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## **OBAMA'S Commitment to New Orleans**

Presidential candidate Barack Obama came to Louisiana early in his campaign, and made a set of **specific commitments** to help the recovery from the hurricanes of 2005 and to ensure a better response to future storm events. He met with neighborhood organizers, coastal residents, and community leaders. He questioned them and heard their concerns.

New Orleans has reached a defining moment in our recovery. As elections begin Saturday, the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee spotlights the candidates' solutions to the serious issues we face. The Democratic Party's emphasis on a neighborhood-based approach taps the vitality and the hope of New Orleanians who are rebuilding our city block by block.

Barack Obama's commitments to this area include:

- *Creating a National Catastrophe Insurance Reserve funded by private insurers, which could save homeowners an estimated \$11.6 billion on annual premiums.*
- *Strengthening levees and pumping systems*
- *Restoring coastal wetlands to buffer inland communities*
- *Improved hospitals, schools, and new transportation alternatives*
- *Tax incentives to attract business in the aftermath of disasters*
- *Streamlining FEMA rules and programs*

**These commitments reflect Barack Obama's record of action in the Senate following the storms of 2005, where, in the areas of health care - public schools - student loan forgiveness - Road Home funding - rental assistance - regional transit alternatives - small business relief - humane evacuation - and FEMA reform,** Barack Obama introduced and moved legislation, working with our Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu, reaching across the aisle to successfully pass legislation that benefits New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, and others facing future disasters.

As the local arm of The Democratic Party, OPDEC has produced the official Democratic Party list of endorsed candidates after interviewing Democratic candidates for Congress, District Attorney, the School Board and the Judiciary. With a diverse membership of 70 leaders in government, business, student, political and neighborhood organizations, OPDEC respects differences and honors every voter's opinion.

With the leadership of the Obama-Biden ticket, New Orleans will have a brighter future. OPDEC fosters the Democratic Party's agenda to create strong economic growth, national security, affordable health care for all Americans, environmental and coastal protections, retirement security, honest government, and civil rights.

OPDEC ENDORSED CANDIDATES list attached. For information [www.OPDEC.org](http://www.OPDEC.org)  
[http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/additional/Obama\\_FactSheet\\_Katrina.pdf](http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/additional/Obama_FactSheet_Katrina.pdf);  
[http://www.barackobama.com/2008/09/01/obama\\_skips\\_political\\_speech\\_a.php](http://www.barackobama.com/2008/09/01/obama_skips_political_speech_a.php)  
Helping victims of Hurricane Ike: <http://www.barackobama.com/index.php>

Louisiana for Obama-Biden: <http://www.Laforobamabiden.com/>