



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Bossier Chamber of Commerce does not endorse candidates for public office. This questionnaire is purely informational so our members can learn where candidates stand on important topics.



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**LOUISIANA
SENATE
CANDIDATES**



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

LOUISIANA SENATE DISTRICT 36 CANDIDATES

LOUISIANA SENATE DISTRICT 36 CANDIDATES

ROBERT MILLS

1. Workforce development and education:

There is a desperate need for young, skilled workers in Louisiana. I have consistently supported the initiation, improvement and expansion of workforce development training in Louisiana's high schools via in school and dual enrollment programs for our students and of course at a later stage of education in our numerous Community Technical Colleges. As State Senator for Louisiana's District 36 I have been involved in efforts to fast track certification in specific professional fields for those students who have an identified trade in mind as well as advanced training programs for adults already in the workforce to advance their career and earnings potential. There is broad support for guiding individuals into the workforce training programs if they do not have a committed college path in mind. Also, our Community and Technical Colleges have designed numerous programs for adult workers to gain additional professional and trade training through night classes and on-line courses.

2. Business community input into Legislation:

As your State Senator for the past 4 years, I have and will continue to be readily available for communication with constituents, businesses and community organizations in my District. I consider the State Senate position as a full-time job. I will maintain one or more public offices in District 36, the District Office staffed by a fully trained and very capable legislative assistant. I will be available as needed. I am well-tuned into the thoughts and information delivered directly to me through the State's largest business trade association, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry. LABI supports me and their political action committee endorsed me in 2019 and again in 2023. I was rated at 98% by LABI for the 2020-2024 legislative term, second highest in the entire State Senate. I was supported and endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business and numerous business trade associations and individual businesses in northwest Louisiana and state-wide.

3. Job growth:

I have worked for decades to grow the economy in northwest Louisiana as a former business executive and long-time member of the Shreveport-Bossier Committee of 100 where I was chairman of the Economic Development Committee for years. I am a long-time member of North Louisiana Economic Partnership and work closely with their professionals in the workforce development area and as needed to recruit new jobs to our area. I will maintain a close relationship with the Louisiana Economic Development group who will be undergoing substantial changes with the new administration in 2024. I will continue to be one of the most business-friendly legislators in the entire Louisiana Legislature.

4. Long-term spending reform:

I am a loyal member of the Republican Delegation to the Senate, and I supported reforming much of Louisiana's government structure including our budgeting, taxing and spending practices. During the 2020-2024 legislative session our Delegation identified and offered several large-scale changes to taxation. We successfully relocated substantial future funding from general fund spending to a dedicated fund for infrastructure, roads and bridges. I am aware of the need for comprehensive fiscal reform, and have participated in writing plans that will be considered when we have a receptive Governor and Legislature, and that is finally on the horizon.

5. **Two key issues**

During the 2020-2024 legislative session I authored a bill creating the “North Louisiana Legislative Caucus” at the request of NLEP. The goal was to have a forum where the entire north Louisiana legislative delegation, all members of both parties would meet to discuss major issues and hopefully find those issues where we could all unite and press for successful passage of bills that would bring funding and opportunities to north Louisiana. NLEP has shrunk its footprint in north Louisiana since this group was chartered and they will propose that we reform into a Northwest Louisiana Legislative Caucus during the 2024-2028 session.

A) If re-elected to my Senate District 36 seat I will propose to all who will listen that we closely look at the criminal justice system reforms made some years ago and update how we handle the many levels of crime and issues of detention of juveniles and adults. That review will also include the issue of lower grade student truancy and parental involvement in student discipline programs, which I successfully worked with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement to fairly and fully fund our existing Truancy Assessment Service Centers in Louisiana. It requires substantial State funding to properly operate the juvenile and adult criminal systems and our legislators must work together to acquire such funding.

B) Automobile insurance premiums continue to rise despite some limited tort reform successes in the 2020 legislative session. Good reform ideas were mostly watered down prior to passage and the COVID shutdown interrupted the court system that should enforce these new rules, so the positive effects have been overshadowed by rising premiums. Louisiana citizens are driving at higher and excessive speeds, high crash rates and high levels of distracted driving are contributing to higher losses incurred by insurance companies which pass those cost back to the consumer. I served on the Senate Insurance Committee for the last four years and I look forward to being highly involved in the next 4 years, we must make substantial changes in our driving habits and the State’s enforcement of traffic laws.

Property and Casualty insurance premiums on our homes and property continue to skyrocket. South Louisiana faces critical issues with too many homes built too near the coast on low and flood prone land. Traditional construction methods and building codes are insufficient to allow most homes to ride through high wind events like hurricanes, tornados and straight-line wind events. When a storm compromises the roof on a home, rain damage dramatically increases the loss, we can and should build homes with roofs that will withstand high wind events. North and South Louisiana both have insurance issues but substantially different issues and the high cost of insuring south Louisiana should not be passed onto north Louisiana policy holders.



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**LOUISIANA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
CANDIDATES**



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**LOUISIANA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 9
CANDIDATES**

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATES

Dodie Horton

1. **What is your position on workforce development and education policies that impact the availability of skilled labor for businesses in Louisiana?**

Serving for the past eight years as a member of the House of Representatives/ District 9, I have had the opportunity to support initiatives that encourage/ fund/ expand opportunities to provide a streamlined affordable way for our citizens to attend educational courses, learn a trade in order to provide a skilled workforce that our region/ state desperately needs.

2. **How do you plan to involve the business community in the legislative process and seek input from business leaders when making economic policy decisions?**

From online training/ Community Block Grants/ Veterans Services/ Louisiana Promise initiatives that provides funding to 27 plus year olds who qualify to be able to go to a community college/ technical training school that will educate/ expand on the skills they already possess. Providing certifications and or associate degrees that will allow them to double their income. Many such programs are readily available.

3. **What action will you take to grow jobs?**

I served on the Ways&Means committee and worked closely with the business community/ lobbyists on a vast variety of tax policies that offered relief to over regulations and decreased government intrusion as well as killed many bad proposals that would have stifled innovation and business growth. Working closely with business and industry, involving those with "Boots On The Ground "are key to passing business friendly legislation! Removing "Red Tape" / burdensome regulations and policies that impede businesses ability to grow and thrive is key to job growth. We must pass laws that reward success, not stifle it.

4. **Do you support long-term structural spending reforms?**

We must reform the Capital Outlay process, removing political agendas in order to equably send tax dollars back home to address our infrastructure needs. This will be a vital state structural reform that is long past due!

5. **Overall the North Louisiana coalition of state legislators have not united around 1-2 key issues in recent years. We think this would be a more effective way to secure more funding as the north part of the state is losing population. What are 2 key issues you would advocate for the entire delegation promoting together?**

Two key issues that are totally bipartisan in nature that greatly benefit and impact our NWLA region is supporting each other's infrastructure needs and educational institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences and insights with you all.

Respectfully, Dodie Horton
State Representative District 9



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**BOSSIER PARISH
POLICE JURY
CANDIDATES
DISTRICT 1**

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Andre Wilson, Bossier Police Jury District 1 Candidate

- 1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?**

How I plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation is to be the voice of concern that understands what is being proposed and ask critical questions to ensure all concerns are understood and fully vetted .

- 2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?**

The ability to communicate and collaborate with others are essential. When there are opportunities, within my limitations, to work with other governmental agencies, I welcome the opportunity to discuss and learn how we can leverage ideas or resources.

- 3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?**

As a business owner and and as an Officer in the Military for 23 years. I established, managed and authorized budgets as small as \$10k to in excess of 20 million.

- 4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?**

I'm here to represent my district. It is my obligation to listen, prioritize and set expectations within my district of needs/wants. However, I must remain cognizant of what may also benefit the Parish. Anytime both the Parish and District needs are aligned that is a win for both.

- 5. Have you attended a Bossier Parish Police Jury meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?**

No, I only went to a meeting when I was on the agenda.

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Bob Brotherton, Bossier Police Jury District 1 Candidate

- 1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?**

Being the incumbent, I have the experience and knowledge that my opponents do not have. I am on many committees that deal with economic development in our parish. I have been in many meetings with legislators and developers to discuss jobs and economic development. Bossier Parish Police Jury is constantly working on bringing jobs and new business to our parish.

- 2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?**

I have been on the Bossier Parish Police Jury twelve years and have been very active. I have had the honor of being elected to the Region IV and the State Police Jury executive board. I was the State President of the Police Jury Association last year so I had the opportunity to travel all over the state meeting with other parish leaders. I have been on many committees that have met with state and federal legislators to discuss Bossier needs.

- 3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?**

Being on the Bossier Parish Police Jury for twelve years, I have had first hand experience preparing our yearly budget. We prioritize the needs of our parish when preparing the budget. We also keep in mind that we must be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. We meet several times and as a whole when preparing and voting on the budget.

- 4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?**

I am elected by the people of District 1. I will always fight for the needs of my district first but all 12 jurors are responsible for doing the business of the entire parish. We all must work together to make the best decisions to keep Bossier moving forward.

- 5. Have you attended a Bossier Parish Police Jury meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?**

I am the incumbent so I have been attending the meetings as a juror for twelve years. Before I ran the first time twelve years ago, I did make it a point to attend all the jury meetings leading up to the election. I started attending about six months out. If you have never attended a jury meeting, you have no idea the business of the jury or their responsibilities. Many people think they only take care of roads—roads are only a small part of their jobs. The Police Jury oversees many areas of the parish and works with other entities to make things run smoothly.

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Mary Odom, Bossier Police Jury District 1 Candidate

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?

The first step in encouraging economic development and job creation is to assess the need(s). By being informed and aware of what constituents interests are then jurors can work with the Chamber to attract new businesses, For example, as I talked with a resident in District 1, she informed me that she now has to go to Bossier City to find a laundromat since the one in Haughton is now closed.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

Accessibility to jurors from other parishes, state officials should be done on a regular basis in which ideas and needs are discussed and possible solutions are addressed and plans to follow through. Regular interactions should occur via luncheons and other gatherings would provide much information about needed projects.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

As head of my household at different stages in my life. I have had to plan how to address the rising cost of insurance for my home, car and medical coverage while there was no significant increase in my income. When I served as chair of the science department at my high school, I was challenged with the decision as to which chemicals to order, organisms for dissection and the replacement of equipment. In 2012, I won a \$500 grant from my sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha to sponsor an affair honoring Dr. King. With additional funding from my local Chapter of the sorority, I was able to provide "A meal for a King" as the local newspaper called it for about 50 people who at their table discussed and orally reported on what they thought Dr. King's response would be on various issues.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

Regular interactions with residents and sharing of needs with other jurors could result in decisions being made that benefit the entire parish.

5. Have you attended a Bossier Parish Police Jury meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

I have never attended a BPPJ meeting. My seeking this position has to do with a lack of communication, service, and a failure of jurors to follow ordinances.



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**BOSSIER PARISH
POLICE JURY
CANDIDATES
DISTRICT 3**

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Andy Modica, Bossier Police Jury District 3 Candidate

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?

I will work to alleviate the red tape of government to open pathways for small businesses to thrive in the big box world that we live in today. Small businesses and the middle class is the backbone of our country and our parish.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

The collaboration needs to start among the 12 jurors on the police jury first, to provide for the parish as a whole instead of separation by district. The second step is to get involved in the meetings of other entities including the city councils in our parish. We can also provide incite and gain incite from our neighboring parishes.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

As a coach and administrator in a few school districts, I have ample experience in budgeting, fundraising, and purchasing. But, the best practices are always to seek out expert advice from knowledgeable and successful organizations. I will bring a fresh perspective to our Police Jury and stress my intention to approach budgeting with a keen eye for efficiency and cost effectiveness. I will dedicate my focus towards transparency and accountability in the budgeting process.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

My district, district 3, is the fastest growing community in our parish. So, in effect, what is good for the Benton area is good for the entire parish. Even though I will fight for my district, I acknowledge that we are a jury of twelve and collaboration is a necessity to provide stability as well as growth for Bossier Parish.

5. Have you attended a BPPJ meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

I have been a regular attendee to our Jury meetings for a couple of years now. I have also interacted with the Jury on occasion regarding issues that have affected my district.

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Phillp Rodgers, Bossier Police Jury District 3 Candidate

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in your parish?

There's no doubt that Bossier Parish is growing rapidly, especially North Bossier Parish. We have new businesses moving to District 3 regularly, which is great, but there are growing pains. We have residential areas worried about new commercial development and what that will mean for their homes and property values. We have to work with both homeowners and businesses to make sure we adequately manage expectations and realities for both residential and commercial investments. We protect the homeowners by following the ordinances we have in place. Bossier Parish also has a huge paper mill coming to the Plain Dealing area. If you have driven past it on Highway 3, you know that it is already making a big impact. It will bring many jobs to Plain Dealing and it will create other opportunities for other businesses in the area. Infrastructure is already being improved in that area because of the paper mill.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

The Police Jury works with state senators and representatives on various projects to try to receive funding and support. It is important to have an open and mutually respectful relationship with all government agencies, because ultimately our job as elected officials is to care about all projects in this area. I have a good working relationship with regional leaders and elected officials and I would like to expand on that in my next term.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

As a small business owner, I prepare and operate within a budget at all times. As a Bossier Parish Police Juror, I have been a part of the budget process for almost four years. I've learned there is never enough money for every project that needs to get done. As a government entity we have to work with the money we have which sometimes means you have to make difficult decisions and prioritize projects. We work on the budget every year and while I want to get everything for District 3, there are 11 other districts in Bossier Parish with their issues and priorities. As a unit, the 12 jurors have to work together, come together, and ultimately compromise in areas to keep the parish moving forward.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

As I mentioned in a previous answer, we have to sometimes compromise on issues to make the parish run cohesively. There have been several issues that have come before the jury that I have had to make a tough choice - knowing that while some people might be affected, the parish as a whole will benefit. Or a vote one way could set precedent that could negatively impact others. I do not take those decisions lightly and I have set out to be upfront with people when it comes to the way I will vote.

5. Have you attended a BPPJ meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

Prior to qualifying to run in 2019, I attended a handful of meetings to make sure this was really something I wanted to pursue. I feel that if you are going to apply for a job, you really need to know what that job entails. I was able to listen to the various agenda items being discussed, watched the process, and just listen, which I think is important - being able to observe and learn instead of speaking about things you don't know about. Since I have served on the Bossier Parish Police Jury, I have attended every meeting and have not been absent once. This is the job I signed up for and I take it very seriously. I know that other jurors are counting on me for support at times and the people of Bossier Parish are expecting me to show up for them and be their voice.



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**BOSSIER PARISH
POLICE JURY
CANDIDATES
DISTRICT 4**

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Jack K. Harvill, Bossier Police Jury District 4 Candidate

Bossier Chamber of Commerce

October 14, 2023 | November 18, 2023

QUESTIONS:

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?

“In all aspects, growth is a way of life. I want the opportunity to work with other jurors in continuing this growth. Just as the upcoming Teal-Jones sawmill, I would like to encourage other companies to expand within our area and therefore, providing more jobs. This would include and not be limited to new restaurants, outlet stores, grocery stores, etc.”

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

“I would like to get the public more involved and be more active in communication with government agencies within the community and surrounding parishes. I believe the regional issues we have can be addressed if everyone is more informed and involved.”

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

“I have owned several businesses in my professional career and have dealt with budgets and cost on a daily basis. This is a simple matter of working together. To prepare and authorize budgets is one thing. It is the ability to work and maintain these budgets is what should be of importance. This takes constant overseeing and proper implementation.”

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

“When our parish improves and benefits, we should recognize it as beneficial to us all. Although we have many districts within our parish, each of us should have equal benefits and opportunities, rather it is in suburban, urban or rural areas. We are all one parish and should strive to make the entire parish a more profitable, safer and desirable place to raise families.”

5. Have you attended a BPPJ meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

"I have attended BPPJ meetings before qualifying for office. During these meetings, I did not have a specific issue or agenda. I was there to witness the procedures and listen to the public's concerns."

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JACK K. HARVILL

Candidate for Bossier Parish Police Jury-District 4

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2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**BOSSIER PARISH
POLICE JURY
CANDIDATES
DISTRICT 5**

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Barry Butler, Bossier Police Jury District 5 Candidate

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?

The police Jury needs to examine every ordinance on how it will impact our businesses. Every action has a reaction. We need to make sure our reactions are positive for our businesses. We have several economic development. We need to meet with our current local businesses to find out how the jury can help them expand their businesses and employee base.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

We need to meet regularly, every six months, with all of our neighbors and look at regional issues. Regional projects need to be prioritized. Once prioritized the projects need to be communicated to our state and federal representatives for funding assistance and coordination.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

As a former police juror, I have been involved with many budgets. In 2010, I tried to tell the jury that the rate structure for the sewer district would not be enough to support the project. Again in 2014, I questioned the rate structure but again, no changes were made to make the sewer district solvent. We need a complete audit.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

Always a delicate balance. The people of district 5 will always get the greater weight on the balance sheet.

5. Have you attended a BPPJ meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

Yes. I routinely attend jury meeting .

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Julianna Parks, Bossier Police Jury District 5 Candidate

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?

As a small business owner myself, I know how important it is for government agencies to work with businesses that want to invest in our parish economy. Small businesses are the heart of our Parish. I have a record of supporting businesses that create jobs in our area and that re-invest their profits into our local economy by making the process of dealing with our parish as easy as possible. While we must ensure that businesses make concessions for the best interest of local residents, and we must have rules and ordinances to ensure that, I have made myself available and worked with businesses and the local residents as a mediator to come to solutions that address the concerns of both sides. I have also worked to provide incentives for businesses to come to the area, such as tax incentives or cooperative endeavor agreements, and I have looked for ways to improve quality of life for our current residents- a factor that many businesses look at when evaluating whether to invest in Bossier Parish. I have supported our Parks and Recreation department, for example. We have beautiful parks and shared use trails for residents to use while living here and we are constantly investing in more of these quality of life improvements. I have also worked closely with our school board representatives and law enforcement to make sure Bossier remains a safe place to live and provides great educational opportunities for residents. I believe Bossier is doing a great job in these areas and the proof is in the fact that we are the fastest growing parish north of I-10. With growth in residents, comes growth in our economy and vice versa.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

I will continue to work with our school board, law enforcement, city officials and state representatives to cut through the red tape and get things done. For example, I have worked with the city of Bossier on numerous projects, to get redlights, traffic signal arrows, and other adjustments to traffic control in my short two years in areas within the city limits. I worked with the school board and sheriff's department to hire officers to direct traffic to ensure that student resource officers could stay on campus to protect our students. I also worked to improve the traffic flow around schools to eliminate the need for an officer to direct traffic.

My ability to work with other agencies is evident by the collaborative projects we have completed during my time on the jury. I am active in the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the National Association of County Officials to meet and work together to address issues facing our region. I have also met with Caddo and Webster officials separately to discuss the issues we are facing together to help each other solve problems and will continue to maintain those relationships.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

During my term on the police jury I have prepared and authorized the budgets each year. I have worked with staff and other jurors to make adjustments when necessary throughout the year to address important needs that have arisen. I have worked to eliminate waste and focus on items that should be addressed with taxpayer funds through our government agency as opposed to through a non-profit to which people voluntarily contribute. We have been able to stay within our means and not spend beyond our budget.

I have also worked as a member of the Board of Directors, and President, to prepare and authorize the budgets of the Gingerbread House Children's Advocacy Center each year since 2015. This organization is fantastic at serving the most children and helping the most people possible on as small of a budget as possible. I am so proud of the work accomplished through this organization on the very limited budget available to them. I have also worked on the budget as a partner of my law firm with about 30 employees for approximately 5 years, and the budget of my current firm as partner since 2017. We were able to make adjustments to avoid lay-offs through the downturn in the oil and gas industry at my prior firm, which primarily practiced in oil and gas, and also through the Covid pandemic at my current firm. I know how to make the necessary cuts to stay afloat during downturns and hard years.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

I will continue to fight for the needs of my district, which is one of the fastest growing districts in the parish, while trusting my fellow jurors when they bring forth needs for their respective districts, since they know the needs of their districts best. Our districts are so intertwined, it is almost impossible to separate our needs and we as a jury have a record of working well together to achieve the best result for all of the residents of the parish and maintaining fairness in the allocation of resources throughout the parish.

5. Have you attended a BPPJ meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

Yes. As a lifelong resident of Bossier Parish, and a voter, I have always felt a responsibility to be informed of the happenings around the parish.



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**BOSSIER PARISH
POLICE JURY
CANDIDATES
DISTRICT 6**

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Chris Marsiglia, Bossier Police Jury District 6 Candidate

1. **Do you plan to promote any changes to existing taxes?

I have no plans to support any tax increases. I believe we have plenty of revenue, it just needs to be more efficiently managed.

2. **Are parish land-use regulations and permitting processes doing enough to assure smart growth within the parish, both residential and commercial?

No. The last 10 years have seen explosive growth in Bossier Parish with not enough planning for infrastructure. Large subdivisions have been approved, despite the lack of roads to support the influx of residents. Our streets were not designed to handle the population growth that Bossier Parish is experiencing. Commercial applications need to be more carefully considered. Emphasis should be placed on commercial buildings that stand vacant in our parish. Incentives should be considered for businesses willing to renovate existing properties rather than giving blanket approvals for new construction.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

I have prior experience as a business owner as well as a career in the corporate world. That kind of experience allows me to have first-hand knowledge of budget preparation and adherence to fiscal rules and guidelines.

4. **Would citizens get more effective services at a better rate if more functions of the parish were accomplished by contracting with private providers?

No. If an outside contractor can provide the services and make a profit for less dollars, the parish can do the same by being more efficient with the resources. The parish simply has to cut the waste and be better stewards of the public funds.

5. Have you attended a Bossier Parish Police Jury meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

Yes, I have attended Police Jury meetings.

***Questions 1, 2 and 4 were not the questions asked on this year's Chamber questionnaire but we published the submitted answers as received.*



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**BOSSIER PARISH
POLICE JURY
CANDIDATES
DISTRICT 9**

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Pam Glorioso, Bossier Police Jury District 9 Candidate

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?

Some general strategies that can encourage responsible economic development and job creation, which I believe should be utilized are:

- Invest in Education and Workforce Development: Support educational initiatives and job training programs to equip people with the skills needed for the modern job market.
- Infrastructure Investment: Invest in critical infrastructure, such as transportation, broadband, and green/solar energy to create and stimulate economic growth.
- Support Innovation: foster research and development, encourage innovation hubs and encourage innovation to drive growth in emerging industries.
- Inclusive policies must be adhered to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workforce to allow the parish to tap into a broader talent pool. This will aid in our efforts to keep our local children in our area.
- Regional Development needs to be broadened. A collaboration of Bossier Parish and other agencies should be better aligned by the Jury to create partnerships, which will drive economic growth and development.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

Bossier Parish is a member of the areas Council of Governments and the Coordinating Development Corporation. These two agencies should be engaged in to work with Bossier Parish in regional matters. Also, the Greater Bossier Economic Development Foundation is an asset that should be utilized. Interagency committees like these are designed to discuss and address regional issues.

Resource Pooling, such as combining resources, whether financial or human, to jointly fund and implement projects that benefit the parish, and the region is a tool that I would like to utilize more in the future.

Public Private Partnerships collaboration will help the addressing of regional issues. Leveraging the expertise and resources of the partnership will aid the efforts. Better Community engagement by involving the local community and stakeholders will ensure that regional development efforts align with the needs and priorities of the people living in the area, which may be affected.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

I have 32 years of experience in local government working for the City of Bossier, during that time I prepared budgets anywhere from division to city department budgets of millions of dollars. I have prepared project budgets multi-million-dollar budgets for many capital projects that have been built in Bossier City in the past 30 years, such as the Brookshire Grocery Arena construction budget, Louisiana Boardwalk partnership, the Eastbank construction budget, and numerous State of Louisiana Capital Outlay projects.

I currently serve as the Chair for the Bossier Office Of Community Services and Chair for the Bossier Housing Authority and a Board member for the Shreveport-Bossier Tourist Bureau and have authorized budgets for these agencies.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

I plan on maintaining open lines of communication with the citizens of my district and listen to their concerns and priorities. I believe that there must be a prioritization of all decisions to access the importance and impact of district specific needs and against the needs of the larger needs of the parish. I will seek collaboration and input from my other jurors to identify common goals and shared solutions that benefit the entire parish. And lastly, I believe in compromise, to find middle - ground solutions that accommodate district specific interest and the greater good of the community.

5. Have you attended a Bossier Parish Police Jury meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

Yes. I have attended many meetings over my lifetime. My father was a police juror representing district 7 for over 24 years and I attended several meetings. From 1990 to 2021, as an employee of the City of Bossier it was afforded me the opportunity to attend many meetings, which had items that would have been on the jury's agenda, which the city was partnering and participating in.



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

**BOSSIER PARISH
POLICE JURY
CANDIDATES
DISTRICT 12**

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY CANDIDATES

Keith Sutton, Bossier Police Jury District 12 Candidate

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible economic development and job creation in our parish?

There are several ways I would like to try to encourage responsible economic development and job creation. The following are a few examples:

- a. I would like to work with the school board to help maintain/setup training programs that would align with the needs of the local industries.
- b. Encourage partnerships between businesses and schools.
- c. Work to further develop our infrastructure for transportation, technology, etc.
- d. Encourage industry diversification to reduce a reliance on one sector of business.
- e. Improve the quality of life with family friendly events such as concerts in the park, food truck nights, etc.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the state government or neighboring parishes to address regional issues?

I have strong relationships with representatives on other government agencies. I would use my relationship with these representatives to find ways to better the region. We could sit down as a regional council with reps from each jurisdiction to come up with ideas to better serve our area. I know we are Bossier Parish but if the whole region grows and succeeds it is beneficial to all areas. We need to quit caring who gets the credit for successes and start finding ways to make the area better as a whole.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

My experience with preparing budgets and authorizing budgets comes being a small business owner for 16 years. We are responsible for maintain a budget, payroll, finances, and maintaining a relationship with the employees of our company.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish?

I would like to balance the needs of my district and that of the Parish by:

- a. I would like to form a group of my constituents from different political parties and all walks of life. I would like to meet with them on a quarterly basis and get their feedback for what the community or Parish is missing, needing, doing well, etc. If we want to change the way the government is run the community must be involved.
- b. I want to be transparent with the community, if the community doesn't trust the governing body, it will not succeed.
- c. I would like to work with the fellow Jurors a find what is needed in their areas and learn from the ones who have experience. No one juror can do anything by themselves. It takes the work of the whole Jury to make the community succeed.
- d. Seek advice from others when needed. Leaders shouldn't be ashamed to say I don't know enough about this. They must be willing to ask from help people who are more knowledgeable.

5. Have you attended a Bossier Parish Police Jury meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

I have attended almost every BPPJ meeting since I decided I was going to run in early March. I wanted to be knowledgeable on the things the Jury was working on and how meetings were run in the event I won I would be a little more prepared.



2023 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES

SHERRI POOL

1. Can you share your understanding of the responsibilities of a school board member and how you envision fulfilling those duties?

As a retired educator with 39 years of service to Bossier Schools as a teacher, principal and human resources director, I have devoted my life to making a true difference in my community. Serving in these roles has given me valuable experiences. My new role as a school board member is to represent my constituents in District 4 while working with other BPSB members to govern the school system. We must diligently strive to continually move Bossier Schools to greater success. Board members should be forward-thinkers and as board members, we must work together to establish goals and priorities for both short- and long-term planning, while *building consensus with all stakeholders to ensure our goals come to fruition*. I will utilize the knowledge and experiences of my career as an educator in Bossier Parish to progressively address and fulfill the needs of my district. It is also the responsibility of board members to govern the school district through approving and revising policy. School board policy must be aligned with state statutes, and my years of experience have equipped me with a deep understanding of this important process as well as other responsibilities of the board. Our school district has historically propelled our business growth in Bossier and vice versa. The role of a board member is to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, and it is my hope that I am able to continue being a difference maker as a member of the Bossier Parish School Board.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the towns/cities and police jury, to address parishwide issues?

Growing up in Bossier Parish, I know the importance our school system has on the success of our towns and government entities within our parish. Bossier Parish is blessed to be one of the fastest growing geographical areas in the state. Bossier Schools is one of the fastest growing school districts in Louisiana. This is not by accident, but instead by intentional design. I will ensure we address parish issues through open communication and collaboration with other governmental entities and district partners such as the Bossier Parish Police Jury, the Bossier Sheriff's Office, Barksdale Air Force Base, and the Bossier Chamber of Commerce. I will clearly communicate and work with these entities to ensure that the district continues to prioritize education and student/teacher safety. I will advocate for state-of-the-art facilities and premier educational opportunities to meet the growing needs of our district and all Bossier Parish communities while also making sure I, as a BPSB member, am a wise steward of taxpayer funds.

3. What do you think is the number 1 issue facing education in your district?

It is my belief the number 1 issue facing education in my district is hiring and retaining the best teachers and leaders possible in our schools. We are dealing with a teacher shortage at both the state and national level. The classroom teacher is the most important school indicator in the success of students, and the principal is a major indicator for the success of the school. It is imperative that we hire high quality teachers and administrators in our schools and that we retain them so that all students in Bossier Parish have the best opportunities for success

4. How would you balance the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish/school system?

The balance between advocating for my district and decision-making to benefit the whole school system will be accomplished through careful consideration and analysis of issues and initiatives, while diplomatically working with constituents and fellow board members to resolve issues and ensure initiatives are achieved. Clear and open communication is key and the ability to work together is crucial to the success of our school system. Each of the 12 school board districts in Bossier Parish are important to the collective whole. We don't exist in isolation, and we must work together to ensure the needs of all districts are fulfilled. I was honored that the Bossier Parish School Board had the confidence in me to appoint me to the open seat this past July. I am the candidate with the experience, knowledge, and most importantly, passion to serve the citizens of District 4. I have devoted my life to working for the students, parents, and employees who were entrusted in my care. I have high expectations for our school system. I know the daunting responsibility I have in serving in this capacity because it impacts what is most important to all of us, our children in Bossier Parish.

5. Have you attended a BPSB meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

Yes, I have regularly attended board meeting for the past several years while serving as a principal and human resources supervisor/director.

BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES

William Leighton

1. Can you share your understanding of the responsibilities of a school board member and how you envision fulfilling those duties?

The school board was setup to set the budget for the schools and policies that govern the teachers and students. There has been some piroities that have hurt teachers, until recently. Their pay has been insufficient so may were leaving to go to other states to get a living wage. The board recently increased their salaries, though I'm not sure if that was enough to maintain retention, time will tell. Though I want to see what other benefits can be provided to the teachers and school support staff. I will first source what local businesses can provide before looking outside of sate to meet needs.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, such as the towns/cities and parish police jury, to address parishwide issues?

I will work with other board members to identify things that are outside the boards ability to help. One such thing is having adequate sidewalks to the schools for students and teachers that live near the school, such as a mile radius. Then I will take the concerns to the Police Jury, Bossier administration, or police, as warranted. I may be introverted but when I believe in what I am talking about, I am a great presenter.

3. What do you think is the No. 1 issue facing education in your district?

With teachers salaries attended to, for now, I feel the drop out rate is too much risk to the budget of the district. I plan to work with school administrators and councilors to identify what is needed to retain students. I have already identified Junior Achievement is not regularly offered, and many students would greatly benefit from the programs that JA can bring to the schools, or nearby businesses. I worked with them last week in Plain Dealing, and look forward to doing so again.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your district and making decisions that will benefit the whole parish/school system?

I would look first at the needs that each school has, then I would look to see if other schools, at the same level have the same need or wants, then I would work to get the most needs filled, followed by the most wants. Though the schools with the tightest budgets are within Bossier City limits, and I would look to help them be boosted first, unless another school is in a more desperate situation.

5. Have you attended a BPSB meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

I have been an observer of the meetings for several years. I feel that some improvements can be made to the proceedings, (maybe a music track, <kidding>). I am eager to get seated on the board as I want to push to make Bossier Parish Schools the best district in Louisiana, and among the top 10 in the nation. I will strive to do this while I serve, looking at policies in a future impact mindset.

Thank you for asking the questions, I hope your business members appreciate a candidate that will work for the future of the district.

- William Leighton

Candidate for BPSB, District 4.