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Helena Moreno  
for Mayor of New Orleans**

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# Data News Weekly Endorses Helena Moreno for Mayor of New Orleans



Helena Moreno at Backstreet Cultural Museum

**Terry Jones**  
Publisher

**A City at a Crossroads**

New Orleans stands at a pivotal moment in its history. Our city continues to wrestle with persistent challenges, including public safety, affordable housing,

economic inequality, infrastructure needs, and the demand for trustworthy, transparent leadership. The decision voters make this fall will shape the direction of New Orleans for decades to come.

While this election has attracted several strong candidates, after much deliberation, Data News Weekly “The People’s Paper” is proudly endorsing Helena Moreno for Mayor. We believe she best embodies the

combination of competence, compassion, and vision that New Orleans needs to move forward.

**A Proven Bridge Builder**

Throughout her political career as a State Representative and now as a leader on the City Council, Helena Moreno has consistently demonstrated her ability to build bridges across communities and provide effective

On the Cover: Helena Moreno with Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones.

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leadership. She listens deeply, values collaboration, and has worked with people across neighborhoods, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and economic divides. Moreno's leadership transcends partisanship and division, uniting residents under a shared vision of progress.

Competence with Compassion

What sets Moreno apart is not only her political experience but also her empathy, compassion, and responsiveness to the needs of everyday citizens. She has been a champion for affordable housing, criminal justice reform, and greater accountability in city government. Time and again, she has shown her commitment to solutions that improve the lives of all New Orleanians. This is evident in the diverse support she has received since entering the mayoral race.

Leadership Rooted in Solutions

Helena Moreno is a leader who combines competence with a bold, inclusive vision. She offers practical, results-driven policies backed



Helena Moreno at Content Krewe Event at JamNola



Helena Moreno at Brown Girls Swim Tournament

by research, innovation, and collaboration. While others may shy away from difficult conversations or offer only rhetoric, Moreno faces challenges head-on, guided by a commitment to equity and justice for every citizen. Moreover, her leadership style reflects integrity, honesty, and a deep respect for the voices of all New Orleanians.

A New Positive Direction for New Orleans

Indeed, our city is rich in culture, history, and resilience, yet it has

often been underserved by leaders unable to maximize its unlimited potential. Moreno offers a fresh and positive path forward. She represents the next generation of leadership, pragmatic, innovative, and inclusive. From Uptown to Gentilly, from Algiers to the Lower Ninth Ward, from Mid-City to Lakeview, she envisions a city where every community has a stake in growth and prosperity. Helena has already fought for this in her various political roles, but as Mayor, she can do even more.



Helena Moreno at Silence is Violence Forum at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church

The Leader New Orleans Needs

In these crucial times, the citizens of New Orleans deserve a mayor who is visionary yet grounded, bold yet compassionate, strong yet collaborative. Helena Moreno embodies all of these qualities. She has earned our confidence, our trust, and our endorsement.

Our Endorsement

Data News Weekly urges the citizens of New Orleans to elect Helena Moreno as the next Mayor. Under her leadership, New Orleans can take bold steps toward equity, opportunity, safety, and shared prosperity. With Helena Moreno at the helm, our city will be equipped to embrace a brighter future for all.

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# New Orleans Fashion Week Returns with a Bold Celebration of Style, Innovation & Iconic Voices



**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist

The city's most stylish week of the year returns as New Orleans Fashion Week (NOFW) announces its 2025 Schedule of Events, taking place September 12th – 20th, with nine days of curated fashion experiences, presentations, and runway shows set against the backdrop of the city's rich cultural landscape.

"New Orleans is a city where culture and creativity are part of everyday life. This season, we're focused on meaningful experiences that elevate our designers while making space for new voices and timeless icons alike," said NOFW Founder/Executive Producer.

Now in its 15th Season, NOFW continues to uplift and spotlight the Southern region's vibrant creative community—from emerging designers to industry leaders—while welcoming national talent to the city. This year's schedule offers an exciting mix of signature events, cultural collaborations, and new venues, all designed to create an immersive fashion experience rooted in authenticity, artistry, and connection.

From a first-time collaboration with the Old Ursuline Convent Museum for their exhibit and gala Sunday Best: Faith, Family & Fashion, to a high-energy Kickoff Party hosted by Emline, a growing New Orleans Street Style Brand, a fireside chat with TV personality Nigel Barker (best known as a judge on America's Next Top Model), and a special evening honoring Fashion Matriarch Bonnie Broel—one of New Orleans' trailblazers who paved the way for so many—NOFW 2025 promises an unforgettable celebration of fashion, culture, and community.

Also, for the first time since 2018, NOFW will reintroduce a children's fashion showcase, highlighting mini models wearing emerging trends in



Designer: Andrea Valentina



Designer: Gwen Hawkins

kids wear through a playful and polished runway presentation at Lakeside Mall "By popular demand, we're bringing back the kids fashion showcase." said NOFW Founder. "It's a heartwarming reminder that style isn't limited by age, and the confidence these young models bring to the runway is absolutely infectious."

More information, tickets, and the full schedule are available at [NewOrleansFashionWeek.com](http://NewOrleansFashionWeek.com).



Designer: Shoe Be Do



Designer: Royal T



Designer: Reggie Hammond



Designer: HIM



Designer: Italy Direct

Photos by  
**Bobby Lee**

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.



## Reflections

## 20 Years After Katrina

*Triumph Over Tragedy*

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief  
Data News Weekly

It's been twenty years since Hurricane Katrina and the breaching of the levees devastated New Orleans, leaving behind loss, displacement, and a sense of collective trauma that lingers in the city's memory. Yet, as the day commemorating this tragedy approaches, residents are not simply reflecting on it; they are honoring the resilience, culture, and spirit that define New Orleans.

For many, August 29th is not a day of celebration but a Day of Remembrance. It is a time to mourn what was lost, loved ones, homes, entire neighborhoods, but also to acknowledge survival, community, and the power of rebuilding.

**Charmaine Neville***Music, Memory, and Resilience*

Singer and Cultural Bearer Charmaine Neville reflect on the storm with a mix of pain and gratitude. "There's still anxiety, some fears, but we are survivors," she says. "The city is still here, and we are here as stewards, as culture bearers, to make sure the next generation understands what it means to be from New Orleans."

She acknowledges the losses, friends and family who never returned, but celebrates the resilience of young people who grew up in Katrina's shadow. "So many of them have graduated high school, college, and are doing great things. They continue to make this city spectacular," Neville says.

For her, music remains the city's heartbeat. "Per capita, New Orleans may have more musical families in one block than some cities have in their entire population. The bass drum, the sound of a brass band, it will always move you. It makes you want to dance, no matter your age. That's who we are."

**Eddie Compass***From Crisis to Community*

Former New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass recalls walking into the Superdome, where thousands of evacuees had taken shelter. "It was overwhelming," he says. "Eighty percent of the city is underwater. People needed medication, food, and help during this time of so much uncertainty."

The challenges were immense, but Compass remembers the countless unsung heroes. "There were tears, there was fear, but there was also so much compassion. More people were helping than harming," he recalls.

**Lucky Johnson***Survival and Service*

Actor and Community Leader Lucky Johnson remember Katrina as both a personal and collective turning point. His son Katyre was born on August 29, 2005, the very day the storm made landfall. "That's my miracle baby," he says, recalling how his child was safely born outside the city because his family evacuated.

Johnson himself stayed behind, documenting the storm in what would become the critically acclaimed documentary,

The Katrina Story. At the time, he owned party buses, which he quickly repurposed to help residents escape floodwaters. "It was a blessing to be able to help people get to safety," he recalls.

That sense of responsibility has stayed with him. Today, through the Lucky Johnson Foundation, he provides emergency supplies and opens his Community Center whenever storms threaten. "I help those who cannot help themselves," Johnson explains. "Every storm since Katrina, I've made sure people have a safe place to turn. That's my duty now."

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Newsmaker, Continued from page 5.

For Compass, the experience has had an impact and ultimately reshaped his life and career. Once honored nationally for his community policing efforts, he later turned to mentorship and working in Education. Fueling his passion, he's worked with young men as a strength and conditioning coach at his Alma Mater, St. Augustine High School. "God moved me to do something different," he says. "When I see young men go on to the NFL or become assets in their community or not become part of the Criminal Justice System, it brings me great joy, and that's the legacy I want to leave behind."

### L'Oreal Evans

#### *The Renaissance and the Reckoning*

Culture Bearer and Arts Administrator L'Oreal Evans views Katrina as a kind of "spiritual cleansing" for New Orleans, a tragedy that also sparked transformation. She points to how education, culture, and the city's economy were reshaped in the aftermath. "Globally, seekers of entertainment and opportunity have come to New Orleans,"



she says. "They purchase land, open businesses, and become voters. Some stay, some leave, but all leave a mark."

Yet Evans also warns of displacement. Many native New Orleanians, particularly the economically disenfranchised, have been



pushed out of the city they love. Their absence, she says, is felt most deeply in art and culture. "The silence of those who could not return echoes in the music, in the paintings, in the stories we tell. It's a reminder of how swiftly our character and spirit can change."

### A City That Endures

For residents like Johnson, Neville, Compass, and Evans, Katrina will never be just history; it is a living memory that continues to shape their lives and the identity of New Orleans. They remember the chaos, the tears, the losses that cannot be replaced. But they also celebrate the resilience that carried them through and continues to sustain the city.

"New Orleans is the biggest neighborhood in the world," Neville reflects. "People may leave, but they always come back, for the food, the music, the people. The best of this city has always been its people."

As the city marks 20 years since its darkest days, one truth shines through: New Orleans is still here. Its people remain committed to honoring the past, protecting the culture, and striving for a future where every resident can thrive.

From the rhythm of the brass bands, the cuisine, to the resilience of its neighborhoods and people, New Orleans endures triumphant over tragedy, and determined to remain a beacon of culture, spirit, and survival.

## State & Local News

# Louisiana's Lower Mississippi River Ports Unite Under New Investment Commission

### Data News Staff Edited Report

Collectively, the five deepwater ports along the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) represent one of the most powerful economic engines in the United States. Together, the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, Port of South Louisiana, Port of New Orleans, St. Bernard Port, and Port of Plaquemines handle more than 500 million short tons of cargo annually, a volume greater than any single U.S. port and often described as the nation's busiest port system.

Stretching across 250 miles of ship channel deepened to 50 feet up to Baton Rouge, the LMR Corridor enables fully laden New Panamax bulkers and tankers to serve global markets. The system is a critical artery for the nation's economy, responsible for moving over 60% of U.S. Grain Exports (corn, soybeans, and wheat), exporting more than 20% of America's coal and petroleum cargoes, and connecting directly into 14,500 miles of inland waterways, pulling freight from over 30 states.



### From Independence to Collaboration

For decades, each port operated independently. Now, under the recently established Ports and Waterways Investment Commission, Louisiana's ports are working in unison to identify and prioritize transformative infrastructure projects.

At its most recent meeting, the commission highlighted three key investments:

The Louisiana International Terminal in St. Bernard Parish

The Peters Road Bridge in Plaquemines Parish, connecting to Jefferson Parish

A new deepwater dock in Ascension Parish to support Hyundai Steel

The Hyundai Project is among the first tangible outcomes of this collaboration. As part of Hyundai's \$6 billion investment in Louisiana, the Port of South Louisiana will build and operate a \$26 million deepwater dock on land controlled by the Port of Greater Baton Rouge.

### A Global Trade Strategy for Louisiana

This new era of port cooperation aligns with Louisiana's

broader push to expand its international trade footprint. The administration of Governor Jeff Landry has launched a targeted global trade strategy, narrowing Louisiana's focus to Japan, Australia, and select European nations, markets that align with the state's competitive strengths in energy, aerospace, and logistics. To lead and manage this effort, the state has contracted with the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

### Positioning Louisiana for the Future

With the Lower Mississippi River ports now moving in lock-step, Louisiana is strengthening its role as a critical hub for U.S. trade. By investing strategically and pursuing targeted global markets, state leaders and port officials are positioning Louisiana to capture new opportunities in global commerce while reinforcing the historic importance of the Mississippi River as America's gateway to the world.



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# Trump Targets Black-Led Cities Despite Record Crime Declines

Stacy M. Brown  
Black Press USA Senior  
National Correspondent

Donald Trump's takeover of Washington, D.C.'s police force and his threats to extend the same approach to other Black-led cities are being denounced as racially motivated and tied directly to the Project 2025 blueprint. The facts tell a different story: under Black mayors, these cities have recorded some of the most dramatic drops in violent crime in decades.

In the nation's capital, Trump declared what he called "liberation day in D.C.," vowing to "wipe out crime, savagery, filth, and scum." But his rhetoric is at odds with his own Justice Department's data, which shows the District reached a 30-year low in violent crime in 2024. Overall violent crime fell 35% from the year before. Homicides dropped 32%, robberies 39%, and armed carjackings an astonishing 53%. Assaults with dangerous weapons also declined, continuing a trend of steep reductions since a post-pandemic peak in 2023.

Chicago has seen similar success. Mayor Brandon Johnson noted that the city reduced homicides by more than 30% and shootings by almost 40% in just one year, calling the progress historic. The results reflect investments in youth employment, community outreach, and neighborhood-based violence prevention programs.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Karen Bass reported that homicides dropped 14% between 2023 and 2024, crediting expanded gang intervention programs and community-based initiatives aimed at preventing retaliatory shootings. Bass dismissed Trump's federal intervention as nothing more than a "power grab," a political stunt meant to undercut local leadership.

Baltimore has also posted consecutive annual declines since 2022. Officials report that homicides and nonfatal shootings have fallen significantly, carjackings were down 20% in 2023, and other major crimes decreased further in 2024. Only burglaries saw a slight rise. Mayor Brandon Scott pointed to the city's



Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan, launched in 2021, which treats violence as a public health crisis and invests in community interrupters, victim services, and neighborhood stabilization. Scott accused Trump of using crime as a "wedge issue and dog whistle" while cutting federal support for anti-violence programs.

Oakland stands as another example. According to the Major Cities Chiefs Association, homicides fell 21% and all violent crime dropped 29% in the first half of 2025 compared with the same period in 2024. The gains are credited to the Department of Violence Prevention, created in 2017, as well as partnerships with grassroots organizations. "The things we are doing are working," said Nicole Lee of the Urban Peace Movement, while warning that Trump's threat to send in troops or impose youth curfews would only create "an environment of fear" and put young people of color in the crosshairs.

Despite the hard data, Trump has smeared these cities as "crime-ridden" and "horribly run." His words have been matched by actions — stripping authority from local leadership in D.C., deploying National Guard troops on city streets, floating youth curfews, and threatening to replicate the model elsewhere. For Black mayors, the motive is clear. "It was not lost on any member of our organization that the mayors either were Black or perceived to be Democrats. And

that's unfortunate," said Savannah Mayor Van Johnson, president of the African American Mayors Association.

Trump's moves track directly with the hardline agenda of Project 2025, which aims to consolidate federal power and weaken local autonomy. Black mayors say they

will continue to stand together and defend the progress their cities have made. "We need to amplify our voices to confront the rhetoric that crime is just running rampant around major U.S. cities," Johnson stated. "It's just not true. It's not supported by any evidence or statistics whatsoever."

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