

WHA

Baton Rouge Growth Coalition

EBR Mayor Questions

- 1) At the present time, the permitting and inspection department is slow in the issuing of permits and inspections. What would be your solution to this continuing problem?
 - a) The goal under my administration is to update the process to start issuing permits in a timely, responsible manner. I plan on appointing a committee made up of architects, engineers, contractors, and fire departments with expertise in permitting. If the time it takes to issue a permit or inspection cannot be cut in half, then I would support supplementing the department with third party reviewers.
- 2) There have been proposals by some council members to allow for third party review plans in lieu of the Permit Office. Do you support the use of third party review? YES or NO. Would you consider the outsourcing of the Permit and Inspection Office to a commercial entity? YES or NO. YES
- 3) Some council members have suggested a moratorium of new development along Highland Road. What is your position on governmental moratorium on development? What is your position on the Highland Road moratorium?
 - a) Generally speaking, I do not support government moratoriums on development. There may be a small percentage of situations where a moratorium would be justifiable, but that would be evaluated on a case by case basis. Currently I do not support the proposal of a Highland Road moratorium.
- 4) What plans do you have concerning policy and development within the city? Do you support the concept of Smart Growth?
 - a) It's essential to designate potential growth areas in the parish for development. I will work with the Chamber and the Metro-Council to provide economic incentives on a local level. It is important to develop new business opportunities for young entrepreneurs wanting to locate in East Baton Rouge Parish. I support the concept of Smart Growth.

- 5) The current pay plan for certain Parish employees is not competitive with the industry in our area. How do you plan to address this issue?
- a) First, I would attempt to capture efficiencies to better compensate employees. If that was not possible, I would hire third party contractors to supplement parish employees.
- 6) The City-Parish is contractually obligated to maintain the Comite River Diversion Canal, if and when it is completed. What is your position on the construction of the Canal and what actions would you take to complete the project?
- a) The Comite River Diversion Canal must be built to protect the parish from future flood damage. I have fought for this construction for years, but without federal funding the project was never completed. I recently went to Washington DC with Congressman Garret Graves and other local mayors. We met with the Army Corps of Engineers and explained how important the project is to our area and the need for federal funding. As Mayor-President I will continue to fight until funds have been secured.
- 7) The Mayor's office will have an appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Please describe the type of person you would like to appoint.
- a) Someone with relevant experience and extensive knowledge of East Baton Rouge Parish and our current issues and ordinances. It is important that this person be able to work with other members on the Planning and Zoning Commission to review and make decisions on all projects.
- 8) The Flood of 2016 has caused major issues for the parish in a number of different areas. What do you see as the challenges that we face and how do you plan to address those challenges?
- a) The biggest problem we are facing is getting people back in their homes and businesses back up and running. We want people to come back to their communities, but they need federal assistance to rebuild. State and local leaders need to continue working with our congressional delegation to ensure the funds

are secured. That is what I have done as a state senator and would continue to do as Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish.

- 9) The school system has a major impact on the well-being of the economy of the Parish. What roles do you see for the Mayor as it relates to the school system? Will you support the creation of the St. George incorporation?

- a) I think if we improve education in East Baton Rouge, there will a ripple effect and we will see improvements in other areas. While the Mayor-President has no official role in the public education system, that will not stop me from working with the school board. Warren Drake is a friend. I believe with the support from the Mayor-President, he is the person who can improve our school system. As far as St. George, I have heard their cry and understand their plea. If elected Mayor-President, I would like the opportunity to work with them to improve education so they do not feel like incorporation is their only option.

Any Additional Comments:

Candidate Name: Mack "Bodi" White