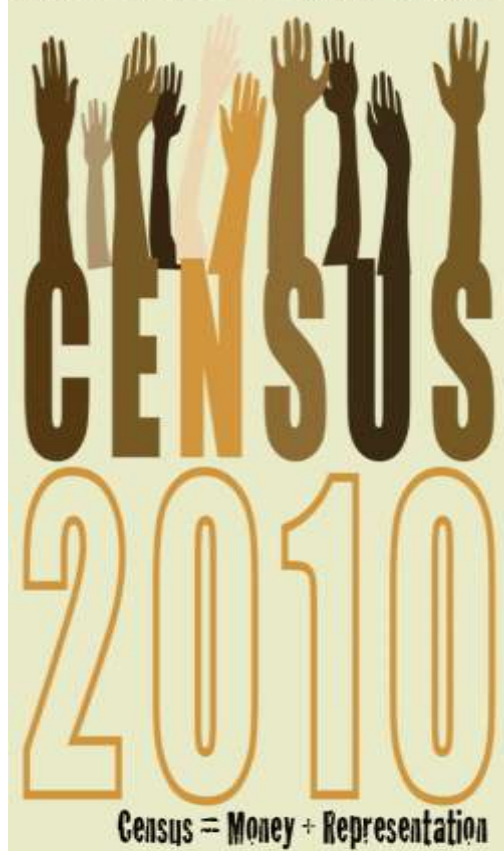


FAIR COUNT TO FAIR SHARE



WE COUNT!!

Next month: GET OUT,
COUNT AND BE COUNTED
Why Our Communities Must Be
Counted
In the 2010 U.S. Census!!

V.O.T.E. Census Activities:
February 20th, 2010 Outreach Day
March 13th, Census Form Party

LOOK OUT FOR A CENSUS FORM
IN YOUR MAILBOX
IN THE NEXT 6 WEEKS!
Call VOTE for more info (504)943-1901

V.O.T.E. Issue 05 February 2010



PO Box 13622
New Orleans, LA
70185

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
FEBRUARY 4th, MARCH 4th, APRIL 1st and MAY 6th
AT 6PM AT THE RAE HOUSE, 1212 ST. BERNARD.**

ISSUE

05

February
2010

The JUSTICE
JOURNAL OF



In this issue:

Candidate Forum **P.1**

Member Profiles & Election News **P.2**

Street Law CLASSES **P.3**

WE COUNT! **P.4**



V.O.T.E. Candidates Forum

Despite the rain, hundreds came out for the **Mayoral Candidates Forum on Criminal Justice Reform** a success last December 17. Four mayoral candidates appeared at the Treme Community Center to discuss our 10 Point Platform: Edwin Murray, Nadine Ramsay, Troy Henry and James Perry.

Perry enthusiastically signed the platform as it was written, while Henry qualified a few of the points, but signed the platform anyway. Murray and Ramsay refused to sign the platform, holding to their commitment not to sign any platform or petition presented to them during the campaign. Both John Georges and Mitch Landrieu had representatives make statements.*

Perry made the point during his opening statement that he "never felt as much at home as being in this room" with people interested in major criminal justice reform. He continued that he wanted quality arrests not that he wanted quality arrests not quantity

quantity in reference to municipal and administration." In addition, his police chief must be completely open to working with the Independent Police Monitor to "look under every single stone" of possible police misconduct in the department.

Henry said he would have objective performance measures and goals to evaluate his police chief and that there should be a strong focus on the availability of rehabilitation and mental health services rather than jail. Also, he said he was not convinced that the police department actually charges the felony "Crimes Against Nature" instead of the misdemeanor solicitation charge.

All mayoral candidates believed in broadening the search for a Police Chief to the national level as former Mayor Marc Morial did in the 1990s. Thanks to the Treme Community Center for the space, former Judge Calvin Johnson for moderating, our coalition partners, and for so many people for coming out, asking questions and keeping the candidates accountable!

**in subsequent communications with Landrieu, Couhig and Georges, they would not agree to sign on to our platform.*

VOTE'S MISSION:

VOICE OF THE EX-OFFENDER (VOTE) is an organization dedicated to building the political power of people most impacted by the criminal justice system, especially formerly incarcerated persons (FIPs,) their families and loved ones. Through leadership development, community education and voter mobilization, VOTE will ensure that our constituents are at the center of transforming the criminal justice system.

Contact VOTE:

(888) 552-VOTE
Or
(504)943-1901

Norris@vote-nola.org

Rosana@vote-nola.org

Joeblakk@vote-nola.org

www.vote-nola.org

VOTE OFFICE
3301 CHARTRES ST
NEW ORLEANS, LA
70117

PEGGY JONES



Miss Peggy Jones joined VOTE in July after attending a Community Forum at the CJ Peete Community Center. As an FIP and a member of Safe Streets, it only made sense that Peggy joined the VOTE membership. Peggy joined VOTE because the rights of ex-offenders are so often violated and denied, especially here in Louisiana.

Helping ex-offenders is much needed and necessary, she says, as is an entire restructuring of our city government, infrastructure and systems. Peggy's involvement in VOTE says plain and simple that fighting for the rights of FIPs is essential to the survival of our communities.

Aside from involvement in VOTE and Safe Streets, Peggy lives a busy life as a parent and grandparent. After working all week at Michael's Food Store in Central City, she spends Saturday and Sunday focusing on herself. Peggy says she likes to relax by taking time to ride around New Orleans and observe the happenings of the city, going to the casino when she can afford it, and going to church on Sunday.

GET OUT THE VOTE

Local elections are upon us! Now more than ever we need to make sure that our communities are heard LOUD AND CLEAR! Go out and VOTE!

Primary Election : Saturday February 6th, 2010

Early Voting for Run Off Election :
February 20th, 2010 – February 27th, 2010

Run Off Saturday March 6th, 2010

Please see the insert of the VOTING GUIDE for a breakdown of the different Mayoral Candidates and their positions on Criminal Justice Reform. You can also download a copy from our website:

<http://vote-nola.org/node/11>

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

VOTE'S STREET LAW CLASS



**Attend our
Know Your Rights
workshop
And learn about what to
do:**

- **when you encounter the police,**
- **if you or a loved one is arrested,**
- **when you have to go to court**

Learn to be SAFE and SMART on the STREET!

**Tuesday March 9th, 2010 at 5:30 pm
NOPLAY @ TULANE TOWERS
2601 Tulane Ave, 2nd Floor (near Tulane & Broad)**

VOTE's Street Law Classes began on January 27th, 2010. We are very excited to continue this series and make it available to more people throughout the New Orleans area. The main goal of the classes is to inform people of their rights in certain situations involving the law. We know through our experience with the criminal justice system that laws are not always followed and rights are often violated, so we want our community to be aware of their rights. The classes will provide literature for participants to keep and pass on to others.