



## LESLI'S PLAN FOR AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, CLEAN ENERGY SERVICES

The New Orleans City Council regulates Entergy's rates and charges, the types of services it provides, and the types of energy powering our city. City Councilmembers have an enormous power to influence the lives of New Orleans residents and businesses through the regulation of Entergy. As Councilmember, Lesli Harris will hold Entergy accountable for its failures and insist on transparency in all Entergy's actions. Lesli will require Entergy to make the investments needed to provide customers with the most cost-efficient, environmentally-sound energy services and harden all systems so that we are prepared for the effects of climate change.

As Councilmember, Lesli Harris will:

- **Oppose All Efforts to Pass Along Costs of Post-Hurricane Ida Power Restoration to Customers.** New Orleans customers already pay for a \$210 million gas-powered plant in New Orleans East that was supposed to provide back-up power for events like Hurricane Ida. New Orleanians are also charged for a storm fund for post-storm repairs. Lesli Harris will vote **NO** on any efforts by Entergy to pass along additional costs of Post-Hurricane Ida power restoration and repair.
- **Hold Entergy Accountable for its Failures.** During Entergy's years-long campaign for approval to build the New Orleans East power plant, Entergy touted the importance of a local power plant to prevent major power outages. During Hurricane Ida, the New Orleans East plant took two days to finally kick on. And still, the vast majority of the city was left in the dark.

Hurricane Ida is not Entergy's only recent major failure. In February 2021, during an historic cold snap in New Orleans, Entergy temporarily shut off power to at least 26,000 New Orleans customers because of stress on the electrical grid. Later, Entergy revealed that it cut too much power during the cold snap, including to the Sewerage & Water Board, leaving many New Orleanians without power and water service. New Orleans unnecessarily shouldered 37% of the cuts Entergy was required to make across the entire state of Louisiana. Entergy's leadership must be held accountable for these failures, including through a management audit.

- **Require a Management Audit.** Entergy used unethical tactics in lobbying the City Council to approve the unpopular New Orleans East power plant, for which it was ultimately fined \$5 million dollars. It mismanaged the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant at a cost of millions to New Orleans customers, and has consistently underperformed during weather events such as Hurricane Ida and the Mardi Gras coldsnap. Entergy's customer service and operations

are sub-par, including unexpected bill spikes and poor maintenance of power lines and poles. Council President Helena Moreno has committed to an independent and comprehensive audit of Entergy's management practices. Lesli Harris supports this audit to ensure that New Orleans customers are being treated fairly and that Entergy abides by best practices.

- **Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change.** The City Council must require Entergy to amplify green energy efforts. Lesli Harris will work to implement and strengthen the recently approved [Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard](#) and ensure that electricity supplied to New Orleans residents meets the requirements for phasing out dirty coal, oil, and gas. She will also advance community solar projects for renters and other residents who face barriers to roof-top solar, and ensure that solar customers have the necessary batteries to power microgrids supporting their neighborhoods when hurricanes and other outages happen.
  - **Require Entergy Complete the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Process.** IRP is a process where Entergy determines the mix of demand-side (such as energy efficiency, weatherization, energy storage) and supply-side (such as the construction of a fossil fuel-fired generating plant or solar farm) technologies that it will use to economically and efficiently meet its user demand. The IRP process encompasses all aspects of the utility planning process, from generation to transmission and distribution. The IRP process is a powerful tool for ensuring that New Orleans energy consumers receive affordable and reliable electricity service that does not compromise the health of their communities or the environment. Lesli Harris will require Entergy complete the IRP process so that we have all the information we need to ensure that our energy needs are met in the most affordable and healthy means possible.
  - **Require Entergy Fulfill the Requirements of the Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard (RCPS).** Passed by the Council in May 2021, the RCPS policy requires Entergy to satisfy an escalating percentage of its user demand through the use of renewable and clean energy technologies. The policy targets net-zero emissions by year 2040, and 100% carbon-free generation by 2050. To meet these goals, Entergy must complete a meaningful Integrated Resource Planning Process that reflects real-world conditions, including the realities of New Orleans' population, many of whom are low income. Energy efficiency and renewable energy are rapidly becoming the most cost-effective means for providing energy services to consumers, while traditional coal and natural-gas fired plants are becoming obsolete at faster rates than initially predicted. Lesli Harris will monitor Entergy's efforts and require Entergy make real progress towards these goals, including putting long term planning that is best for customers ahead of short-term gains for stockholders.
- **Require Ethical and Conflict-Free Decision Making by Councilmembers.** District B's current Councilmember is a former paid Entergy consultant. In August 2021, the New Orleans Ethics Review Board voted unanimously to recommend a revision

to the city's Code of Ethics that would bar City Council members and candidates from accepting political contributions from city-regulated utility firms like Entergy New Orleans or Cox Communications. Lesli will author legislation to bring effect to this recommendation. She will call upon her fellow Councilmembers to refrain from voting on matters related to Entergy if they have financial and ethical conflicts of interest.