




OFFICE OF DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

ELECTION, OCTOBER 11, 2025

LOWER 9TH WARD VOTER'S COALITION


"Your Vote, Your Voice: Understanding Local Leadership"

 **QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN:** District Council Members are elected officials who represent one of five geographic districts in New Orleans. They work to create laws, approve budgets, and oversee city services to improve the community.


- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a qualified elector and registered to vote in Orleans Parish
- Be domiciled in the City of New Orleans
- Have been domiciled in the district they seek to represent at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election
- Not have a felony conviction, unless civil rights have been restored

 **RECOMMENDED EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION:** While not mandated by law, effective preparation for the Office of District Council Member in New Orleans may include:

- Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Political Science, Business, or Law.
- Experience in community organizing, policy development, advocacy, or public service

 **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES:** District Council Members serve as the legislative branch of New Orleans city government. Their main duties include:

- Approving the city budget, which funds schools, police, sanitation, and more.
- Overseeing city departments to ensure they serve the public effectively.
- Representing and addressing the interests and concerns of their district residents.
- Holding public meetings and listening to community concerns.
- Working with the Mayor's office and other officials on city policies.
- Drafting and voting on local laws (ordinances) and resolutions
- Reviewing and approving the city's annual operating and capital expenditures
- Advocating for infrastructure improvements, public safety, and city services in districts
- Serving on City Council committees that oversee housing, zoning, sanitation, and more
- Monitoring the performance of city agencies and advocating for accountability

 **TYPICAL DAILY DUTIES:** A typical day for a District Council Member may include:

- Reviewing proposals and legislation to understand impacts on the community.
- Meeting with constituents to discuss problems, ideas, or questions.
- Attending City Council sessions to debate and vote on policies.
- Collaborating with other council members and city staff on projects.
- Participating in committee meetings focusing on specific issues like public safety or housing.
- Communicating with the public through newsletters, social media, and public forums.
- Visiting neighborhoods to observe city services and hear firsthand from residents.

- Responding to emails, calls, and service requests from residents
- Attending committee meetings, Council sessions, and public hearings
- Working with city departments to resolve neighborhood issues
- Reviewing zoning changes, permits, and proposed developments



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER OF CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE:

- 1. What specific plans do you have to eliminate commercial and residential blighted property and to improve public safety in our neighborhood?
- 2. How will you fight for increased funding for youth programs in our district?
- 3. What can be done to improve street conditions and drainage where flooding is a regular problem?
- 4. How will you make sure that city services like trash collection and road repairs are delivered fairly to our area?
- 5. What steps will you take to involve residents more in decision-making about our community?
- 6. What specific approach will you take to bring new business and community amenities to the district?



WHY THIS OFFICE MATTERS: City Council Members shape the future with decisions that influence public safety, education, infrastructure, economic development, and quality of life for all residents.

- They work closely with residents on local issues, ensure delivery of city services, help write and vote on ordinances, and advocate for district-specific improvements. Serve on committees for housing, zoning, etc.



DISTRICT VS. AT-LARGE COUNCILMEMBERS: Both roles are vital. District Councilmembers **serve as the closest link between residents and government**, while At-Large members ensure citywide balance.

District Councilmembers

Elected by **voters in one district**

Represent a **specific neighborhood area**

Focus on **local issues** and direct services

Often have more direct **resident interaction**

At-Large Councilmembers

Elected **citywide** by all New Orleans voters

Represent the **entire city**

Focus on **broad policy and citywide oversight**

Often lead **citywide legislative initiatives**



IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES:

- In-person/ By Mail Registration Deadline: September 10, 2025
- Geaux Vote Online Registration Deadline: September 20, 2025
- Early Voting Period: September 27 – October 4, 2025 (Sunday excluded)
- Election Day: October 11, 2025

*Created by the Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition, www.l9wvc.org, l9voters@gmail.com.
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