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PAR's primary purpose is to make factual and well-researched information on governmental issues available to Louisiana citizens, the news media and public officials.

Though most PAR studies conclude with specific recommendations for solving state problems, the organization does no lobbying, believing that the soundest way to achieve political progress is through deep-rooted public understanding and support. Successful implementation of needed reforms has come about through knowledgeable citizens influencing public officials.

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PAR'S 1979 Voters' Guide
to the Elections and
Constitutional Amendments

This year approximately 1,800,000 registered voters in Louisiana will have an opportunity to select officials who will determine, to a large extent, the direction of the state for the next four years. On October 27, 1979, a primary election will be held. Candidates will vie for nine statewide offices, 144 legislative seats and numerous local positions including sheriff, clerk of court, assessor, coroner, police juror, justice of the peace and constable. If no candidate for an office receives a majority of votes cast, then a general election, or runoff, will be held on December 8, 1979.

It is important for voters to be informed as to the issues and positions taken by each of the candidates. To assist in this effort PAR has prepared this guide which discusses the duties and qualifications for the various offices. It also provides a biographical sketch of each candidate for statewide office along with a brief statement of the candidate’s position on various issues.

Louisiana has many challenges which will face officials elected this year. Among these are: upgrading the quality of the public education system, managing the growth of state government, improving budgeting and other financial practices, curtailing retirement system abuses and maintaining high-level professional standards for all public employees.

The biographical information and statements contained in this guide were submitted by the candidates. Before publication, drafts of the information were returned to the candidates for review and verification. Some candidates did not submit the requested information prior to the printing deadline even though all those not responding to the initial request were subsequently called or contacted by certified mail in an effort to obtain biographical information and/or statements. The biographical information furnished by the candidates has not been verified by PAR, and the views expressed in the statements should in no way be attributed to PAR.
General Information

The laws of Louisiana and the United States set forth qualifications for voting in the state. Under Louisiana’s new “open election” procedure, there is only one primary election and all qualified persons may vote in the primary as well as the general election, regardless of party affiliation. The open election system is applicable to state, local and congressional elections but does not apply to the election of presidential electors or party offices.

Voter Qualifications: Every citizen of the United States and of Louisiana, upon reaching the age of 18, has the right to register and vote. A person must be an actual resident of the state, parish, municipality (if applicable) and precinct in which he registers and must be registered at least 30 days prior to the date of the election. Persons are ineligible if declared mentally incompetent or under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

Primary Election: The open election law eliminated the party primary which was used by political parties to nominate candidates for office in the general election. Under the new law, one primary election is conducted and all candidates are listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by office with the candidate’s party affiliation, if any, printed after the name. Voters may vote for any candidate, regardless of the voter’s or the candidate’s party affiliation.

If a candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes in the primary, he is declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two candidates for each position with the greatest number of votes run against each other in the general election. Voters, however, are no longer required to vote for as many candidates as there are positions.

Candidates file with the secretary of state, the clerk of court, secretary or president of the parish board of election supervisors, depending on the nature of the position. Filing fees for the various offices are established by law but all candidates are given the option of not paying the filing fee by qualifying through the filing of nomination papers with the secretary of state for state candidates or clerk of court for local and municipal candidates. The number of signatures required on nominating papers is established by law and varies, depending on the office.

In addition to filing fees paid to the secretary of state, the state central committee and a local committee of a political party may fix and impose fees for candidates who are registered as being affiliated with the political party.
General Election: The general election brings into competition the two candidates for each office with the highest number of votes in the primary, regardless of party affiliation. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast for each office in the general election is elected. Should there be a tie vote, another election is held.

Absentee Voting: Registered voters who expect to be absent from their parish or hospitalized on election day may cast an absentee ballot with the clerk of their district court (civil sheriff in Orleans Parish). Persons who may vote by mail are those in the armed forces; merchant marine; civilian U.S. employees outside of the United States; any registered voter temporarily living outside the United States; members of welfare or religious groups serving in the armed forces, their spouses and dependents; and ministers, priests and rabbis, their spouses and dependents assigned to religious posts outside the United States may vote by mail. Also, students at institutions of higher learning may vote absentee by mail. Absentee mail ballots may be obtained from the clerk of the district court (civil sheriff in Orleans Parish).

## Election Calendar

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Candidates For Statewide Offices

Governor

Duties: The governor, chief executive of the state government, will be authorized to spend over $4 billion in fiscal year 1979-80 and employ approximately 73,000 persons. The governor is charged with supporting the constitution and laws of the state and nation and with seeing that the laws are faithfully executed. A governor exercises control over state government through the appointive and removal powers which allow him to name, subject to confirmation by the Senate, the heads of all executive departments other than the Civil Service Department and departments headed by other statewide elected officials. The governor also appoints certain other key personnel within executive departments and names persons to hundreds of positions on state boards and commissions.

Among the direct powers of the governor are those which give him an important role in the legislative process. A governor may call the Legislature into special session and must stipulate subjects to be considered by the session. The governor is responsible for submitting annually both an operating and five-year capital budget to the Legislature. He is also required to cause a general appropriations bill to be submitted to the Legislature and, if necessary, bills to raise additional revenue. A governor may veto legislation including any item appropriated by the Legislature. The Legislature may override a gubernatorial veto by a two-thirds vote of each house.

Another formal and direct power which the governor exercises is the right to grant reprieves and, upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons, to grant pardons, commute sentences and remit fines and forfeitures for crimes against the state. The governor is also commander of the state’s military forces except when they are in the federal service, and serves on numerous important boards and commissions, including the State Bond Commission and the Interim Emergency Board.

Qualifications: A candidate for governor must be a qualified elector, at least 25 years old, and a citizen of the United States and Louisiana for at least five years immediately preceding the date of qualification for office. As a statewide elected official, a governor may hold no other public office except by virtue of his elected office. An individual who has served as governor for two consecutive terms is not eligible to be elected governor for the succeeding term. Serving more than half of a partial term is considered a full term.

Annual Salary: $52,400.
JAMES E. FITZMORRIS, JR.


When I announced for Governor, I said that the top priority of my administration is the continued improvement of Louisiana’s economy through an unprecedented effort to bring thousands of new, permanent jobs to our state. I listed improving the quality of education, dealing with the energy crisis, balancing growth with a healthy, clean environment, and providing state assistance in helping solve the rising crime problems as areas that will receive my immediate attention. I believe that I have prepared myself for the job, serving as an active Lieutenant Governor for eight years, the last two as head of a major state department which has received national recognition. Understanding the problems of municipalities because of my service as a councilman for the state’s largest city also prepared me for the job. I am ready, I believe because of that experience and background and because of my temperament, to be Governor of Louisiana.

PAUL HARDY


I have staked out positions in favor of right-to-work, teacher tenure, ERA and capital punishment; but against abortion, new state taxes and multi-parish banking. I have pledged to complete four-laning Highway 90 and a North-South expressway. I have declared a “war on hazardous waste.” I am opposed to allowing waste from out of state into Louisiana and have refused to accept contributions from anyone attempting to dump such wastes here. Also, the quality of education must be upgraded immediately and the strong-arm tactics of labor bosses who are self-proclaimed political powers should be terminated.

E. L. “BUBBA” HENRY

80020, Baton Rouge 70808. Phone: (504) 926-8032.
My record as a state representative, as Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives and as chairman of the Louisiana Constitutional Convention shows that I am willing to make the difficult decisions that lead to progress for our state. In my 12 years of public service, we have made significant progress toward opening state government to the people and toward making it operate effectively. I have contributed to that progress, and I am committed to continuing it. I believe I have shown that I can provide the leadership to bring the people of our state together to solve our problems and to plan for future prosperity and progress for Louisiana.

LUTHER DEVINE “L. D.” KNOX
No picture, biographical information or statement provided by candidate.

LOUIS J. LAMBERT
My number one priority as Governor would be the improvement of public education in the State since this is the key to any attempt to raise our standard of living, reduce our unemployment rate and attract new industries and jobs. Secondly, our state budgeting procedures must be reformed—through the establishment of (1) a long range operating budget, (2) a financial management information system, (3) personnel control procedures and (4) a performance auditing unit—to insure that projects are funded on a priority basis. Thirdly, I would speak statewide, nationally and internationally, for the best interest of our state on energy issues—particularly with regard to assuring continuing and adequate energy supplies to our citizens.

KEN LEWIS
The riches and resources of Louisiana belong to all of its citizens. Fiscal policies of the past 16 years have dissipated millions on worthless projects. The green slime of political polluted dollars must be removed and good government made a reality. My platform includes reducing the State Sales Tax from three cents to two cents; reduce the State Income Tax; call a special session of the Legislature, if necessary, to enact the Equal Rights Amendment; a new president and administrative staff at LSU; pay off the $93 million Superdome debt in 1983; and increase tourism by expanding fairs and festivals.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
EDGAR G. "SONNY" MOUTON, JR.


Priorities to accomplish: (1) Education—improvements on all levels with additional funding, increase tenure law, contemporary textbooks, and additional teacher pay, (2) Fiscal Policies—to maintain sound fiscal policies in order to avoid new taxes by having sound administration with a balanced budget and no reduction in services, (3) Industrial Inducement—more public-oriented industries coupled with improved vo-tech programs to create skilled employees for industry, (4) Health Care Services—continued health care services with every effort being made to reduce costs of such services to the fixed-income people, the retirees, and the elderly, and (5) Environmental Safeguards—to improve quality of life through proper enforcement of laws to protect the environment.

GREG NELSON


A new tyranny rules our lives: the oil corporations. They've manufactured the "Energy Crisis," raising gasoline prices to increase their profits. They extort us freely because the Democratic Party is their party, running the government for the rich. We believe that the unions must form their own party to fight for workers, farmers and our families—a labor party that puts human needs first. This party would act against the oil monopolies, opening their secret records, nationalizing them, rolling back fuel prices. It will open the way for working people, who keep the country running, to run the country themselves.

DAVE TREE


As governor, I would work for the following priorities: (1) vast improvement of our public school system, (2) the opening of new job opportunities for all citizens of Louisiana, (3) control of the cost and size of state government operations by reducing wasteful expenditures and eliminating unnecessary bureaucracies, (4) encourage confidence and trust in the governor's office by supporting

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strong ethical standards for state public officials and appointing people to executive branch positions with demonstrated integrity and confidence, and (5) use of the state transportation budget in the most efficient way possible to insure that all our pressing transportation priorities are completely met.

Lieutenant Governor

Duties: The lieutenant governor exercises powers delegated to him by the governor and as provided by law. He also serves as governor in case of a vacancy in the office, the inability of the governor to act as such or if the governor is out of the state. Should a vacancy occur in this office, the governor nominates a successor who is subject to confirmation by a majority of each house of the Legislature.

The lieutenant governor serves as an ex officio member of each committee, board and commission on which the governor serves.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of lieutenant governor must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that a lieutenant governor may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms.

Annual Salary: $42,400.

BILL BOWEN

The following is a list of my priorities: (1) a square deal, (2) equal rights and justice, (3) transportation for the people, (4) safe crossings, (5) lower taxes, and (6) better education.

JAMES J. "JIM" DONELON

Democrat. Practicing Attorney; Chairman, Jefferson Parish Council. Born 12/15/44. Jesuit High School (New Orleans). B.A., University of New Orleans (LSUNO); J.D., Loyola University Law School. Captain, Louisiana Army National Guard (1967 to date); Practicing Attorney (1968 to date). Executive Council to Governor Edwards (1971-75); Chairman, Jefferson Parish Council (1975 to date). Catholic. Address: P. O. Box 8851, Metarie 70011. Phone: (504) 831-3551.
The Lieutenant Governor must be able to assume the office of Governor in the event that office becomes vacant. Voters should look for qualities in a candidate for Lieutenant Governor that they consider important in selecting the Governor. Additionally, the daily role of Lieutenant Governor has evolved into one of

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
Chief Industry Seeker for Louisiana. For more than three years I have worked to encourage the development of new industry and the expansion of existing industry, and I intend to continue as Lieutenant Governor to be a spokesman for industrial inducement—and the creation of more jobs—for our state.

CLAude B. DuVal

Democrat. State Senator. Terrebonne High School (Houma), Louisiana State University; L.L.B., Tulane University Law School. Practicing Attorney (1937 to date); Chairman, Board of Directors, First National Bank of Houma (1973 to date). State Senator (1968 to date). Episcopalian. Address: P. O. Box 3017, Houma, LA 70361. Phone: (504) 876-6410.

My platform includes the following: (1) support of a federal income tax cut, less bureaucracy and government intervention in lives of individuals and business, competitive interplay of free enterprise in the delivery of governmental services; (2) decontrol oil and gas prices and permit the free market to provide energy encouraged by tax incentives, encourage business growth that provides jobs; (3) in education, emphasize absolute discipline—and the basics, reading, writing and arithmetic; (4) all necessary steps to make our homes, streets and public places safe from criminal violence; (5) support modern four-lane north-south highway and completion of U. S. 90; and (6) strengthen our nation's military power and stimulate love of country and pride in our state, courageous leadership with a high standard of honesty, integrity and courage.

Robert L. "Bobby" Freeman


The cornerstone of my platform is experience with performance. I have spent the past 12 years in the Legislature—the past eight as the governor's floor leader in the House. This has given me a keen insight to state government, particularly in matters of finance. The lieutenant governor should be a person qualified and capable of assuming the state's highest position should the need ever arise. Additionally, he should be able to perform in all capacities: finance, legislative, human resources, labor inducement, environment, etc. I humbly submit that by experience, education and training, I am that person.

Lawrence W. Heaslip, Jr.

No picture, biographical information or statement provided by candidate.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
R. C. "RUSS" KIGER II


As a Republican, my political views are very similar to those of Dave Treen, who has my support. My main goal, in addition to performing the duties of the office full-time, will be promotion of recreation for the citizens of the state. I believe my nonpolitical technical background will bring new insight into government.

JESSE M. KNOWLES


A candidate for Lieutenant Governor should have: (1) experience in government, (2) experience in business, and (3) a voting record indicating his political philosophy. As your Lieutenant Governor, I will continue to work to bring industry with jobs to our state as I have done in the past 20 years in the Legislature. I believe that a person who wants to work should have the right to work. We must encourage job security for all people if Louisiana is to continue to grow and prosper in the next decade.

CLYDE C. VIDRINE

Democrat. Mortgage and Real Estate, and Oilfield Construction. Born 9/22/37. Ville Platte and Chataignier High Schools, Attended Louisiana State University. Farmer, Implement Dealer, Real Estate (1956-69); Campaign Co-ordinator, Governor Edwards Election Campaign (1969-71); Administrative Aide for Provisional Governor Administration (1971-72); Administrative Assistant to Governor Ed- wards (1972-73); Mortgage and Real Estate, and Oilfield Construction (1973 to date). Baptist. Address: 235 North Second Street, Eunice 70535. Phone: (318) 457-3313 (home); 546-6892 (office).

The office of Lieutenant Governor has no specific duties except serving as ex officio member of various boards. Therefore, if elected, I would get involved and report back to the people of Louisiana what their elected officials are doing in

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
Baton Rouge. I will not spend enormous sums to win an office which pays Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000.00) per year. I believe the root of corruption in government starts when a candidate has to commit himself for large sums of money to get elected and I do not want to get in that position.

Secretary of State

Duties: The secretary of state heads the Department of State and is the state’s chief election officer. He is responsible for preparing and certifying the ballots for all elections, announcing all election returns and administering the election laws, except those relating to voter registration and custody of voting machines. The secretary of state is also responsible for publishing and distributing the acts and journals of the Legislature, for preserving the official archives of the state and for keeping the public seal and affixing it to official state documents. Articles of incorporation are filed with his office, and trademarks and trade names used in Louisiana are recorded there. The secretary of state countersigns and keeps the official registry of all commissions and may administer oaths. He serves as a trustee of retirement systems for teachers and certain other school employees and is second in the order of succession to fill a vacancy in the office of governor.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of secretary of state must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that a secretary of state may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms.

Annual Salary: $37,400.

JAMES H. "JIM" BROWN, JR.


As Secretary of State I intend to: (1) restore integrity to our electoral process in Louisiana by such methods as amending our disclosure laws and the use of voting machines for absentee voting, (2) increase the efficiency and utility of the corporate records and reporting system by enforcing our reporting requirements, as well as extended use of electronic data systems, and (3) proceed at full speed with the modernization of our State Archive's facilities so that records of our state's history will always be available in a form that we all can use.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
DICK BRUCE


In addition to performing the duties of secretary of state, I would also plan to include extra services. Since 70 percent of the attorneys that need service call from the New Orleans area, I would like to open a second office in New Orleans to give faster service, and save the state money. I will have a toll free service for advice on governmental problems and information on who to contact for assistance, be it their congressman, legislator, police jury, school board, municipality, or some other agency. In addition to my secretary of state duties, I will carry on with the same duties I've had for 20 years—working with tourism and international trade between Latin American countries and Louisiana, to help the next governor, lieutenant governor and the commerce and industry department of our state. My 20 years' administrative experience qualifies me for the office of secretary of state.

BEN JEFFERS

Democrat. Management Consultant. Born 6/18/44. Richardson High School (Lake City, Florida). B.S., Southern University. U. S. Marine Corps (1963-67); General Manager, Lake Charles News Leader (1968-69); Publisher/Editor, Lake Charles Times (1969-70); President, Consulting Firm (1978 to date). Director, Management and Finance, Department of Health and Human Resources (1975-77); Acting Director, New Orleans Charity Hospital (1976-77); Undersecretary, Department of Health and Human Resources (1977-78); Chairman, 1979 Governor's Conference on Aging (1979 to date). Baptist. Address: P. O. Box 3806, Baton Rouge 70821. Phone: (504) 344-9754.

It is my firm conviction that qualifications and experience are the central issues facing Louisiana voters when deciding who to elect as the next Secretary of State for Louisiana. The depth of experience I have as an administrator and manager, in the public and private sector, is unmatched by any of my opponents; my experience uniquely qualifies me to be Secretary of State. Accountability in government has become a fever reflective of citizen concern that the costs of government be controlled and that quality of services delivered by government be improved. As an administrator/manager, I have demonstrated a concern and commitment to service delivery in a cost effective manner to Louisiana citizens. As your Secretary of State, I will continue this commitment.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
SANDRA S. THOMPSON

Democrat. Former Executive Assistant to Secretary of State Wade O. Martin, Jr. Born 10/4/46. Neville High School (Monroe). Attended Northeast Louisiana University and Louisiana State University. Public Service Management Institute, State Government Leadership Program. Executive Director, Atchafalaya Basin Division (1972-76); Coordinator, Louisiana Trails Council (1974-76); Director, Governor’s Beautification Council (1975-76); Cabinet Level Secretary, State Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (1976-78); Chairman, Talent Bank of Women (1977-78). Church of Christ. Address: 460 Florida St., Baton Rouge 70801. Phone: (504) 343-5203.

As Secretary of State I plan to maintain the Election Code Revision Commission for the purpose of monitoring, reviewing and tightening the new Louisiana election code. Because corporate filings are an important service of the Secretary of State’s office and they should be handled promptly and professionally, we will provide a maximum turn-around service of only three days on all corporate registrations. I plan to appoint key professional historians, preservationists and interested citizens to an Archives Committee for the express purpose of helping plan and develop the new archives building to its fullest potential. I will make sure that we provide new and continuing services to the state with no more than a 5% annual increase in the operating budget of the Department of State.

Attorney General

Duties: The attorney general heads the Department of Justice and is the state’s chief legal officer. In order to assert or protect any right or interest of the state, the attorney general may institute, prosecute or intervene in any civil action or procedure and, upon written request of a district attorney, may advise and assist in the prosecution of any criminal case. When authorized by the court having original jurisdiction, and subject to judicial review, the attorney general may institute, prosecute or intervene in any criminal action or proceeding and may supersede any attorney representing the state in any civil or criminal action. The attorney general may also institute proceedings to enforce the state’s open meetings law on his own initiative or upon a complaint filed with him by any person, unless written reasons are given as to why the suit should not be filed.

The attorney general acts as legal advisor to state agencies and renders written advisory opinions on questions of law to public officials. He serves on several boards and commissions including the State Bond Commission and the Law Institute. He is third in the order of succession to fill a vacancy in the office of governor.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
Qualifications: Candidates for the office of attorney general must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that an attorney general may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms. In addition, the attorney general must have been admitted to the practice of law in the state for at least the five years preceding his election.

Annual Salary: $37,400.

WILLIAM J. GUSTE, JR.

Democrat. Attorney General. Born 5/26/22. Jesuit High School (New Orleans). B.A., Law Degree, Loyola University and Law School. U. S. Army (1942-46); Practicing Attorney (1942-72). State Senator (1968-72); Attorney General (1972 to date). Catholic. Address: P. O. Box 44005, Baton Rouge 70804. Phone: (504) 342-7014. During the next four years, as in the past, every legal weapon I and my staff have will be used in our ongoing fight against crime and public corruption, in protecting the consumer, in keeping Louisiana's resources primarily for the benefit of Louisianians, in continuing to challenge businesses who cheat or overcharge the public, in prosecuting those who destroy our fish and wildlife or our environment. As in the past, I will demand a dollar value for a dollar spent on state public works. As the people's arm of state government, we will continue to ensure that our state and local governments are kept honest, ethical and responsive to the needs of the people.

EDDIE KNOLL

Democrat. Practicing Attorney, Farmer, Cattleman. Born 12/12/41. Simmesport High School. B.A., Louisiana State University; Juris Doctorate, Loyola University Law School. Practicing Attorney (1967 to date). District Attorney, Avoyelles Parish (1972 to date). Catholic. Address: P. O. Box 211, Marksville 71351. Phone: (318) 253-6200. I have made crime my number one priority in office. I believe the Attorney General should lead the fight in this most important area of the law. I am concerned that welfare fraud cases are not being vigorously prosecuted. I will cut the amount of outside attorneys hired. I will also put the $4 million budget of this office to better use. Last year Louisiana spent an additional $7 million on legal fees. Finally, when I am elected, inconsistent opinions will no longer be issued from the Attorney General's office.

Treasurer

Duties: The treasurer heads the Department of the Treasury and is custodian of all state funds, except those which are specifically

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
exempted by the constitution. The treasurer disburses public money as required by law and maintains an account of funds received and disbursed by the office. The treasurer is empowered to invest funds in the treasury which are not currently needed in the state’s operations. The types of investments are specified by law. A report on the financial condition of the state must be made by the treasurer to the governor annually and to the Legislature at least one month before each regular session. The treasurer serves as chairman of the State Bond Commission, on the Interim Emergency Board and on several boards of retirement systems for public employees. The treasurer is an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees for the State Employee Group Benefits Program. The treasurer is fourth in the order of succession to fill a vacancy in the office of governor.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of treasurer must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that a treasurer may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms.

Annual Salary: $37,400.

MARY EVELYN PARKER


The State Treasurer is responsible for the custody, investment and disbursement of public funds. When I became State Treasurer in May 1968, only $18 million in public funds were invested in the banks of our State, earning less than $1 million in interest annually. Today, 11 years later, we have One and a Quarter Billion Dollars invested in 234 Louisiana banks, earning more than $320,000 in interest each day, 365 days of the year. Our investment program will result in interest earnings in excess of $90,000,000 this fiscal year, and will produce more than $110 million next year, bringing the total of interest earnings during my administration to almost one-half billion dollars. We have also developed a debt management program which has resulted in savings of over One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars in interest on State bonds issued. This progress and these achievements are no more than the public deserves and has a right to expect.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
KEN E. PICKERING


When elected Treasurer, I will personally devote my time and efforts to the sound administration of the state’s funds. I will apply the same high standards that have proven me an accomplished corporate attorney and successful businessman. The Treasurer should possess a healthy blend of these traits combined with a dedication to the needs of the people of Louisiana. My past experience and performance record as the State’s Commissioner of Financial Institutions uniquely qualifies me for State Treasurer. This office requires continual updating in the most modern financial methods available. Within the context of a modern efficient administration, my main objective will be to earn the highest rate possible on invested state funds. In addition to this, I will promote the stability of our state’s economy through sound financial investments.

Superintendent of Education
(For Public Elementary and Secondary Education)

Duties: The superintendent of education is the administrative head of the State Department of Education and is responsible for educational leadership statewide. The superintendent implements the policies of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the laws affecting the schools under the board’s jurisdiction.

The superintendent is responsible to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for the supervision of all public elementary and secondary schools, vocational-technical training and special schools under the board’s control. He is responsible for implementing an accountability system. The department also handles the distribution of state and federal funds to the parish and city school boards.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of superintendent of education must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that a superintendent of education may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms.

Annual Salary: $37,400.
THOMAS G. CLAUSEN

Democrat. Former Director, Private Placement (Handicapped Children's Program), Department of Health and Human Resources. Born 12/22/39. Centerville High School. B.A., University of Southwestern Louisiana; M.A., Louisiana State University; Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi. U. S. Army (1960-61); Elementary Teacher (1962-65); Secondary Teacher (Fall 1965; 1966-67); Assistant Professor, Nicholls State University (1967-72). Director, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, State Department of Education (1972-73); Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, SDE (1973-74); Assistant Superintendent, Special Education, SDE (1974-76); Director, Private Placement, Department of Health and Human Resources (1976-78). Baptist. Address: 4432 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge 70806. Phone: (504) 927-8590.

Real improvements in education can occur only with positive leadership from the State Superintendent of Education. Punitive, repressive measures directed against teachers do not result in dedication and enthusiasm in the classroom. As Superintendent of Education, I will use my qualifications and experience to provide positive leadership to finally achieve educationally sound programs in the basics, better classroom discipline, a common sense approach to special education, improved vocational and driver education programs, and continuing teacher training. Working together, we can create a climate for cooperation and progress, instead of an educational battlefield where our children are the only casualties.

C. B. "LUM" ELLIS

Democrat. University Administrator. Born 5/2/35. Istrouma High School (Baton Rouge). B.A., Louisiana College; Th.M., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; M.A., Louisiana State University; Ph.D., Louisiana State University. Minister (1954-66); Assistant to the President and Professor, Northwestern State University (1970 to date); Author and Seminar Consultant for Gerontology, Drug Abuse, Race Relations, Criminal Rehabilitation, Mental Health (1970 to date); KNOC-KDBH Radio Host (1972 to date); President, Old Natchitoches Enterprises, Inc. (1977 to date). Member, Natchitoches Parish School Board (1972 to date). Methodist. Address: One Kenny Square, Natchitoches 71457. Phone: (318) 352-2545.

I believe education is government's most important task, and under the present superintendent it has become Louisiana's number one problem. I assure you as superintendent, with your children in mind, I will build a program around: better teaching through teacher tests for knowledge, teaching skills, and attitude toward students; upgraded, uniform teacher training programs; enforced classroom discipline; curriculum emphasis on reading, writing, and arithmetic; restoration of unity and cooperation within Louisiana's educational system; a vocational-technical system that works; humane, workable alternatives to social promotion; and reestablishment of cooperation between superintendent-BESE-Legislature-governor and family-school-church on behalf of our children.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
JEREMY “JERRY” MILLETT


The Superintendent must be a leader in educational reform, not just an administrator. I believe we must make use of all our school systems, private and parochial also. Most are superior educational institutions, so these voluntary schools are Louisiana’s greatest and most neglected educational resources. A Voucher System—payable to any school for the average cost of education—will let all children use them. We will then have competition for students, higher academic standards and better pay for good teachers. This will also give parents greater responsibility for their children’s education, by returning to them the choice of schools.

LAWRENCE J. NARCISSE III


Because of my commitment to a free, open, and accessible system of public education, I have chosen to enter the race for State Superintendent of Education. As Jessie Jackson has said, “Effort must exceed opportunity for change to occur.” As State Superintendent of Education, I will involve classroom teachers and parents in finding solutions to our serious discipline and drug abuse problems; institute tutorial centers financed by the state in each parish, the number determined by the student population; and improve coordination among continuing, vo-tech, career, and academic education to prepare all our people for a productive career. These solutions can only be achieved through a cooperative effort if we are to have an educational system that offers all our children a chance to realize the promise of Louisiana.

J. KELLY NIX

Democrat. Superintendent of Education. Born 10/6/34. Oak Grove High School. B.A., Northeast Louisiana University; M.A., Louisiana State University. Completed Advanced Work Toward Ph.D. at LSU. Operating Engineer (1953-55); U. S. Army (1955-57); Research Assistant, Public Affairs Research Council (1962-65); University Professor, Public Administration (1965-68); Executive Director, Delta Economic Development District (1969-71); Executive Assistant to the Governor (1972-74); Chief Assistant to the Governor (1975-76). Superintendent of Education (1976 to date). Episcopalian. Address: 13215 Wenham Ave., Baton Rouge 70815. Phone: (504) 275-1376.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
Just a few short years ago, many people said it couldn't be done—that improvements I wanted to bring about in Louisiana education just could not be done. Today, people are saying it can and has been done. I have pushed for higher standards in teacher education, in student performance, and in elementary and high school curriculum, and we have seen improvements in all of those areas. During my next administration, I intend to continue urging quality educational programs for our children. For them, we will have the best teachers, the best curricula, and the best schools. I pledge to bring about an educational system Louisianians will be proud of.

Commissioner of Agriculture

Duties: The commissioner of agriculture heads the Department of Agriculture and is responsible for all functions of the state relating to the promotion, protection and advancement of agriculture, except research and educational functions expressly allocated by law to other state agencies. The department is primarily concerned with issuing and enforcing regulations designed to protect the agricultural interests of the state, including industries which process agricultural products. The commissioner is also responsible for assuring accurate weights and measures on all raw and processed foods, for protecting agricultural products from insect pests and diseases and for preventing fraudulent practices in agriculture. The commissioner serves on numerous boards and commissions dealing with marketing and control of agricultural products.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of commissioner of agriculture must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that a commissioner of agriculture may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms.

Annual Salary: $37,400.

JOE COCO

Democrat. Salesman, Farms and Acreage Realty Company. Born 3/26/24. Mansura High School. B.S., Louisiana State University. Attended LSU Graduate School. U.S. Coast Guard (1942-45); Vocational Agriculture Teacher (1949-53); District Supervisor, Junior Livestock Loan Program (1953-56), State Supervisor, Junior Livestock Loan Program (1956-60), Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner (1960-73), Director of Marketing (1973-78), Louisiana Department of Agriculture; Farms and Acreage Realty Sales (1979 to date). Interdenominational Church. Address: 8285 Sholar, Baton Rouge 70809. Phone: (504) 926-2100.

When elected Commissioner of Agriculture, I propose a five-point program that will be placed in effect, as follows: (1) Establish better systems of marketing

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for all agricultural products assuring the consuming public high grade produce and meat products at a fair market price to the producer and consumer, (2) Eliminate unessential jobs and place qualified personnel in various necessary jobs in agriculture, (3) Strengthen the requirements of protecting, advancing and promoting agriculture and agri-business, (4) Appoint an Advisory Committee for Agriculture from labor, agriculture, business, commerce, education, industry, consumer groups and others, and (5) Establish processing plants enabling us to process our own diversified products, creating more jobs and strengthening our economy.

**GIL DOZIER**

Democrat, Commissioner of Agriculture. Born 3/19/34, Fields High School, B.S., University of Southwestern Louisiana; Juris Doctorate, Louisiana State University Law School. U. S. Air Force (1957-59); University Professor (1960-65); U. S. Air Force Reserve (1965 to date); Farmer, Cattlemaster (1965 to date); Practicing Attorney and Real Estate Developer (1965 to date). Commissioner of Agriculture (1976 to date). Baptist. Address: P. O. Box 476, Baton Rouge 70821. Phone: (504) 342-7011.

As incumbent commissioner of agriculture, I have initiated and continue to implement policies designed to help agri-business and consumers faced with spiraling inflation, serious fuel shortages and possible recession. Ahead and just over the horizon is the dismal prospect of a worsening economy—disquieting to the sense of security essential to the welfare of our citizens. These are times that demand experienced and steadfast leadership capable of coping with local problems and an ever-expanding federal bureaucracy. If events are to be kept out of the saddle, and a capable farmer-cattle grower-businessman-attorney kept in, I am the man for the job—your best bet for a proven commissioner of agriculture.

**BOB ODOM**

Democrat, Farmer, Crop Damage Consultant. Born 7/20/35, St. Francisville High School, B.S., Southeastern Louisiana University. Attended Louisiana State University Graduate School. U. S. Marine Corp Reserve (1957 to date); Farmer—Cattle Operation (1968 to date); Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Inspector (1960-64), Director of Pesticide Applicators Division (1965-74), Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture (1974-75), Director of Technical Services (1974-76); State Planning—Water Control, Office of the Governor (1976-77); Crop Damage Consultant (1976-79). Baptist. Address: 8328 Tom Drive, Baton Rouge 70815. Phone: (504) 927-2356.

Agriculture touches the daily lives of every person in Louisiana. Therefore, we need a Commissioner of Agriculture who truly cares about the people and will provide the leadership needed to tackle the problems we face today. I will provide this strong leadership because I am acutely aware of the problems. I have devoted a lifetime to agriculture and have served 17 years with the Louisiana

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Department of Agriculture. It is time Louisiana elected a full-time, dedicated Commissioner of Agriculture who will stand up for the consumer and the farmer, and work diligently to improve the relationship between agriculture and the people of this great state. As your Commissioner, I pledge that I will not only provide the leadership, but that I will also return integrity to the Department of Agriculture.

DAVE L. PEARCE


Today’s inflation makes it essential that the commissioner of agriculture be experienced in the production and marketing of agricultural products. As a legislator, I authored the Commerce and Industry Act which created 1,500 new industries and 500,000 new jobs in Louisiana. I also passed the Soil Conservation and Forestry Acts, which have made North Louisiana once again productive agricultural land. We can hold down high prices and promote the farmer by adhering strictly to the free enterprise system and by continuing to “Build Louisiana by Using Louisiana Products.”

LELAND GEORGE RAWLS


If elected Commissioner of Agriculture, I will devote all my time to helping the farmer and the consumer. I will promote, protect and advance the Agriculture Department of our state to everyone’s benefit. I will enforce new laws in the Agriculture Department and also see that the old laws are enforced. The future of this state is our agriculture and I will strive to develop agriculture to its fullest extent.

Commissioner of Insurance

Duties: The commissioner of insurance heads the Department of Insurance and administers Louisiana’s laws governing the insurance industry. The commissioner is responsible for regulating all phases of insurance except rates and rating organizations which are regu-

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lated by the state Insurance Rating Commission. The commissioner of insurance examines and licenses insurance agents and brokers, approves policy forms, examines articles of incorporation of insurance companies doing business in Louisiana, evaluates complaints against insurers, receives financial reports and determines the solvency of the companies, and collects insurance premium taxes and fees. The commissioner is ex officio chairman of the seven-member Insurance Rating Commission, with the other six members being appointed by the governor.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of commissioner of insurance must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that a commissioner of insurance may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms.

Annual Salary: $37,400.

SHERMAN A. BERNARD

Democrat. Commissioner of Insurance. Born 6/10/25, Terrebonne High School (Houma). Attended Tulane University. U. S. Marine Corps (1942-46); Louisiana State Trooper (1946-47); Sherman A. Bernard Construction Company, Inc., Owner (1948-60), President (1960-73), Executive Director, Jefferson Parish Housing Authority (1963-65); Democratic State Central Committee (1968 to date); Commissioner of Insurance (1972 to date). Catholic. Address: 950 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge 70802. Phone: (504) 342-5322.

The major accomplishment of my administration has been to change the attitude of the Insurance Department from company-oriented to consumer-oriented. I have also represented consumers on the Insurance Rating Commission. My aggressive regulation has been for the benefit of the consumer and the agent without jeopardizing companies. Examples: I forced rate cuts of 6.8% in automobile insurance, 12.9% in fire insurance and 7.0% in homeowners. I took companies to the Louisiana Supreme Court to stop excessive profits; I established a consumer affairs division which helps policyholders recover over $1 million a year in claims; I brought consumer service offices to all major cities; I have put a lid on automobile rates because of the fuel shortage; I created two advisory groups of agents. If reelected, I will continue to fight for people's rights.

KENT DUPREE


I feel that with my 24 years of experience in the insurance

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industry I will be an asset to the office of commissioner of insurance. I pledge to fully cooperate with the governor, state legislators, the public and the entire insurance industry to assist in solving the insurance problems that exist in our state.

ED FLETCHER


I pledge to protect the public from the insurance companies. I will vigorously oppose all unreasonable insurance rates and policies with fine print. I will actively pursue a policy to force the insurance companies to give prompt and complete claim service. I will eliminate all unscrupulous insurance agents. Not only will I be fair and honest, my department will and all insurance agents will. This program will save the public millions of dollars. With my vast insurance experience I can accomplish all of the above.

W. L. "BUD" GAIENNIE


One of the major goals is the abolishing of the Louisiana Insurance Rating Commission because it takes from the people the representation which they thought they had when they elected a commissioner and creates another bureau accountable to no one, whose only qualifications are that they be a friend of the Governor and that they can prove that they are reasonably alive. The insurance code for the state of Louisiana is an unreadable document unless you are a lawyer, and since there are a lot more people insured who are not lawyers I intend to devote a great deal of my efforts toward making the document readable to the common man who buys an insurance policy. And while we're at it, I will insist that insurance companies phrase their policies in simple terms so that the person buying insurance can understand what he's paying for.

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WARREN J. "PUGGY" MOITY, SR.


I will work hard to see that insurance companies cannot cancel insurance policies for no cause. Equally, so that no loss could be settled on contents on a depreciated value, but instead on an actual cash value at time of loss and that no company can cancel a policyholder without first holding a hearing as to why he is being cancelled. I will see to it that all records listing assets, liabilities and detailed account of expenditures of insurance companies shall be available to the public and the press at all reasonable times and business hours. No agent will have his company contract cancelled without a hearing and just cause.

BOB MORRISON


I will see that insurance companies operating within Louisiana are solvent at their beginning. Under the present conditions, when a company becomes insolvent, better companies are penalized, under the Guaranty Fund, and must pay the claims of the insolvent company, thus resulting in higher premiums to the public. I have 25 years of dedicated experience within the Insurance Industry and realize the public is searching for lower premiums with a reputable company that will exist when needed most. I can, and will, communicate candidly with the State Legislature, while standing firm, to secure strong, comprehensive laws and programs for the Insurance Industry, and you, the public. Let's return efficiency, integrity and professionalism to the office. I pledge to do just that.

CLYDE STEPHENS

Democrat. Real Estate, Insurance Business. Born 11/18/12. Byrd High School (Shreveport). Attended Kilgore Jr. College (Kilgore, Texas); University of Alabama. Clerk (1933-35); Real Estate, Insurance (1952-79); U. S. Army (1941-46); Auditor (1946-72); Executive Office, Comptroller, Truck Line (1959-72); Chairman, Lake Charles Dock Board (1964-65). Methodist. Address: P. O. Box 3043,

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
Lake Charles 70602. Phone: (318) 439-5379.
As insurance commissioner I pledge lower insurance rates coupled with reasonable profits to underwriters.

DON WILLIAMSON

Louisiana’s Department of Insurance needs to be administrated, not investigated. Your Insurance Commissioner should manage insurance operations and not be influenced by big companies and fly-by-night operators. My successful business background qualifies me to administer your insurance department with fairness to reputable companies that operate in our state while assuring the lowest possible rates to the consumer. My 12 years’ experience as a member of the Legislature has given me the ability to obtain sound legislation for the benefit of us all. I want to serve my state positively and progressively. There is no place in state government that needs effective leadership more than the office I seek.

Commissioner of Elections

Duties: The commissioner of elections heads the Department of Elections and Registration, administers the state’s voting machine law and is responsible for the purchase, maintenance, repair, drayage (hauling) and storage of voting machines. The department prepares the machines for balloting and insures that they are delivered to the appropriate parish officials in time for elections. The commissioner is also responsible for administering laws relating to voter registration including directing and assisting registrars of voters in matters related to local registration of voters.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of commissioner of elections must meet the same qualifications as are required for gubernatorial candidates, except that a commissioner of elections may succeed himself for an unlimited number of terms.

Annual Salary: $37,400.

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JOHN HENRY BAKER


I am running for the office to abolish it. The job of Commissioner of Elections, or Custodian of Voting Machines as it was called, along with its few functions, logically belongs in the Secretary of State's office where it was originally. I strongly advocate putting it back there, which would require a constitutional amendment. When elected I will continue the limited functions of the office, but spend a great deal of my time in putting together the information necessary to convince the Legislature of the need for such an amendment. I am absolutely sincere about my intentions in running for this job. I will accept it, but only as compensation for the time that I am away from my present occupation.

WILSON CHANEY


The Commissioner of Elections should be returned to an appointed position. With a budget of over $6 million and some 600 elections upcoming, it is imperative that the Commissioner be able to devote full attention to the administrative and managerial demands of the job and not spend the next four years running for reelection. Prior to 1956 the Commissioner's duties came under the Secretary of State. A political conflict between the governor and the secretary resulted in the Legislature creating the elected post of Custodian of Voting Machines. When the state's new constitution was written, our delegates wisely conceived Article IV, Section 20 which permits the Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to make the Commissioner of Elections an appointive office. While strongly supporting efforts to make this office appointive, I will work to establish innovative and truly effective voter registration programs and will administer the office in an efficient manner.

JERRY M. FOWLER


Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
I believe I am qualified by training, experience and temperament to serve the people of Louisiana as Commissioner of Elections. I know the governmental process, having served as a public official with the State Department of Education. I have worked closely with the Legislature and have a lifetime of involvement in politics, supporting the candidates of my choice. I am a businessman. I have had to meet a payroll. I have had to maintain an inventory. I have had to establish systems of quality controls and I have had to deal with personnel. But, perhaps most important of all, I understand that our citizens have a right to demand honesty in the conduct of elections and efficiency in the operation of the Commissioner of Elections office. I am committed to both these principles and they are the basis of my campaign.

TOM FOWLER


I am dedicated to the cause of honest elections. I will work with the Attorney General and other law enforcement agencies to prevent vote fraud and vote buying as we have seen in the past.

LYNNE HAIR


My pledge is to improve the election process so that voter fraud will be prevented. Scandals have surrounded our elections for too long. Emphasis on voting machines instead of voters has lasted too long. My number one priority is to establish voter registration procedures to accommodate a greater number of citizens. If all eligible voters were registered it would be very hard for any candidate to buy enough votes to win. I will assist parish elections personnel with improved technical assistance and dedicate my efforts toward cooperation with parish governments to maintain current voter rolls.

D. KEITH HOWARD

No picture, biographical information or statement provided by candidate.

Biographical data and statements supplied by candidates and not verified by PAR.
JERRE T. HURST

Democrat, Manager, Financial Corporation. Born 9/30/34. Crozier Tech High School (Dallas, Texas). Certificate of Proficiency, College Accounting. U. S. Air Force (1951-54); Dispatch and Security, U. S. Postal Service (1955-59); Louisiana Department of Corrections (1960-63); B.M.I. Business College, Monroe (1964-65); Office Manager, Construction Company (1965-67); Restaurant Owner (1967-72); Aide and Investigator, Commissioner of Insurance (1972-74); Owner, Insurance Agency (1974-78); Manager, Financial Corporation (1978 to date). Baptist. Address: P. O. Box 545, Columbia 71418. Phone: (318) 649-2228.

Hasn't Louisiana and its citizens suffered enough shame from vote fraud and vote buying? The Department of Elections and Registration was created by the 1974 state constitution and as of this date, the department has not been brought up to date to efficiently serve the needs of the voters. The time has come for Louisiana to have an active Commissioner of Elections, one who will update and upgrade this most important office so as to be more representative and protective of the Louisiana voter. As the "guardian of your voice in government, your vote," I dedicate myself to you and will work untiringly for you and the changes needed to truly make this the office of the voter.

DUNWOODIE McDUFFIE


I am Dunwoodie McDuffie running for your "Commissioner of Elections." My life and my heart have always been in Louisiana. My wife and I raised five sons and two daughters in this great state. My thirty years of business experience will qualify me for the office of Commissioner of Elections. I am a man with a positive attitude and will make you one of the best Commissioners of Elections you ever had. Will you vote Dunwoodie McDuffie No. 53 Commissioner of Elections. Thank you.

GEORGE RICHARD


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The Commissioner of Elections is an important state post. Since its inception it has been an ineffective advocate of voter's rights. The state of Louisiana needs a Commissioner of Elections who will protect the public trust of the ballot box. As Commissioner of Elections I will bring to the office effective management and administrative techniques. I will work with local officials to increase voter registration and more importantly voter involvement in the electoral process. I will work with the Legislature to improve the electoral process and to establish a Board of Elections with citizen participation. I will make sure that every voter's vote counts and is not just counted; and I'll stop the Louisiana electoral process from being the joke of the country.

JEROME "JERRY" SAUER


This is the first time someone can be elected to this position that wasn't appointed first. No one has ever held this office that has full knowledge of the voting machine or its working parts. I have worked under every administrator the state ever had. Every major election the state had outside help called in to help set up our elections. Why? Needed are: (1) better trained mechanics, (2) a preventive maintenance program, (3) increased registration by mobile units by attending functions of organizations at their convenience, (4) better sealing methods of voting machines and (5) modifications (ballot protective covers and ballot holder protective bars).

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The Legislature

Duties: In the coming elections, the citizens of Louisiana will vote for the 39 senators and 105 representatives who comprise the state Legislature. Each voter may vote for one senator and one representative. Legislators establish state policies, determine the level of state spending and taxation, and decide how state funds are to be used and the services to be provided.

The role of the Legislature is a vital one. It is important that each voter carefully weigh the qualities of the candidates in his district and select those who can and will carry out important decision-making duties.

Qualifications: A candidate for the Legislature, in addition to being a qualified elector, must be at least 18 years old, have resided in the state for the preceding two years and have maintained legal residence for the preceding year in his legislative district. Once elected, a legislator must keep his legal residence within the district.

Compensation: Legislators receive $50 per day during the sessions and 19 cents per mile for one round trip per week; $1,000 per month expense allowance; $50 per day when serving on committees which are authorized to receive compensation, plus 19 cents per mile. Each legislator may also hire one or more legislative assistants but a limit is placed on the total funds available to him for the payment of salaries to these persons. A legislator maintaining a district office may be reimbursed up to $150 monthly for payment of rent and utility costs and up to a total of $1,000 for the purchase of furniture and equipment which becomes state property.
Parish Offices
(Excluding Orleans)

Parish officials in all parishes except Orleans will be voted on in the forthcoming elections. Included on the ballots will be candidates for sheriff, clerk of court, assessor, coroner, police juror (in most parishes), justice of the peace and constable. The duties of these officials in parishes other than Orleans are discussed below. In addition to specific duties, state law requires that the sheriff, clerk of court, assessor and coroner prepare an annual itemized financial report. This report is a public record.

Sheriff

Duties: The sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of the parish and is responsible, with others, for enforcing state laws as well as parish ordinances. The sheriff maintains the parish jail, transports persons committed to state institutions and is empowered to carry out court orders.

Except in Orleans Parish, the sheriff is ex officio collector of state (if levied) and parish property taxes and other taxes and license fees as provided by law. As tax collector, the sheriff also conducts the sale of property for nonpayment of taxes.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of sheriff must be qualified electors.

Salary: $29,675-$42,435 annually (Orleans excluded), based on population of the parish according to the latest U.S. census. An additional ten percent expense allowance may also be granted.

Clerk of Court

Duties: The clerk of the district court keeps the records of the court and serves as ex officio notary public and parish recorder of conveyances, mortgages and other official documents. In addition, numerous writs and orders involved in the judicial process are issued through the clerk’s office. The clerk serves ex officio as parish custodian of voting machines, conducts absentee voting and performs other election duties.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of clerk of court must be qualified electors.
Salary: $24,800-$35,200 annually, based on population of the parish according to the latest U.S. or special census although a salary cannot be reduced due to a loss in population. An additional five percent expense allowance is authorized. The law contains special provisions for Orleans and Plaquemines parishes.

Assessor

Duties: The parish assessor is responsible for determining the fair market value of all taxable property within the parish, except public service property which is assessed by the Louisiana Tax Commission. For agricultural, horticultural, marsh and timber lands, assessors determine use value rather than fair market value. Criteria for determining the values are to be established by law and uniformly applied throughout the state. The correctness of assessments are subject to review first by the parish governing authority, then by the Louisiana Tax Commission and finally by the courts. Assessors are also required to reappraise all locally assessed property at least once every four years. All property subject to taxation is to be listed on the assessment rolls at its assessed value which is a constitutionally established percentage of fair market or use value, depending on the type of property.

Qualifications: Candidates for the office of assessor must be qualified electors.

Salary: $26,640-$34,602 annually (Orleans excluded), based on the number of assessment listings, number of homestead exemptions, parish population according to the latest U.S. census and number of taxing districts.

Coroner

Duties: The coroner is responsible for investigating deaths that occur under specified circumstances. Generally these circumstances are cases of suspicious, unexpected or violent deaths without a physician in recent attendance. The coroner orders or performs autopsies when he considers them necessary and issues permits authorizing cremation. Under procedures established by law, a coroner may order the commitment of persons for mental examinations and treatment. The coroner may serve ex officio as parish physician and, in parishes without a full-time health unit, as parish health officer. The coroner must report to the district attorney all crimes that come to his knowledge. He must also file a report at least once every six months with the parish governing authority summa-
rizing his work and stating expenses incurred.

**Qualifications:** Candidates for the office of coroner must be qualified electors. The coroner must be a licensed physician except in parishes where no licensed physician will accept the office.

**Salary:** The coroner receives fees fixed by law for services performed. He may also receive a salary as parish health officer and he may receive, in lieu of fees, a salary as parish physician. Coroners who earn less than $25,000 annually receive extra compensation of $6,000 a year from the state, and where compensation is based solely on fees, the parish governing authority may pay an additional $6,000 per year.

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**Police Jury**

**Duties:** In most parishes, the police jury serves as the parish governing authority. All members of a police jury are elected by district.

A police jury performs the traditional legislative functions of enacting ordinances and resolutions, establishing programs and setting policy. The jury is also an administrative body in that it is involved in preparing the budget, hiring and firing of personnel, spending funds and, in general, directing the activities under its supervision. In practice, the manner in which police juries discharge their responsibilities varies considerably.

The powers and duties of police juries not operating under home rule are specified by law and include maintenance of the parish road and drainage system, adoption of subdivision regulations and the regulation of traffic on parish roads. The police jury may also levy taxes, as provided by law.

State law requires all parishes spending money from the state’s Parish Road Fund to administer their road operations under the unit system whereby decisions are made by the jury as a whole. The system of road administration must also include a capital improvement program, centralized purchasing of equipment and supplies, centralized accounting, and selective maintenance and construction based upon engineering plans and inspections.

**Qualifications:** Candidates for the office of police juror must meet the same qualifications as are required for members of the House of Representatives. (See qualifications under The Legislature.)

**Salary:** Police jurors may receive compensation not to exceed $50 per day and 16 cents per mile going to and from the courthouse for every day they are actually employed in the service of the parish. They may not be paid for more than 144 days in any one year or
for more than 12 meetings per month. Jurors may receive $600 per month in lieu of per diem payments.

Justice of the Peace

Duties: State law provides that each parish governing authority may divide its parish into justice of the peace wards and that the election of these officials be on a ward basis.

Justices of the peace have concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in civil matters in which the amount in dispute does not exceed $750 not including interest and attorneys’ fees. However, they do not have jurisdiction when the title to real estate is involved, when the state or any political subdivision is a defendant, or in succession or probate matters.

Justices of the peace have criminal jurisdiction, as committing magistrates only, in cases which are not punishable by death or hard labor. The justice of the peace may be authorized by the coroner to perform certain duties in his behalf.

Qualifications: A candidate for justice of the peace must be of good moral character, own real property, be a qualified elector and be able to read and write English correctly.

Salary: Not less than $30 per month in parishes over 5,000 population. All receive fees for services in civil matters at rates set by law. The state may supplement the pay of justices of the peace by matching the amount paid by the parish, up to a maximum of $100 per month.

Constable

Duties: Each justice of the peace ward elects one constable who carries out the orders of the justice of the peace court and assists in enforcing the law in his jurisdiction.

Qualifications: Candidates for constable must be of good moral character, able to read and write English, and be an elector and resident of the ward from which elected.

Salary: Not less than $30 per month in parishes over 5,000 population. All receive fees for services in civil matters at rates set by law. The state may supplement the pay of constables by matching the amount paid by the parish, up to a maximum of $50 per month.
Party Offices

Louisiana provides for the recognition and organization of political parties. A political party is recognized if one of its candidates for presidential elector received at least five percent of the votes cast in the last presidential election, or if at least five percent of the voters in the state are registered as members of that political party.

Recognized political parties are controlled and directed by one state central committee and a parish executive committee for each parish. Each recognized political party nominates a full slate of candidates for presidential electors.

Only members of a political party may vote for party offices.

State Central Committee

A party's state central committee is composed of up to 203 members (at least one member from each parish and one additional member for each 18,250 persons or major fraction thereof in each parish, according to the 1970 census). The method of apportioning central committee members is specified by law for recognized political parties with an affiliation of ten percent or more of the state's registered voters. If a party has less than ten percent of the affiliated registered voters, committee membership is apportioned by its state central committee.

The state central committee of a recognized political party may adopt rules and regulations consistent with state laws, and create any committees deemed necessary.

Qualifications: Candidates must meet qualifications established by rules and regulations of the state central committee of that party.

Parish Executive Committee

Generally, the parish executive committee of a recognized political party is composed of five members-at-large for each parish and additional members based on the number of persons on the parish governing authority from each ward. Orleans Parish is excepted, in that it elects 14 members from each councilmanic district. Jefferson Parish (also excepted) elects five members from each councilmanic district and five members-at-large.

The parish executive committee of a recognized political party may adopt rules and regulations consistent with state laws and the
rules and regulations of the state central committee for that political party.

Qualifications: Candidates must meet qualifications established by rules and regulations of the state central committee for that party. State central committee rules and regulations for qualifications of parish executive committee members must be uniform throughout the state.
Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The first proposed amendment to Louisiana’s 1974 constitution was ratified in November 1978. Three more proposed amendments will appear on the October 27 ballot, along with names of candidates for governor, other statewide and local offices.

Voters have been relieved of the burden of voting on scores of amendments, due mainly to adoption of a new constitution which removed much excessive detail.

In the past, voter participation on amendments was relatively low. This may have been due to voting on most amendments at congressional elections which have a lower voter turnout than gubernatorial elections, or to the difficulty of understanding the great number of amendments proposed. Whether voter participation on the three proposed amendments at the time of the upcoming gubernatorial election is high or low, all that is required for ratification is approval by a majority of those voting on each amendment.

No. 1 Raising Assessments on Public Service Property

Purpose: To create a new classification for assessing public service property, excluding electrical cooperatives and land, and to raise that assessment from 15% to 25% of fair market value.

Legal Citation: Act 799 of 1979, amending Article VII, Section 18 (B).

Background: The 1974 constitution created three classifications of property for ad valorem tax purposes—land and residential improvements to be assessed at 10% of fair market value, and other property to be assessed at 15%. These classifications were applied in the 1978 statewide reassessment, resulting in greater uniformity in the assessment rates applied to different types of property.

Public service properties (including oil and gas pipelines; electric, gas and telephone utility companies; railroads and other common carriers) have always been assessed by the state tax commission and at a level relatively high compared to assessments by local assessors on other types of property. If the state tax commission’s 1978 assessment of public service property had been based on fair market value as determined by the combination of appraisal methods mandated by law, total public service assessments would have declined an
estimated 40% statewide. Instead, the tax commission selected an appraisal method which, contrary to law, did not determine fair market value but did maintain public service assessments at near their prior level.

Comment: Property classifications are a means to discriminate between different types of property by giving more favorable tax treatment to some. Louisiana’s present classification system, if properly administered, could help to correct many assessment inequities which developed over the years. Even so, the mandated 10% and 15% assessment rates still represent a significant degree of discrimination.

The proposed amendment would establish the following classifications and assessment rates based on fair market value:

- Public service property, excluding land: 25%
- Electric cooperatives, excluding land: 15%
- Land: 10%
- Improvements for residential purposes: 10%
- Other property: 15%

The amendment is designed to allow the tax commission to use the legal appraisal methods and still come up with about the same level of assessment on public service property as it did in 1978 using the 15% rate and the improper appraisal method. Electric cooperatives would be permitted a lower assessment rate in order to continue the favored treatment they received in the past.

Ratification of the amendment would continue the higher taxes on public service property, which are reflected in rates to consumers. A large share of this cost is passed on to out-of-state consumers (e.g., by pipelines and common carriers), but in-state consumers of public utilities also bear a share.

If the amendment fails and the tax commission is required to assess public service property in accordance with present constitutional provisions, legislation might be needed to permit local governments to adjust millages in 1980 to make up taxes lost from public service property. Also, this could lead to lower utility rates for Louisiana consumers.

Conclusion: The proposed amendment would further expand the number of property classes set up for different property tax treatment. The proposed classification system would legalize inequities which have long existed in the administration of the property tax and which were continued by the failure of the tax commission to comply with the constitution in the 1978 reassessment. While the amendment would help to solve a political problem facing parish
and state assessors, it would also retreat further from the standards of uniformity and equity that the 1978 reassessment aimed to achieve.

No. 2 Adult Trials for Certain Juvenile Offenders

Purpose: To rectify existing inconsistencies in offenses for which a juvenile may be tried as an adult and allow the Legislature to expand the list of such offenses.

Legal Citation: Act 801 of 1979, amending Article V, Section 19.

Background: For certain serious crimes, a case involving a juvenile may be handled under the adult criminal code. The Louisiana Constitution now provides that a person 15 or older "alleged to have committed a capital offense or aggravated attempted rape" be tried as an adult. The proposed amendment would delete that language and allow the Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to require adult trials for "juveniles arrested for having committed first or second degree murder, manslaughter, aggravated rape, armed robbery, aggravated burglary or aggravated kidnapping." The amendment would also require the Legislature to provide special detention facilities for juveniles awaiting trial as adults.

Court decisions and changes in state law have reduced the usefulness of the existing language. For example, aggravated rape is no longer a capital offense, so a minor committing this crime is now tried in juvenile court. However, the 1974 constitution requires that a minor committing attempted aggravated rape be tried as an adult.

In addition, under a state Supreme Court decision, the phrase "alleged to have committed" means "indicted" and not "arrested." Thus, a youth arrested for a serious crime must be treated as a juvenile until he is indicted. Under the proposed change, he would be treated as an adult from the time of arrest.

Special procedures used in court cases involving juveniles are based on the belief that most of the offenders are experiencing a transitory problem, usually related to some disruption in home life. Thus, juvenile procedures are generally geared toward releasing the child, preferably into his parents' custody, unless his release would clearly endanger him or the community. Rules of evidence and courtroom procedure are relatively more flexible for juvenile than for adult cases, giving the judge more latitude to act as mediator, which is not considered appropriate in adult criminal cases. The youthful offender's
privacy is also protected—hearings need not be public, for example, and fingerprints may not be sent to any central identification bureau.

**Comment:** The problem of deciding how to handle juveniles who commit serious crimes is a national one. Juvenile courts, used to dealing with runaways and pranksters, may be ill-equipped to cope with murderers and rapists. However, it is not clear that the proposed amendment is the best solution.

One reason given for the proposed amendment is that it would update the obsolete list of offenses in the 1974 constitution. The proposed amendment, with its revised list of offenses, also runs the risk of becoming obsolete over time. One early version of the amendment would have allowed the Legislature to decide which crimes would expose a juvenile to the adult criminal process. This would have provided greater flexibility to meet present and future situations. While the proposed amendment is intended to address an undeniably serious problem, it is more specific than may be necessary or desirable.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 48, adopted in 1979, requires a legislative study of “all aspects of juvenile justice” in Louisiana, with a report to be issued before the 1980 legislative session. This full-scale legislative inquiry may come up with findings which would require another amendment in a very short time.

**No. 3 Four-Year Concurrent Terms for BESE**

**Purpose:** To make the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) more accountable and visible to the public by changing from six-year staggered terms to four-year terms concurrent with that of the governor and the state superintendent of education.

**Legal Citation:** Act 800 of 1979, amending Article VIII, Section 3 (B) and adding Section 15.

**Background:** BESE consists of 11 members, eight elected from single-member districts at the time of the congressional elections and three appointed by the governor. All members serve six-year overlapping terms.

This proposal would shorten terms of all 11 members from six to four years, and provide for the election of eight members to coincide with that of the governor. The three appointed members would serve terms concurrent with that of the appointing governor. The change would be phased in so as not to shorten terms of incumbents. By
1984, all BESE members would serve four-year concurrent terms.

Comment: BESE's present six-year overlapping terms insulate its elected members from the voters, since only a few face election every two years. Since BESE members are elected from districts, different sections of the state vote on BESE members at different times, thereby preventing a statewide consensus on BESE's performance. It is thus difficult if not impossible for voters to influence state education policies through election of BESE members.

Few people are aware of BESE and its functions, much less the name of the board member who represents them. Changing from the relatively low voter turnout at congressional elections to the more visible gubernatorial election time should heighten voter interest in these important positions, and permit a better dialogue on education issues between candidates for BESE and other statewide offices.

Conclusion: The people are demanding improved public education, but the state's present arrangement makes it difficult to pinpoint responsibility. This amendment would make the public more aware of the importance of BESE as the state's top education policy-maker, and make BESE more aware of its responsibility to the public for its actions.
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Candidates For Statewide Offices
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GOVERNOR

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>James E. Fitzmorris, Jr.</td>
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SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

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COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

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SECRETARY OF STATE

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TREASURER

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Proposed Constitutional Amendments

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