



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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*This Voter Guide is provided as a community resource to the residents of Slidell for the upcoming Slidell Mayor race. The League of Women Voters of St. Tammany (LWVST) is non-partisan. **We do not endorse candidates.** The following voter guide is provided as a voter education resource. The candidate responses are listed in alphabetical order by last name. Any editing done was to equalize fonts for presentation.*

The candidates are:

“Bill” Borchart



and

Randy Fandal



2025 Candidate Questions for the Mayor of Slidell

1) **What are the most significant plans you have for Slidell? What experience do you have that will allow you to implement them?**

Bill Borchert:

I plan to continue the great work my administration has already begun on bringing the Tammany Trace into Heritage Park, Revitalizing Youth Recreational Sports facilities, extending the Slidell Airport runway, increasing code enforcement and expanding economic development.

Randy Fandal:

One of the biggest challenges in the City of Slidell is economic development. I plan to convert the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff position in City Hall to an Economic

Development Director position to help market and recruit business to our city as well as assist our current business owners. As Mayor, I will work with the St. Tammany Economic Development Corporation, St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, East St. Tammany Business Alliance, Slidell Mainstreet, Olde Towne Merchants Association, Parish Council, and our state legislative delegation to identify economic opportunities for Slidell. I will work to streamline the permit process and cut red tape to simplify doing business in the city of Slidell. I will re-purpose empty commercial properties including Northshore Mall and the old Outlet Mall. I will showcase our strengths, our location, skilled workforce, low crime rate, and high quality of life. Additionally, I will work with our parish, state and federal delegations to fight to lower housing, flood and car insurance rates in Slidell because we are losing our most valuable resource, the people in our community, to our neighbors in Mississippi because they can longer afford to live here.

I will continue to work with the Slidell City Council and new Police Chief to ensure public safety is and remains a top priority in Slidell, as it should be in every community. Public Safety is and will remain a challenge in the City of Slidell due to our proximity to one of the most dangerous cities in the country and being located at the intersection of three major interstates. The Slidell Police Department has drawn a line around the city but if that line ever breaks, we are all in trouble (all of St. Tammany Parish).

When it rains in Slidell, it floods. This is not just an inconvenience, it is a threat to our homes, our businesses, and our way of life. I will work with our parish, state, and federal leaders to secure real funding and deliver real solutions. I will make drainage and flood protection a top priority, because citizens in Slidell deserve peace of mind and our streets, especially Gause Blvd., should not flood every time a storm rolls in. I will also fight to secure funding for the Highway 11 overpass, sooner rather than later, as well as the Highway 90 bridge.

I have been in law enforcement for over 45 years, I have seen our city grow, change, and evolve. I am a proven leader with real results. I have successfully managed multi-million-dollar budgets and over 140 personnel for over 8 ½ years in one of the most (if not the most) dangerous and challenging professions. I know how important integrity is in both law enforcement and in my personal life. I have continuously challenged myself both personally and professionally to practice at the highest standards and live by those standards. From working the streets for thirty-three plus years, to hiking the 2,184-mile Appalachian Trail in 2012, to being Police Chief, I work hard, don't give up and continue to move forward at the highest level of professionalism, dedication, and heart. As police chief, I have done everything I said I was going to do when I ran for office 9 years ago and will do the same if elected mayor.

2) How will you address the impact that **rapid growth** in and around Slidell has caused for **traffic and existing infrastructure**?

Bill Borchert:

Slidell is well positioned for future economic development projects, but smart growth is always required when dealing with traffic and existing infrastructure.

Randy Fandal:

I was born and raised in Slidell and have seen our city grow and evolve. As Chief of Police, I have seen first-hand how growth has impacted traffic and our existing infrastructure. As mayor, I will work with our parish, state and federal partners and actively pursue state and federal dollars to improve key intersections, upgrade drainage and repair bridges. We need to think long term and make sure we push for smart growth and don't overwhelm our infrastructure. I will be transparent and involve our citizens with regular town hall meetings. We can and will build a better and stronger Slidell now and for future generations.

3) During the next four years, what will be the most **critical financial challenges** confronting Slidell, and what will be the impact of those challenges?

Bill Borchert:

The largest financial challenges to the citizens of Slidell currently is the high costs of both insurance and taxes. Many of our residents are moving for cheaper costs in Mississippi. Both of these problems require federal and state monetary help.

Randy Fandal:

The most critical financial challenge facing Slidell is that our revenue sources are limited. Slidell relies too heavily on sale taxes which fluctuate based on the economy. We need to be proactive and bring in economic development that is not retail based such as light manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, and technology. If we do not diversify our economy, we will fall behind on projects like drainage improvements, facility upgrades and providing services to our citizens.

4) Two issues impact Slidell – problems with household **water quality and drainage**, both essential for **a safe and healthy quality of life**. What are your specific plans to address these issues?

Bill Borchert:

Drainage is definitely an issue that affects our quality of life in Slidell. My administration has already tasked our engineering department to inspect our underground drainage infrastructure along Gause Blvd and Pontchartrain Dr to make sure they are operational and working correctly.

The City of Slidell water system scored a 96/100 on our latest report. Water quality is not an issue within the city limits of Slidell.

Randy Fandal:

We are fortunate that we do not have the same water quality issues inside the city limits of Slidell that many of our neighbors in the unincorporated area of Slidell have experienced. As mayor, we will continue to monitor our drinking water and filtration systems to ensure they are operating efficiently and effectively. However, we do have drainage issues in the city limits that are chronic and have not been addressed such as Gause Blvd. We need to start by cleaning and maintaining canals, culverts, and ditches, retention ponds and seek state and federal stormwater mitigation funding to address our drainage issues.

5) **Lack of affordable housing** is affecting the ability of residents to improve their quality of life. What are your specific plans to address this problem?

Bill Borchert:

The City of Slidell just updated our Uniform Development Code to improve affordable housing opportunities within our community. Many of our residential district now include a multiuse designation.

Randy Fandal:

I will meet with our parish, state, and federal delegations to fight to lower our housing, flood, and car insurance rates in Slidell. I cannot emphasize enough that families in Slidell have reached a critical breaking point and we are losing Slidell residents (who helped build this community) to our neighbors in Mississippi because they can no longer afford to live here. Also, young families cannot afford to purchase homes due to the rising cost of insurance. We must fight for Slidell and do whatever it takes to send a strong message to Baton Rouge and Washington D.C. that families in Louisiana are suffering and being forced from their homes and our State.

6) **Closures of business offices and commercial structures create problems including vandalism, loss of tax revenue, and the appearance of a “ghost town”**. What are your **plans to rehabilitate vacant commercial structures and businesses in Slidell, especially the area surrounding Northshore Mall?**

Bill Borchert:

Several years ago, I convinced Mayor Cromer to hire an outside Real Estate Broker, Retail Strategies, to market the City of Slidell to businesses around the country. Retail Strategies brought Banfield Veterinary and Chicken Salad Chick to the old abandon Pizza Hut building property and many other new businesses to our community. I have been working with the Slidell City Council to redevelop the old Northshore Mall into a future economic development project.

Randy Fandal:

There are a number of vacant commercial buildings inside the city limits as well as outside the city limits but the two biggest “eyesores” in the city are the Northshore Mall and the old Outlet Mall off Old Spanish Trail. In January 2025, the city council approved \$100,000 for a consultant study of the Northshore Square Mall site

(redevelopment study). To my knowledge, the study has not been completed. Once it has been completed, if elected mayor, I will hold town hall meetings to discuss the recommendations with the community. There are a number of options that the city can also pursue regarding vacant commercial properties which include tax incentives for developers who commit to rehabilitating and repurposing vacant properties. Façade Improvement Grants provide grants to businesses or developers to enhance the appearance of buildings. Another option is strategic public-private partnerships to reimagine large commercial buildings into satellite community college campuses, healthcare facilities, or technology hubs just to name a few viable options. We need to enforce property maintenance codes to hold property owners accountable for long term neglect, which include recently passed State laws that empower local governments to demolish or remove dilapidated and dangerous structures directly, without waiting for lengthy court proceedings (SB236). With the right leadership and community engagement, we can transform vacant commercial properties in Slidell.