

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans focused on the following legislative efforts during the 2009 Spring Fiscal Session of the Legislature, and the outcomes are as follows:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Legislation:

HB 311, sponsored by Representative Bodi White, proposed limiting public access to records of internal investigations of law enforcement officers. It could undermine the purpose and effectiveness of the newly establish Independent Police Monitor in the Orleans Inspector General's office.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans opposed this bill and testified in committee. This bill did not pass successfully out of the House & Governmental Affairs Committee.

ETHICS

Legislation:

HB 506, sponsored by Representative Greg Ernst, proposed authorizing a municipality to establish an independent operating account for funds to be used in support of a local ethics entity, ethics review board or Office of Inspector General. It would have also authorized any such entity to establish an independent system of procurement procedures.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans supported this bill. This bill passed favorably through the House, but failed in the Local & Municipal Affairs Committee of the Senate.

EDUCATION

Legislation:

HB 689, sponsored by Representative Karen Carter Peterson, proposed creating the statewide Educational Facilities Fund as part of the State Treasury. Its purpose was to provide more funding for school facilities.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans supported this bill. While adopted by the Senate, this bill failed to pass successfully through the House Appropriations Committee.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Legislation:

SB101, sponsored by Senator Troy Hebert, proposed raising the homestead exemption according to the Consumer Price Index, and was amended in committee to one-half of the CPI.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans opposed this bill and its amendment and testified in committee. This bill and its attached amendment failed to pass through the Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committee.

LEVEES

Legislation:

HB 61, sponsored by Representative Ernest Wooten, proposed providing for the return to the Grand Prairie Levee District (now the Plaquemine Parish Government) of the properties located in the Bohemia Spillway taken by the Orleans Levee District.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans opposed this bill and testified in the Transportation Committee that in 1928 the Orleans Levee District purchased this property from the Grand Prairie Levee District, and has paid in full. Senate Bill 350 was substituted for this bill. This would have created a commission to study the non-flood assets. This bill died on the House floor. This is the second consecutive year that Representative Wooten has proposed this bill.

Legislation:

SB153, sponsored by Senator J. P. Morrell, proposed transferring control and maintenance of certain non-flood assets, along with certain revenues of the Orleans Levee District to the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans opposed the portion of this bill that designated 30% of the non-flood revenues of the Orleans Parish Levee Board to be given to the City Park Improvement Association. Senate Bill 350 was substituted for this bill. It would have created a commission to study the non-flood assets. This bill died on the House floor.

Legislation:

HB 796, sponsored by Representative Karen Carter Peterson, proposed removing the parts of St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes located east of the Mississippi River from the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority Board/East, reducing the number of members on that board and modifying their professional requirements.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans supported this bill. This bill failed to pass when the Senate did not adopt the conference committee report.

MASTER PLAN

Legislation:

SB75, sponsored by Senator Ed Murray, proposed requiring a public referendum before the completed New Orleans Master Plan was implemented.

Position/Outcome:

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans opposed this bill and testified before the House Municipal, Parochial & Public Affairs Committee. After passing favorably through the Senate, this bill failed on the House floor.

On behalf of Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans we applaud you for participating in efforts that confirmed the power of our voices.

We thank you, our reform-minded citizens, and our Governor, State Legislators, city officials, organizations, coalitions and media who worked with us on the included state legislation.

We will continue to monitor legislative efforts that promote good government and reform. We can only be effective if we, the citizens of New Orleans and the region, continue to be actively involved.

Let's encourage our family, friends and associates to join the website at citizensfor1.com to become informed and participate in critical issues that affect the future of our city, region and state.

*Ruthie Frierson, Founder and Chair
Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans*