, the Buzbee Law Firm attorney who provides legal commentary on HomeAway's oil spill website, and he urges caution," says Karpinski. "Please, consult your attorney before you file the final claim. Every claim and every owner's circumstances are different. It is important to make sure your final claim—and a possible final resolution of all of your claims—is the right thing to do and represents the right amount."

"Everyone must make his or her own decision on the best way to proceed—in terms of the Emergency Advance Payment and also in terms of filing a final claim," she adds. "It's a complicated issue with lots of variables. Just make sure to educate yourself at every step of the way so you'll be able to make an informed decision."

## Seo Career Program Extends Summer 2011 Internship Deadline

### *Non-Profit Organization Continues to Open Doors for Underserved Young People*

SEO (Sponsors for Educational Opportunity) has extended its fellowship application deadline to January 15, 2011. The SEO Career Program is a summer internship for college students which offer superior educational and career experience to young people from underserved communities, addressing inequities in education and opportunity that often limit their success.

The SEO Career Program recruits and trains outstanding underrepresented college students of color for summer internships that lead to full-time jobs with investment banks, corporate law firms and other leading global companies. Historically, more than 75% of interns receive full-time job offers from SEO corporate partners. Over the past two years, SEO has provided more than 700 internships with more

than 50 corporate and philanthropic partners. What begins as a 10-week summer internship turns into a lifelong professional network and a resource base for SEO alumni through every step of their development.

"This is an exciting opportunity for young people of color," says William A. Goodloe, President and CEO, SEO. "Many of these students begin with summer internships and move onto be very successful executives as a result of this program."

Applications for current college juniors meeting the qualifications can be found at [www.seo-usa.org/application](http://www.seo-usa.org/application). The deadline for applications is January 15th, 2011. Information for college freshmen and sophomores is also available on the SEO website at <http://www.seo-usa.org>.





# Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee Named Champion for Children

The L.A. Watts Time

Lee Holds Hearing on the Growing Nationwide and Local Epidemic of Bullying and called for Passage of a Federal Anti-Bullying Statute

NNPA Newswire - The First Focus Campaign for Children, a national, bi-partisan child advocacy group, released the names of Members of Congress identified as the most valuable leaders on issues important to children. The announcement launches the group's inaugural campaign to recognize the top 100 Members of Congress who make improving the well-being of children a national priority. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee was among those named, and in fact she recently held a hearing in her district about the well-being of children and proposed legislation to curb a growing problem among the youth - bullying.

Congresswoman Lee held a fact-finding hearing to address the growing nationwide and local epidemic of bullying to call for passage of a Federal anti-bullying statute. She was joined by other



US Representative Shiela Jackson Lee (D-TX)

local, state, and federal elected officials including Rep. Al Green, D-TX, Texas State Senator John Whitmire, Texas Representative Alma Allen, and Houston City Council Members Wanda Adams, Al Hoang, and C.O. "Brad" Bradford. Also joining Rep. Jackson Lee was Harris County District Attorney Judge Patricia Lykos and Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia.

The hearing included testimony from parents of bullying victims and representatives of community, civic, civil rights, faith organizations, and experts on children, education, mental health and social services. "As a member of the House Judiciary committee, I have been overwhelmed by one episode after another of children losing their lives and the lack of a coordinated response to incidents of bullying," Jackson Lee said. "At this hearing, we will seek the best practices from the many good initiatives offered from our own community. Also, we will hear firsthand some of the troubling personal stories of bullying victims. This is our wake up call to this national crisis. Our children have to be our first priority," she continued.

According to statistics, bullying is now increasingly viewed as a contributor to youth violence, including both homicide and suicide. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, teenagers say that revenge is the strongest

motivation for school shootings — 87 percent said shootings are motivated by a desire to "get back those who have hurt them." Furthermore, 46 percent of males and 26 percent of females reported that they had been in physical fights. Children in lower grades reported being involved in twice as many fights as those in higher grades — a sign that bullying is impacting our youth at younger and younger ages. Statistics like these show that there is a direct correlation between bullying and school safety and heighten the need for bullying to be addressed quickly and effectively.

Furthermore, there are reports that state many of the deadly cases of bullying arise when children are teased and tormented simply for being different. There has been a recent increase in suicides among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) teens as a result of bullying. Almost 85 percent of LGBT teenagers are harassed in high school because of their sexual orientation, with 61 percent of gay youth reporting that they felt unsafe in school and

30% staying home to avoid bullying. "By law, we require our children to go to school. Therefore, we have a duty to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children, one in which they should not be afraid. It is important that our children know that bullying will not be taken lightly, and that there will be consequences for such actions," said Congressman Lee. "The problem of bullying has been a persistent issue for years, but it is now becoming a national crisis," the Congresswoman went on to say. "Newspaper headlines and news broadcasts across our Nation have been flooded with chilling stories about victims of bullying. This hearing will be an opportunity to hear from Houstonians in order to help establish National solutions," she concluded.

Other members of the Congressional Black Caucus listed on The First Focus Campaign for Children are Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-MD, Rep. Danny Davis, D-IL, Rep. Chaka Fattah, D-PA, and Rep. Bobby Scott, D-VA.

*Election Guide, Continued from page 5.*



Jay Dardenne, Candidate for Lt. Governor

governmental agency or program offering assistance for repairing or rebuilding homes damaged by the disaster or if a homeowner has a damage claim filed and pending against the insurer of the property; to authorize an assessor to grant up to three additional one-year extensions of the continuation of the homestead exemption and the special assessment level as prescribed by law. (Amends Article VII, Sections 18(G) (5) and 20(A) (10))

#### **Proposed Amendment No. 6 - To Require A Two-Thirds Vote Of The Elected Members Of Each House Of The Legislature To Enact Any Benefit Provision**

To require a two-thirds vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature to enact any benefit provision for members of a Louisiana public retirement system if the provision has an actuarial cost. (Amends Article X, Section 29(E) (5); Adds Article X, Section 29(F))

#### **Proposed Amendment No. 7 - Bidding Process For Ad Valorem Property Tax Sales**

To provide relative to the bidding process for ad valorem property tax sales by authorizing a bidder at a tax sale to bid down the existing five percent penalty in increments of one-tenth of one percent; to require the payment of penalties by a bidder at ad valorem property tax sales; to require the payment of interest, penalties, and costs by a taxpayer who is delinquent on the payment of taxes on movables. (Amends Article VII, Section 25(A) (1) and (E))

#### **Proposed Amendment No. 8 - Property Expropriated For The Public Purpose**

Provides that property expropriated for the public purpose of removing a threat to public health or safety caused by the existing use or disuse of the property shall not be subject to the requirement of offering the property back to the original owner who allowed the property to become a threat to public health or safety or to the requirement of public

sale. (Amends Article I, Section 4(H) (1))

#### **Proposed Amendment No. 9 - When A Court Of Appeal Is To Modify Or Reverse An Administrative Agency Determination In A Workers' Compensation Claim**

To provide that, in civil matters only, when a court of appeal is to modify or reverse an administrative agency determination in a workers' compensation claim and one judge dissents, the case shall be reargued before a panel of at least five judges prior to rendition of judgment, and a majority shall concur to render judgment. (Amends Article V, Section 8(B))

#### **Proposed Amendment No. 10 - Permit Criminal Defendants, Except In Capital Cases, To Waive Their Right To A Trial**

To permit criminal defendants, except in capital cases, to waive their right to a trial by jury no later than forty-five days prior to the trial date. (Amends Article I, Section 17(A))



*I was born in New Orleans. My family still lives here. We have to restore the Gulf communities for the shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners who live and work here.*

*- Iris Cross, BP Community Outreach*

## Making This Right

Beaches

Claims

Cleanup

**Economic Investment**

**Environmental  
Restoration**

Health and Safety

Wildlife

No oil has flowed into the Gulf for weeks. But we know this is just the beginning of our work. BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf and that includes keeping you informed.

### **Restoring Gulf Communities**

We can't undo this tragedy. But we can help people get back on their feet. We have been working with impacted communities since day one.

Partnering with local governments and community organizations, my job is to listen to people's needs and frustrations and find ways to help. We have 19 community centers and teams in four states, listening and helping.

### **Restoring The Economy**

BP is here in Gulf communities with shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners, helping to make them whole.

More than 120,000 claim payments totaling over \$375 million have already gone to people affected by the spill. We have committed a \$20 billion independent fund to pay all legitimate claims, including lost incomes until people impacted can go back to work. And none of this will be paid by taxpayers.

BP has also given grants of \$87 million to the states to help tourism recover and bring people back to the Gulf beaches.

### **Restoring The Environment**

We're going to keep looking for oil and cleaning it up if we find it. Teams will remain in place for as long as it takes to restore the Gulf Coast.

And we've dedicated \$500 million to work with local and national scientific experts on the impact of the spill and to restore environmental damage.

Thousands of BP employees have their roots in the Gulf. We support over 10,000 jobs in the region and people here are our neighbors. We know we haven't always been perfect, but we will be here until the oil is gone and the people and businesses are back to normal. We will do everything we can to make this right.

For general information visit: [bp.com](http://bp.com)

For help or information: (866) 448-5816

[restorethegulf.gov](http://restorethegulf.gov)

Facebook: BP America

Twitter: @BP\_America

YouTube: BP

For claims information visit: [bp.com/claims](http://bp.com/claims)

[louisianagulfresponse.com](http://louisianagulfresponse.com)

