

AJLI Panel 2<sup>nd</sup> part- criminal justice, ethics, education Sept 19, 2015

**The passage of these 2 state-wide amendments was the beginning of a reform movement and gave Citizens for 1 the courage to address other challenges / good government /ethics, pre-K through 12 public education, and\_criminal justice,**

**Our approach to advocacy and the process we use to achieve our goals is simple.**

**Our committees research, educate themselves and others, and advocate and monitor the issues.**

**We build broad-based, diverse coalitions.**

**We build and sustain relationships with elected and appointed officials.**

**We are present and testify at state and local legislative committees.**

**We focus on clear messaging, never attacking individuals.**

**We use our website and media contacts to communicate our positions.**

#### **IN GOOD GOVERNMENT/ETHICS**

**To receive the billions of dollars necessary for the rebuilding our city's infrastructure/ trust in our city government was needed.**

**In 2007 we successfully advocated for the ESTABLISHMENT of an Ethics Review Board and an OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL –The Inspector General provides published reports on waste , fraud and abuse in city government. –**

**In 2008 we successfully advocated for a City charter change , to insure that the Office of Inspector General had a dedicated percentage of the annual city budget , and that no mayor or city council could remove the**

office. It also required the Inspector General to provide for an Independent Police Monitor.

The Inspector General has saved our city millions of dollars each year, and has dramatically curtailed waste, fraud and abuse in city government.

## **PRE-K -12 EDUCATION**

Before the storm our public schools were among the worst performing in the country .

After Katrina, our state legislature gave the recently created State Recovery School District authority over 110 FAILING New Orleans Schools. Over time these schools were chartered and are now managed by non-profit charter boards. These public Charter schools are given the authority to hire and fire its faculty and autonomy over their day to day operations and curriculum.

Citizens for 1 has been a strong advocate for the charter school system, and today 92% of our public school students are in charter schools.

Citizens for 1 are advocates for higher standards for students and teachers and evaluation of student progress and teacher success. In addition, we support school choice and early childhood education.

We attend and testify at the legislative session, State Board of Education meetings and our local school board meetings.

We participated in and support the master plan for school facilities- to insure that each school will be rebuilt or restored.

Education Reform is a silver lining- the most innovative and positive hope for our city's future.

Before Katrina 67% of our schools were failing –today only 7%

77% of our students are at grade level.

Graduation rates have gone from 54% to 73%

For the first time in our history, New Orleans public schools are performing at the state median.

## **FINALLY to Criminal Justice**

**In Feb 2007 Citizens for 1 became a founding member of group of civic, business and criminal justice organizations that formed the New Orleans Crime Coalition to help address the most serious public safety issues in the region.**

**CF1 worked to secure sustained funding for our local public defenders office at the state and local level –**

**We co- founded Court Watch NOLA- To monitor prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges-Court Watchers findings are reported to the media regularly, resulting in speedier trials and better court efficiency.**

**Our Criminal Justice Committee focuses on juvenile justice and domestic violence -tirelessly working for a more streamlined and effective system**

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**We've been successful in the passage of numerous bills on the state and local level**

**In 2010. The Brookings Institute stated in their report that “New Orleanians have undertaken more major reforms simultaneously than any other modern city- “**

**We CELEBRATE these SUCCESSES- but RECOGNIZE we have CHALLENGES AHEAD,-- KNOWING there can well be SETBACKS**

**Therefore, we must remain vigilant, focused, informed and engaged to sustain our progress and address challenges that lie ahead.**

**And we must pass along this form of advocacy to the next generation.**