

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

**PRESS RELEASE**

Article Contact: Deborah Langhoff  
Telephone 504-259-4525 cell

Organization Contacts: James Gray Chair  
Deborah Langhoff 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair  
[www.OPDEC.org](http://www.OPDEC.org)

**ORLEANS PARISH DEMOCRATS BACK DR. GILDA REED**  
**Early Voting begin Saturday for 1<sup>st</sup> District Congressional**

Dr. Gilda Reed was unanimously endorsed for the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional seat's May 3<sup>rd</sup> election at the General Membership meeting of the newly-elected Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee meeting on Thursday April 3, 2008.

As the UNO professor spoke to the Committee, she reminded the members that she was no stranger to finding success in challenging situations. "I gave birth to my children after being told it was impossible for me to do, and I've raised children with challenges to be college graduates. The First District can have representation in Washington with a member of the Majority Party – not a freshman in the Minority Party. And I promise that I will not use the office as a political stepping stone."

Dr. Reed declared her candidacy for this seat over a year ago, before Governor Jindal's move to the Governor's seat and has campaigned in six parishes, including the part of the 1<sup>st</sup> District that is in western Orleans Parish.

Historically, OPDEC concentrated efforts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District and this endorsement is an opportunity to recognize the 9,546 Orleans Democrats in the 1<sup>st</sup> District and to solicit their involvement and support.

OPDEC Chair James Gray noted, "We will put energy behind this endorsement," and OPDEC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Deborah Langhoff is working with DSCC members and DPEC's in other parishes in a coordinated effort for Reed's election on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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