



Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRCL to Hold Coastal Issues Forum for Candidates in 3rd Congressional District

Top Candidates to Discuss Plans for Restoring Southwest Louisiana

(Baton Rouge, LA –September 26, 2018) Louisiana is facing a land loss crisis that threatens our culture, way of life and economic security. This problem is not only a state and local issue but a national one as well.

To highlight the importance of these critical issues, the [Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](http://www.CRCL.org) (CRCL) has organized a Coastal Issues Forum for candidates in the 3rd Congressional District at the Central School Auditorium in Lake Charles, LA on Oct. 18, 2018, at 6:00 pm. We have invited the top five candidates in the race for the 3rd Congressional District, currently held by Rep. Clay Higgins. We'll include all candidates that have raised any money for the election based on Federal Election Commission filings as of August 31, 2018. As of today, we have commitments from Rob Anderson, Josh Guillory, and Judge Mildred "Mimi" Methvin. We've invited Rep. Higgins and Larry Rader. This will be the first Congressional forum that deals exclusively with coastal issues.

"Coastal restoration and protection issues are critically important. Voters need to know where the candidates stand on these issues," said Kimberly Davis Reyher, CRCL's Executive Director. "The people of southwest Louisiana want to continue to live, work and play on the coast. Making this possible and safe will require unprecedented leadership, coordination, and political resolve."

The Coastal Issues Forum will examine the major topics that our representative in the 3rd District will have to address in Congress to help Louisiana's coastal crisis. Including, how to secure funding for critical restoration projects, how to streamline the federal bureaucracy so that we can move more quickly to preserve our coast, and how to best ensure protection for homes and businesses from storm flooding.

We are working with a wide array of partners who endorse the importance of this conversation: America's WETLAND Foundation; Audubon Louisiana; Cameron Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District; Center for Planning Excellence; Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana; Coast Builders Coalition; Ducks Unlimited; Foundation for Louisiana; McNeese State University; Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana; Restore or Retreat; Restore the Mississippi River Delta; The Water Institute of the Gulf; Vanishing Paradise; and We Women.

"CRCL organized the Coastal Issues Forum, in partnership with a growing list of other organizations, to highlight the critical importance of coastal issues in this race and learn firsthand how our next representative plans to deal with the challenges and opportunities related to coastal land loss, especially at the federal level," said Reyher. "The diversity of partners in this effort – ranging from business and economic development interests to government watchdog groups, to sports fishing and hunting groups – demonstrates the breadth and depth of concern about this issue."

Our Coast, Our Future

www.CRCL.org

The Forum will be 90 minutes, consisting of 6-10 questions asked by the forum moderator, CRCL's Jimmy Frederick. The Coastal Issues Forum will be streamed live on the CRCL website, CRCL.org. It will also be re-broadcast in its entirety on Suddenlink Communications Channel 8 in Lake Charles, Iowa, and Sulphur; Cameron Cable Channel 8 in Cameron Parish; and on KWBJ-TV in Morgan City.

The Forum is open to the public, and no ticket or RSVP is required. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Please plan on being in your seat by 5:45 pm.

Media Logistics:

- All media are welcome and encouraged to attend. This forum will be the only of its kind in the state this election cycle.
- Reserved seating will be available for members of the working press.
- A designated camera area will be set up in the Central School Auditorium with a "mult box" for clean audio on a first come first served basis.
- You are asked to arrive no later than 5:00 pm so you can get set up and be ready for 5:45 pm. The Forum will begin promptly at 6:00 pm.

About CRCL:

CRCL is a non-partisan, non-profit organization driving bold, science-based action to restore Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration, and advocacy. CRCL was founded in 1988 and is the state's oldest and most comprehensive coastal restoration organization. Visit CRCL.org.

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