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## BGR Media Release

*For Release – September 14, 2017*

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### **BGR Launches Candidate Q&A Series with Mayoral Candidates' Views on Key Policy Issues**

Today BGR releases *Questions for a New Mayor*, the first in a series of reports providing the views of mayoral and City Council candidates on important public policy issues facing the City of New Orleans (City) government. Next week, BGR will release the responses of the City Council candidates. All reports in the **2017 Candidate Q&A Election Series** for the October 14 elections will be available on BGR's website, [www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org).

*Questions for a New Mayor* provides voters with the candidates' answers to 18 questions developed from BGR's body of research. Some ask how the candidates will confront the challenges the City faces today, which include: addressing manpower and other needs of the New Orleans Police Department; retooling City employee pensions to manage risk and attract a high-quality work force; and fixing and maintaining street and drainage infrastructure. BGR sent its questionnaires in late July, prior to the August 5 flooding. Therefore, BGR's questions do not specifically address that event or its aftermath. Many of the candidates, however, do address the flooding in their responses.

*Questions for a New Mayor* also focuses on how the candidates will operate City Hall efficiently and effectively. This includes, among other things, how candidates will address professional services contracting, the civil service system and economic development subsidies. BGR also asks

the candidates to propose specific ideas for how they would make City Hall work better for the citizens it serves.

Finally, BGR asks how the candidates will work within – or try to change – two major constraints on the City’s finances: Only 25% of local tax dollars are undedicated and available for broad municipal purposes, and approximately 60% of New Orleans real property is tax exempt.

BGR did not reject any candidate’s submission. Nine of the 18 mayoral candidates responded: Michael Bagneris, “Manny Chevrolet” Bruno, LaToya Cantrell, Desiree Charbonnet, Troy Henry, Matthew Hill, Frank Scurlock, Johnese Smith and Tommie A. Vassel. The other nine did not respond: Thomas Albert, Jr.; Charles O. Anderson; Ed Bruski; Byron Stephan Cole; Edward Collins, Sr.; Brandon Dorrington; Derrick Martin; Patrick Van Hoorebeek; and Hashim Walters.

BGR President & CEO Amy L. Glovinsky said, “We hope that BGR’s Candidate Q&A series shines a light on major public policy issues facing the next mayor and council, and that it assists voters in deciding who their future leaders will be. We are grateful to the many mayoral and council candidates who participated in this exercise.”



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*BGR is a private, nonprofit, independent research organization. Since its founding in 1932, it has been dedicated to informed public policy-making and the effective use of public resources in the Greater New Orleans area. For more information, call 525-4152 or visit BGR’s website, [www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org).*