

## Where Do Mayor and Council Candidates Stand on Protecting Trees and Parks?

Tree Canopy NOLA, the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization, and Parks for All sent a questionnaire to all Mayor and Council candidates in August 2025. We compiled responses that will help everyone cast an informed vote in the October 11 and November 15 elections. We expect these candidates to be accountable for following through on their commitments when some are elected to lead city government for the next four years.

**Summary:** We received overwhelmingly positive responses showing strong support for protection of trees and expansion of parks among New Orleans' next elected leaders. Except for one candidate who "Did Not Answer" Question 2, every other candidate said "Yes" to Questions 1, 2, 3, and 5. Two candidates said "No" to Question 4, and two candidates "Did Not Answer" Questions 6 and 7. Every other candidate said "Yes" to Questions 4, 6, and 7. We did not request comments, but if a candidate who completed the questionnaire submitted a narrative reply, we've presented it after the questions.

**Voter Expectations:** Based on the responses we received, here's what voters should expect from their next Mayor and City Councilmembers:

**Greater Transparency** from Parks & Parkways, including advance notice of work on major trees ([Q #1](#))

**More Powerful Penalties** for violations of tree protection ordinances ([Q #2](#): A-E)

**City Budget Funding** to prepare a Comprehensive Tree Management Plan ([Q #3](#))

**Landmark Tree Protection** on public and private property ([Q #4](#))

**No Net Loss of Green Space** as assured by New Orleans' Master Plan ([Q #5](#))

**Support for The Big Green Easy—and Funding** to implement the plan ([Q #6](#))

**Coordination Among Department Heads** to protect trees ([Q #7](#))

These much-needed improvements stand in stark contrast to current conditions. From greater transparency at Parks & Parkways to cooperation among department heads—our trees need all the help they can get. New Orleans has lost more than 40% of its tree canopy in the last 20 years. Members of the tree advocacy community should vote to elect leaders who will stand with us in protecting trees and parks.

Jump to [The Questionnaire Process Explained](#)

**Question 1: Will you support a policy of transparency in Parks & Parkways’ dealings with the public, including giving advance notice to neighborhood organizations or through the NoticeMe system when the department authorizes work on major trees?**

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>		<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs		<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Cutno Y Manning Y Morrell		<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes Y Morgan Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts

**Question 2: Will you support more powerful penalties for violation of tree protection ordinances, including the following:**

- A. A graduated system of civil fines based on the severity of a violation and the frequency of repeated violations?

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>		<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
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		<u>Did Not Answer:</u> Division 2: Cutno			

*Duplessis:* “I fully support meaningful penalties for the unlawful destruction of trees. However, any ordinance assessing damages must distinguish between willful harm during development and accidental damage by private individuals.”

B. Replacement cost when public trees are removed in violation of tree protection laws?

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs		<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Manning Y Morrell	<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes Y Morgan Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts
		<u>Did Not Answer:</u> Division 2: Cutno		

Hill: "You can't replace the 200 year old oak on St. Charles."

C. Mitigation costs to remediate damage to trees?

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs		<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Manning Y Morrell	<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes Y Morgan Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts
		<u>Did Not Answer:</u> Division 2: Cutno		

D. Revocation of site plan approval or building and occupancy permits for violations of tree protection laws?

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>		<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs		<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Manning Y Morrell		<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes Y Morgan Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts
		<u>Did Not Answer:</u> Division 2: Cutno			

E. Disqualifying contractors who repeatedly violate tree protection ordinances from bidding on city contracts?

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>		<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs		<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Manning Y Morrell		<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes Y Morgan Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts
		<u>Did Not Answer:</u> Division 2: Cutno			

*Bikulege:* "Why is there not one currently in place?"

**Question 3: Will you support funding in the city budget to prepare a comprehensive tree management plan?**

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>		<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs		<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Cutno Y Manning Y Morrell		<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green “Unsure” Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes Y Morgan Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts

*Duplessis:* “On funding, I support efforts to increase canopy coverage and to invest in projects that further this goal. At the same time, we must work within a finite city budget and rebuild public trust in how taxpayer dollars are spent before asking residents to shoulder additional tax burdens.”

*Heno:* “May use alternative options – Need more research.”

**Question 4: Will you support tree protection legislation to safeguard landmark or heritage trees on private property?**

<u>Mayor</u>		<u>Council-At-Large</u>		<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege <b>N Bruno</b> Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs		<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Cutno Y Manning Y Morrell		<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes <b>N Morgan</b> Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts

*Duplessis:* “I see potential in policies that protect certain landmark or heritage trees on private property. Such policies must also balance homeowners' rights and the city's urgent need to increase affordable housing.”

**Question 5: Will you support the New Orleans Master Plan and its mandate of no net loss of green space?**

<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Council-At-Large</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs	<u>Division 1:</u> Y Boyd Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Cutno Y Manning Y Morrell	<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Bell Sr. Y Hughes Y Morgan Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts

**Question 6: Will you support The Big Green Easy – and if so, will you support funding to implement the plan?**

<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Council-At-Large</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
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<u>Did Not Answer:</u> Carter	<u>Did Not Answer:</u> Cutno		

*Morgan: “I will need to conduct research on The Big Green Easy before responding.”*

**Question 7: Will you require pertinent department heads to support tree protection and to coordinate their actions in pursuit of tree protection?**

<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Council-At-Large</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>	<u>Council Districts</u>
Y Bikulege Y Bruno Y Carter Y Duplessis Y Janusa Y Moreno Y Thomas Y Twiggs	<u>Division 1:</u> Y Hill Y Willard  <u>Division 2:</u> Y Cutno Y Manning Y Morrell  <u>Did Not Answer:</u> Boyd	<u>District A:</u> Y Friedman Y McCarron Y Mossing Y Murell  <u>District C:</u> Y Barron Y Foster Y Kimbrell Y King III	<u>District D:</u> Y Batiste Y Green Y Heno  <u>District E:</u> Y Hughes Y Nguyen Y Richard Y Roberts  <u>Did Not Answer:</u> Bell

**The Questionnaire Process Explained:**

On August 5, Tree Canopy NOLA, the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization, and Parks for All distributed a questionnaire among all Mayor and Council candidates, requesting responses by August 22.

On August 20, we distributed a “friendly reminder” to *all candidates who had not yet responded*, noting that the August 22 submission date was only two days away and that the summary of candidates’ views would say “DID NOT RESPOND” if we did not receive their completed questionnaire.

On Monday, August 25, we sent a “Last Call for Tree Protection Survey Responses” to *candidates who had still not responded*, noting that we would prepare and distribute a final summary after Labor Day, which was just one week away.

This Summary of Candidates’ Views on Protecting Trees and Parks includes responses from all candidates who completed the questionnaire and identifies candidates who DID NOT RESPOND. Although we did not solicit extra comments, some candidates chose to submit them, which we have presented in this Summary of Candidates’ Views.

The following candidates DID NOT RESPOND to our first, second, or third requests for them to fill out and return the questionnaire: **Mayor**—Butler, Collins, Scurlock; **District A**—Neal; and **District E**—Burbank, Christmas.