

**\* \* \* \* Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee \* \* \* \***

**PRESS RELEASE**

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[www.OPDEC.org](http://www.OPDEC.org)

**FRESH TEAM PILOTS LOCAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**Neighborhood Leaders Join Party Stalwarts to Build New Organization**

Members and their guests will enjoy a Ceremonial Investiture and Swearing-In of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee at Gallier Hall on Thursday April 10, 2008 from 6pm – 8pm.

OPDEC is the largest of Louisiana's 64 Democratic Parish Executive Committees, which are the local arms of the Democratic State Central Committee and the Democratic National Committee. DPECs average 10-15 members, but in Orleans, 70 members are elected every four years, 14 from each of the five City Council Districts.

The February 9<sup>th</sup> election was a political reflection of the post-Katrina zeal residents have shown for new involvement in community life. Democratic voters retained 19 incumbents and elected 51 new members, many of whom first rose to public prominence through their neighborhood hurricane recovery activities.

New Chairman James Gray and new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Deborah Langhoff were elected without opposition, supporting each other for their leadership positions. A new Executive Board also includes representatives from traditional political organizations. Five District Chairs will introduce members from their areas at the event.

While a significant piece of OPDEC's work has focused on revitalizing itself, the party has not sat on the political sidelines. It has endorsed Democratic candidate Dr Gilda Reed in the upcoming First Congressional District race, providing volunteers and other support for Reed's campaign.

OPDEC has also gone on record calling for the resignation of Senator David Vitter.

Acronyms: OPDEC Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee

DSCC Democratic State Central Committee or Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee

DNC Democratic National Committee

DPEC Democratic Parish Executive Committee