



## Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NOLA Runoff Mayor Candidates to Debate Water, Flooding, Coastal Issues**

*New Orleans' next mayor to answer pointed questions on water challenges*

**New Orleans, LA** (Oct. 23, 2017) – The threat of hurricanes, tropical storms and even afternoon rains have highlighted New Orleans' infrastructural vulnerabilities in dealing with storm water and environmental changes. These recent events have pushed flooding, coastal protection and restoration and the environment to the forefront as some of the most pressing issues facing Orleans Parish. These issues will surely test our next mayor. To help ensure the new mayor is engaged on these issues, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and the Urban Conservancy are partnering with the Greater New Orleans Foundation to host a debate with the two runoff candidates for Mayor of New Orleans – LaToya Cantrell and Desiree Charbonnet.

The debate is entitled "Flood Risk and Adapting to Coastal and Environmental Change." It will be held at Lupin Hall on the campus of NOCCA on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 7:30 – 8:30 pm.

"Our next mayor faces real challenges when it comes to dealing with the city's flood protection and its future of living with water," said Kimberly Reyher, CRCL Executive Director. "New Orleans has a real role to play in Louisiana's coastal land loss crisis and restoration efforts, and climate change adaptation."

"New Orleans has begun the movement of how to live with water, but it's going to take bold leadership from our next mayor to propel the movement further," said Andy Kopplin, president and CEO of the Greater New Orleans Foundation. "We can better face the tough challenges of flooding, subsidence, and coastal land loss if we work together across sectors and parish lines."

Wednesday's debate is a follow-up to the forum that the Urban Conservancy and CRCL held prior to the general election where eight of the declared 18 candidates gathered to answer questions on flood risk and drainage. This, however, will be a true debate with the candidates having the opportunity to answer a mix of moderator and audience questions with time to rebut each other and interact.

It will be moderated by Jimmy Frederick, CRCL Communications Director, who promises direct questions about these important issues. "We expect a lively debate."

"This is a conversation that is long overdue in New Orleans," said Lindsay Pick, Urban Conservancy board member and owner of The Okra Inn. "As a native New Orleanian and a business owner, I recognize the critical leadership role New Orleans must take to ensure that we can thrive and prosper here for another 300 years."

The debate is being hosted by CRCL and the Urban Conservancy and is presented by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. It will begin at 7:30pm with doors opening at 7:00pm. The event is free and open to public. Seating is first come, first served. It will be streamed live at [crcl.org](http://crcl.org) and [urbanconservancy.org](http://urbanconservancy.org). It will also air tape delayed on WYES-TV at 10:00pm Thursday, Oct. 26 and on WHIV-FM 102.3 at 5:00pm on Friday, Oct. 27.

*Our Coast, Our Future*

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

Other partners include: The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans, The Lens, Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy, Tulane ByWater Institute, Gulf Restoration Network, The Okra Inn, Water Works, and Lowlander Institute.

Please contact CRCL's Communications Director, Jimmy Frederick, at 225-317-2046 or [Jimmy.Frederick@crcl.org](mailto:Jimmy.Frederick@crcl.org) for more information and if you plan to attend.

**About CRCL:**

Founded in 1988, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is the longest standing statewide organization driving bold, science-based action to rebuild Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration and advocacy. With the support of members and volunteers, CRCL advocates strong coastal policies and implements restoration projects across Coastal Louisiana. Visit us at [www.crcl.org](http://www.crcl.org).

**About the Urban Conservancy:**

Since 2001, the Urban Conservancy has catalyzed equitable practices and policies related to the urban built environment and local economies through research, education, and advocacy.

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