

Donkeys grow ever more popular this year, so to assist voters in identifying people behind the names of political groups active in New Orleans, an informal list is being compiled. "Googling" is encouraged.

Mistakes and omissions are inevitable, though every effort has been made for accuracy. To expand this list to include all parts of Louisiana, LaRoots seeks submissions for publication in the next email.

A Short and Imperfect List of New Orleans Political Groups – Who is Who

Political groups not officially affiliated with the Democratic Party, (democratic or non-partisan) can institute endorsement policies without restrictions or guidance from the Democratic Party, where the Party structure should follow guidelines in the associated Democratic Party by-laws and regulations.

Unaffiliated groups in alphabetical order...

"Algiers Women of Action" founder Natasha Anthony-Wells

"Alliance for Good Government" political group whose endorsements tend to favor incumbents and conservative choices of both parties. It hosts forums, organizes pro rata ballots and media buys.

"BOLD – Black Organization for Leadership Development" – political group's elder statesman is James Singleton, leader is Jay Banks, and most prominent officer-holder is Rep. Karen Carter Peterson.

"Catholic Democrats" national organization founded by Dr Patrick Whelan, state chapters expanding.

"COUP – Community Organization for Urban Politics" - 7th Ward political group led by former Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, Lambert Boissiere

"The Democratic Beavers Inc" Herman Metoyer President.

"DFA – Democracy for America" national organization known as the "democratic wing of the Democratic Party" led by Jim Dean, brother of DNC Chair Gov Howard Dean.

Forum for Equality – non-partisan gay rights organization that works with "Stonewall Democrats" and "Log Cabin Republicans" on endorsements friendly to gay community.

"LaRoots" - grassroots e-bulletin published by the Langhoffs since 2004. www.LaRoots.net

“LIFE” - political group formerly led by Urban League Director and former-New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, after his father former-Mayor Dutch Morial.

“La for Obama/Biden” new grassroots site based in Baton Rouge <http://www.laforobamabiden.com/>

“Mid City Democrats” led in the 1950's by RDO's 3rd Ward boss, Assessor Jimmy Comiskey. Recent mailer shows Chairman Connie Comiskey.

“New Orleans Coalition” bi-racial political committee that interviews/issues endorsements.

“PDA – Progressive Democrats of America” no relation to Bill Jefferson's local group, Vinny Mendoza leads state chapter of PDA, a national organization.

“Progressive Democrats” - Bill Jefferson's long-standing political organization, Stephanie Butler, Ericka Edwards, Mose Jefferson, Betty Jefferson, Julius Feltus have been associated with this group.

“Progressive Northshore Democrats” - not affiliated with either of the groups with similar names shown above, begun by Angelique Lacour (granddaughter of RDO's Jim Comiskey) and led by Joan Simon.

“RDO – Regular Democratic Organization” - the 'Old Regulars' from post -Civil War New Orleans is the oldest political club. According to current voter files, 3 of the 5 Executive Committeemen listed on a recent mailer are registered Republicans.

“SOUL – Southern Organization for United Leadership” began in the 9th Ward, most prominent officeholder - Sherman Copelin. Also led behind the scenes by Don Hubbard.

“TIPS – Treme Improvement Political Society” led by State Senator Ed Murray

US-LA-Democrats yahoo network founded in 2000 by Mike Fagan of Slidell.

“West St Tammany Democrats” led by Daryl and Joanna Pettit in 2004.

“Women on the Move” founded by Roberta Brown.

Affiliated organizations are sanctioned and offered either voting or non-voting status within DSCC:

“Stonewall Democrats” affiliated GLBT group led in LA by Stephen Handwerk.

“Young Democrats of Louisiana” affiliated state chapter of national group for Democrats under 35 years old. Orleans group in the process of organizing under leadership of Westley Bayes III .

Democratic Party Structure:

DNC – Democratic National Committee (the national Democratic Party) – Chair Gov Howard Dean

- Elected members from each state's Executive Committee serve on the DNC.

Karen Carter Peterson, Ben Jeffers, Buddy Leach serve for Louisiana

LDP – Louisiana Democratic Party (the state Democratic Party) – Chair Chris Whittington, Executive Director Britton Loftin. Chair and other officers are elected by the

- Democratic State Central Committee (meets 2 times per year to guide the LDP) 210 members elected, one man and one woman, from each state rep district.

It is under the jurisdiction of the Democratic National Committee.

There is an Executive Committee of about two dozen that is more powerful than the body.

OPDEC – Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee – Chair James A Gray II with Deborah Langhoff 1st Vice Chair, 11 Executive Board members made up of the officers and one Chair from each City Council district, including representatives from major African American political organizations.

- 70 elected members, 14 from each City Council District.
- It is one of 64 Parish Executive Committees under the jurisdiction of the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana.

Convention delegates emerge from an advertised but complex process administered by the LDP.

It is an imperfect election season, so please volunteer for the good candidates and ignore the rest.

Deborah and Alan Langhoff

