

Bradford Jackson

Candidate for State Representative District 40

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My Friends,

On **Saturday, August 1st**, I ask that you consider me for your vote for **State Representative District 40**.

As a political **Independent**, I am part of the largest group of American swing voters, who consider the person and the policies over a party. I support what benefits the people of District 40, Louisiana, and the United States of America, not special interest groups.

I am a Navy **veteran**, a former military dependent, and support the Constitution, especially the 1st Amendment Freedom of Speech and Assembly, the 2nd Amendment Right to Bear Arms, and the 10th Amendment Powers Reserved to the States. I believe without constant scrutiny, Federal powers will far over-reach their Constitutional authority. We have already seen this with legislation forced on the states by the threat of withholding Federal Highway funds, and current attempts to impose taxes on energy and carbon dioxide emissions. As your representative, I will work to assure that Federal runaway regulations do not trample States Rights.

I have seen firsthand how our military community, active and retired, and their families are treated. The men and women who defend our country deserve better, and deserve the opportunity for a good education. For example, Tulane legislative scholarships should be offered first to Louisiana combat veterans, their dependents, then to veterans and their dependents.

We need to **lower taxes**. If we need more tax money, we should expand our tax base by attracting, creating, and supporting new businesses, adding jobs to our economy. Established businesses that have been loyal to our community should not be neglected and should also receive help and thanks for their many years of contributing to our local economy. Businesses want good schools, good libraries, and a clean, beautiful and safe environment. Businesses stay and thrive for the same reasons. I advocate we **eliminate personal Louisiana income taxes**, which discourages many retirees from settling here.

Improving **education**, from pre-k to college and vocational training, is essential. I have taught for LSUE, Tulane, and TH Harris. We must rejuvenate and even reinvent the way our children experience school. Our children should not be ripped from a school where they are happy. We must rethink forced busing and renew our commitment to education. Innovative ideas, charter schools, student scholarships, we should utilize anything that gets results. Studies estimate that if all the drop-outs now on welfare had learned to make a living while in school, they would add \$500 billion a year to our economy!

I know the importance of keeping jobs in the oil business. Holding an engineering degree (Tulane '81), I worked offshore for several years until the **oilfield** crash. There is plenty of oil still in the Gulf,

and on our land. We, not some foreign company, should be drilling and producing this valuable resource, instead of sending our cash overseas. As your representative, I will ensure that our resources are developed to benefit Louisiana and her citizens.

Many summers growing up were spent working on my grandparents family farm. I am no stranger to the trials and tribulations a farmer must endure, such as drought, pests, and floods

I've operated **small businesses** for over 25 years, in the computer field. I've made payroll, seen jobs shipped overseas, watched insurance and taxes go up, and seen bust times in the economy. Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and the American dream, yet our government does the least to help promote small business.

I have always supported police and firemen pay, it is important that we retain competent personnel. With the voters help, we successfully got pay raises for the police, got the police over-budget forgiven due to overtime incurred because of 24 hour alcohol.

With others, I helped pass legislation to certify and credential Emergency Medical Volunteers from all states to have access into disaster areas, while respecting local authority re-entry plans. I chaired and still remain on board the Acadiana Infragard (infragard.net), an organization dedicated to protecting our critical infrastructures against disasters and terrorism. This organization helped pass a bill called the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act which was just signed into law.

After Katrina, I volunteered to setup donated computers and internet access at many of our St. Landry evacuation shelters. People could then contact family and friends, file FEMA forms, and begin to rebuild their lives. Continuing as a volunteer, I then went to Bay St. Louis and helped setup long distance wireless networks to connect police, fire, medical and evacuation shelters to internet based communications including internet telephones.

I believe in the importance of historic preservation, and have renovated several historic homes and buildings in Opelousas. I supported the formation of the historic district and continue to promote the tourism potential of St. Landry Parish. As chair of the Opelousas Tree Board, we found grant monies.

It is important to me to empower those that are less fortunate in our community. I am on the Board of the New Life Center, which provides shelter, support, and help for disadvantaged women and children.

I promise to bring a 'can-do spirit'. I will listen to your views and ideas, and will return your calls. Together we can represent the best interests of District 40.

Sincerely,

Bradford Jackson