



Business Council Platform
Response By Topic Area

CITY GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

An executive leadership organizational chart that clearly delineates operational responsibilities among senior staff, delegates authorities as appropriate and establishes a clear hierarchy in core public policy areas.	Yes
A process for hiring, and confirming through the City Council when required, experienced and effective managers who have expertise in overseeing complex organizations and/or specialized knowledge in specific policy areas to serve in core leadership positions.	Yes
Regularly scheduled meetings between the Mayor and core operational leaders to ensure that the leadership team remains focused on key priorities and agile in response to emerging issues.	Yes
An executive order, and companion Council resolution, that commits to the core governing values of efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, transparency and fiduciary stewardship of public dollars and includes objective criteria to guide the policymaking process.	Yes
Proactive and constructive communication between the Administration and City Council to ensure that each branch of government is sufficiently informed of all material facts on key issues.	Yes

CITY FINANCE

A clearly articulated public strategy for developing a more transparent, effective and accessible process for budgeting.	Yes
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Commitment to publicly share City financial data at regular intervals to increase resident understanding of City finances.	Yes
Establishment of a city-wide performance management system to help City leaders and the public understand how effectively the City is managing operations.	Yes
An ordinance to establish a fund balance management target that provides limits for spending one-time fund balance absent a fiscal emergency.	Yes
Creation of an expert, objective, long-term fiscal analysis of the City's budget, projecting City revenue and expenses over the next 5-10 years.	Yes
Improved public accounting of the financial status of the City's primary pension funds and a strategy for how to set the firefighter pension fund back on stable financial footing.	Yes.
A strategy and plan for reforming the City's procurement office by identifying and implementing procurement best practices from other high-performing municipalities.	Yes
Process and technological improvements to the sales tax collection system to incorporate opportunities for enhancing collections.	Yes
A clear operational strategy for fully utilizing the City's new asset management software to track City-owned property.	Yes

NOPD

A right-sized NOPD based on a force size goal set by research and analysis to identify best practice levels.	Yes
Implementation of new technologies as NOPD force multipliers, such as license plate recognition, digital crime reporting, real-time crime cameras and big data analysis.	See Addendum



A robust NOPD analytics team that uses data to inform deployment strategies.	Yes
A national best practice strategy for NOPD recruitment and retention.	Yes
Competitive NOPD compensation set according to research and analysis regarding regional compensation levels.	Yes
Continued implementation and scaling of NOPD's civilianization initiative to remove administrative burdens from uniformed officers.	Yes.
An effective internal and external NOPD communication strategy, including crisis communication training.	Yes
Better alignment of the NOPD budget with strategic and operational outcomes.	Yes
A certified NOPD Crime Lab achieved through dedicated City funding for its renovation.	Yes
Innovative strategies to counter violent crime identified collaboratively through public-private partnerships.	Yes

NOPD Addendum: Technology tools are necessary for the NOPD and I support the use with the right safeguards. The NOPD has worked hard to put in guardrails through ordinances and policies. I plan to continue to work closely with NOPD to ensure that the use of technology helps curb crime, particularly violent crime, but has the right safeguards to prevent abuse.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Shared technology platforms that are well-managed, properly maintained and adequately funded.	Yes
Dashboards and data transparency by the District Attorney's Office.	Yes



Strategy for oversight of the Orleans Justice Center (OJC) that requires the open and transparent exchange of critical information and budget data through shared technology platforms among the City, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) and criminal justice system partners and imposes accountability for failures.	Yes
A transformative juvenile justice plan that improves alternatives to detention and programming at the juvenile jail.	Yes
A clear strategy for investing in youth services and neighborhood-based economic development to address the root causes of crime.	Yes
Assessment of the effectiveness of oversight programs for persons released on bail, including ankle monitoring and introduction of better practices with improved accountability.	Yes
A review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal court system, using all available budgetary leverage to ensure judicial cooperation.	Yes
A best practice assessment of the 911 system and implementation of all feasible recommendations.	Yes

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Improvement of Department of Public Works (DPW) procurement and legal review processes to integrate best practices and strategic objectives, including more efficient project delivery.	Yes
A 10-year strategic plan and funding strategy for maintaining roads and reducing potholes.	Yes
Improved DPW dashboards that publish key performance indicators along with relevant output data.	Yes



Full implementation of a regularly updated public report about 311 calls for service and response times and a communications strategy to improve public awareness of this data.	Yes
A right-sized DPW staffing model, including consideration of administrative and contract management staff, set by research and analysis to identify best practice levels.	Yes
A comprehensive strategy for adequately funding and staffing DPW according to the right-sized model.	Yes
Collaboration with local and industry experts to seek and implement feedback and best practices.	Yes

WATER TREATMENT DELIVERY

Implementation of the Water Quality Master Plan to modernize water treatment infrastructure.	Yes
Full implementation of the Sewerage and Water Board's lead service line replacement project.	Yes
A clear accounting of the need for funding to replace leaking water mains and distribution lines and an accompanying public communications strategy.	Yes
Accurate billing and responsive customer service from the Sewerage and Water Board.	Yes
Participation of all relevant local agencies in the multi-parish process for identifying regional solutions for water treatment and delivery, including the mitigation of the saltwater intrusion threat.	Yes
An improved organizational culture and greater accountability within the Sewerage and Water Board to improve efficient and safe delivery of drinking water.	Yes

DRAINAGE SYSTEM



Implementation of a stormwater management plan and creation of a funding mechanism, such as a stormwater fee, that is fair and requires tax-exempt properties to contribute.	See Addendum
A comprehensive strategic plan for future drainage system improvements that identifies long-term, sustainable funding sources capable of adequately financing future capital projects as well as ongoing maintenance needs.	Yes
Finalize the consolidation of grey drainage infrastructure maintenance under the SWB, including the identification of adequate funding for responsible system and infrastructure maintenance.	Yes
A plan for achieving an optimal drainage system workforce, including the identification of impediments to adequate staffing and a clear implementation strategy.	Yes
Require timely and on-budget completion of the West Power Complex, Phases I and II.	Yes

Drainage Addendum: The SWB has significant needs which will require a storm water management fee, but the fee must be done correctly or voters will never approve it. That means those who have been paying into the system shouldn't be burdened further and those who have been exempt should start contributing. Also, the money should go into a special fund controlled by the City Council. It is very unlikely that the public would vote to approve this new funding unless it has City Council oversight and approval..

FLOOD PROTECTION

Advocacy for a State Coastal Master Plan that is science-based and stakeholder-informed to achieve large-scale restoration and protection of Louisiana's critical coastal areas.	Yes
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Alignment with the principle that Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities – East (SLFPA-E) and West (SLFPA-W) must be able to function as politically independent and autonomous entities.	See Addendum
A funding strategy for maintaining the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS).	Yes
A plan to ensure coordinated hurricane planning and emergency public communications within City agencies and with state and federal partners.	Yes
A robust strategy for monitoring any threats to New Orleans of high or low water conditions in the Mississippi River and addressing them.	Yes

Flood Protection Addendum: These flood authorities are critical and must be both politically independent AND work towards more regional methods of managing water across Southeast Louisiana. Major threats, such as saltwater intrusion, cannot be handled on a piecemeal, local basis, with everyone out for themselves. Especially since FEMA funding and even FEMA itself may disappear soon. Thinking regionally and pooling resources increases our ability to bring the state or others with financial resources to the table.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Full implementation of the Business Council’s Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) Policy Priorities, published in conjunction with the 2024 OPSB election, to include goals on fiscal stewardship, school accountability, implementation of best practices, school autonomy, equitable access to schools, resources management and strategic planning and engagement.	Yes
Improved access to mental health services in public schools.	Yes
Identification of incentives that the City could offer or support to improve teacher recruitment and retention.	Yes



A strategy for the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) that facilitates student recreational opportunities as an essential component of youth safety and public education.	Yes
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QUALITY OF LIFE

Plan for enforcing laws against litter and graffiti, along with public reports of implementation progress.	Yes
Strategy for better enforcing laws against blight, improving code enforcement & public reporting of progress on these efforts.	Yes
A comprehensive review of trash/sanitation services & a strategy for better service delivery.	Yes
Implementation of homelessness prevention strategies, maintenance of homelessness encampment closures and compliance with existing ordinances that protect the safety of homeless individuals while promoting economic growth in the urban core.	See Addendum
Full review and implementation of reforms at the Department of Safety and Permits (DSP) to achieve a highly efficient/transparent permitting process with a best practice approach.	Yes
More accurate property tax rolls and assessments, including combating exemption abuse.	Yes
A budget that prioritizes the most fundamental municipal services and a data-driven process for evaluating the necessity of any higher or new taxes, fines or fees.	Yes
Identification of better solutions for creating a more competitive, affordable and accessible property insurance market.	Yes

Quality of Life Addendum: It's not good for anyone when public spaces become the only option for people who have nowhere else to go. The real solution is making sure people have access to housing and services — things like



mental health care, addiction treatment, and job support — so they can get back on their feet. At the same time, there's a real strain on the community when this isn't addressed, and it's frustrating. As mayor, Helena will focus on real, lasting solutions that help people move out of homelessness, while also ensuring our public spaces are clean, safe, and accessible for everyone.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A best practice analysis to identify the most effective role and method for the City's involvement in our economic development landscape, particularly in light of the recent dissolution of the public-private partnership established to catalyze key local sectors.	Yes
A New Orleans economic development plan and strategy to protect and grow key local sectors and their economic centers, including the French Quarter, Central Business District and sectors including energy, trade, healthcare and biosciences.	Yes
Synergy with the strategic plan for regional economic competitiveness that leverages the expertise of local, state and regional economic development partners and business community leaders to realistically pursue economic growth in existing and new sectors.	Yes
An incentive framework that encourages investment and development through the application of a best practice model for fair, transparent and objective processes and criteria.	Yes
A strategy for safeguarding and leveraging publicly-owned assets to facilitate local economic growth.	Yes
Programs and incentives that encourage entrepreneurship and neighborhood-based development.	Yes

CIVIL SERVICE



A strategy for assessing and auditing workplace performance by department and unit and improving the effectiveness of performance reviews.	Yes
Simplification and streamlining of the civil service system, consistent with existing recommendations within the Civil Service Commission's Great Place to Work Initiative.	Yes
Formation of new supervisor and department head training, to give them tools to help facilitate the professional growth of their employees and properly leverage the probationary period.	Yes
Publication of core city workforce performance data so residents and third parties can evaluate productivity and efficiency.	Yes