



Candidate Survey Response **DARREN LOMBARD**

Clerk of Orleans Parish Criminal
District Court

CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

What I want voters to know about me is simple: 1) I am a hard worker who is dedicated to serving ALL the people in our community. 2) I'm efficient and forward thinking. 3) I will always do what's best for the people that I serve. 4) I will be humbled and honored to serve as the next Clerk of Criminal District Court for the Parish of Orleans.

SURVEY TOPICS

PROCEDURAL



JURY POOLS



PROVIDING ADEQUATE
REPRESENTATION



RECORD EXPUNGEMENT



COVID-19
PRECAUTIONS AND
POLICY

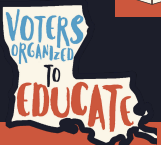
DRUG TESTING AND
ACCURACY



VOTER REGISTRATION



ENDING
DISCRIMINATORY
PRACTICES



PROCEDURAL

KNOW YOUR VOTE

Would you keep the Clerk's office open until 5pm, rather than the current 3pm closure?

YES

When do you expect the Court to move to an e-filing option, in an integrated case management system, to make the court far more efficient and covid-friendly?

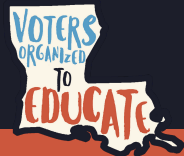
As your next Clerk of Criminal District Court, I have spoken with the National Association for Court Management to get the latest technology and current best practices for faster e-filing in an effort to provide greater access to necessary documentation. I will immediately do an audit and assessment of current practices and procedures to make this my top priority within the first 100 days.

Will you change the Clerk's website regarding the ineligibility based on felony convictions?

YES

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office

We are committed to updating our site to properly reflect current legislation, revised policies, and updated procedures. We will be implementing a citywide campaign, the Information Tour, throughout the various City Council districts, to formerly incarcerated citizens, and the community at large to reflect the current changes.



JURY POOLS

KNOW YOUR VOTE

Would you expand the jury pool by pulling names of residents over 18 from the Office of Motor Vehicles?

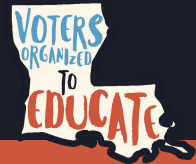
YES

As Clerk of Criminal District Court, I believe that it is paramount that we have a jury that reflects its community. In effort to expand the reach and increase the available members for the selection process in criminal court, it is important that all eligible citizens have an opportunity to participate as a juror.

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office

How often, and when, will you enter new names into the jury pool?

The goal is going to be to update our jury pool as often as possible but no less than quarterly.



PROVIDING ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION

KNOW YOUR VOTE

YES

Will you provide assistance to pro se petitioners, particularly those who are incarcerated, consistent with the American Bar Association Standard 3.5 regarding Assistance to Pro Se Litigants, to ensure technical errors and procedural mistakes do not deny people their 5th Amendment access to the courts?

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office:

Our judicial system must be made accessible, fair, and just whether a citizen is incarcerated, can afford a private attorney or who has been assigned one by the court from the Public Defender's Office. I plan to identify a senior level staff member whose duties will include providing documentation and records for individuals who are incarcerated or have not retained an attorney to work on their behalf.

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

Considering how complex it is for eligible people to obtain an expungement from the court, what would you do to help simplify and streamline this process?

Make sure that all our citizens are aware that the expungement process is available at the Criminal District Clerk of Court's office, and it will also be the top agenda of the Information Tour for Criminal District Court. I will also put a simple instruction page together on the website that will act as a guide to anyone who seeks to have their record expunged in various translations. The resources will also include the documents, process, Expungement days in Criminal District Court, information on various law clinics, guidance for the expungable offenses and pro bono attorneys.



COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS AND POLICY

KNOW YOUR VOTE

Do you believe the CDC has the pandemic under control in the building? If not, what procedures or changes would you implement to make it a safer place for the people?

NO

No, as we see from the resurgence of the COVID virus, this deadly worldwide pandemic is far from under control. As the next Clerk of Criminal District Court, I plan to implement requisite safety measures to ensure all those utilizing the building are as safe as possible based upon local guidance and resources. We will follow the science and guidance, assess needs and opportunities for upgraded protective measures and we will implement according to the recommendations to protect ALL our citizens.

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office

The Clerk of Court has several collections agents. Considering the economic crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, does the court now, or can you foresee in the future, a moratorium (or forgiveness) on collecting fines and fees of the court?

YES

This pandemic has been extremely burdensome on marginalized communities and some of our most vulnerable citizens. As Criminal District Clerk of Court, I will seek out other sources of funding from our local, state, and federal government to take the burden away from those who cannot afford to pay these outstanding fines and fees.

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office



DRUG TESTING AND ACCURACY

KNOW YOUR VOTE

Based on my 10 years experience as a Deputy Clerk at Criminal District Court, I am sure the Clerk's Office does not manage the drug testing program at Criminal District Court.

How would you select your drug testing vendor, and how would you monitor their performance?

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office:

As previously mentioned, the Clerk for Criminal District Court does not select the drug testing vendors.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Are you fully versed in the laws regarding people registering and voting with a past felony conviction, whether on probation or parole, whether a sentence is currently active or completed?

YES

Please elaborate with any additional comments?

I am aware of H.B. 378 which ensured individuals sentenced to probation only would not lose their voting rights due to a felony conviction, that was championed by the Voice of the Experienced. It also restricts government officials from expending unnecessary resources to suspend voting rights. I will make sure the protection of this Bill will be a part of my Information Tour.



VOTER REGISTRATION (CONTINUED)

KNOW YOUR VOTE

Considering that many registration issues do not arise until someone is at the polls and trying to vote, will you ensure that all people in the Clerk's Elections Division, including all commissioners and poll workers, are fully trained on the details of voter registration by people with felony convictions?

YES

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office:

I will. As I mentioned, in my previous we will assure that every member of our team is aware of the most recent guidance and will continue to educate to update the team accordingly.

ENDING DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

As a public official, will you commit to publicly supporting efforts that end discrimination against people with criminal records?

YES

Please elaborate, including specific actions you will take if elected to office

I will and I do. I am against discrimination of any type based upon these stigmas. I believe that any of our returning citizens have a right to housing, employment, financial assistance, the election process, and more. Not only do they have a right, they must have fairness as well as proper access to all tools and resources. As I have done my entire career, I will continue to be a voice against discrimination of any kind and a champion for the people.

