

**Attorney General Questions**

**Candidate**

Buddy Caldwell

**01. What is the most effective way to educate the public about common fraud schemes?**

I am by far the most experienced candidate in the race and have over 40 years of experience prosecuting criminals for crimes including murder, kidnapping, and fraud. I personally tried almost every major felony case in my Judicial District and achieved a 99% conviction rate in my 29 years as District Attorney. In 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ranked my office #1 in the nation in criminal Medicaid fraud recovery and #2 in the nation for civil Medicaid fraud recovery. The office also was #1 in efficiency, recovering \$48 for every dollar spent, compared to our neighbor Texas who recovered \$6 for every dollar spent.

I have used my experience successfully fighting crime to educate the public about the best ways to avoid fraud, and in particular, to stop those who prey upon the elderly and children. My Public Protection Division attends conferences and makes presentations across the state, including at nursing homes and schools, and I frequently issue fraud alerts through traditional media, social media, and paid advertising. For example, recently, my office arrested an individual accused of stealing Social Security numbers of children across the country, and I issued an alert to parents with advice about how to stop thieves who try to use a child's Social Security number to open bank and credit card accounts, get loans, apply for government benefits, and even rent homes.

**02. Should the Attorney General's office continue the current practice of hiring outside attorneys or increase the in-house staff?**

Every Attorney General's office in the country hires outside attorneys because some cases require very specialized knowledge and experience, as well as to temporarily increase the numbers of attorneys when needed. This is why it is allowed by law. For example, BP spent over \$2 billion on attorney fees and costs and hired law firms who were among the best in the world to assist them after they spilled huge amounts of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. I hired top law firms to assist me in representing the State, and as a result, I obtained the largest recovery for environmental damages in the history of the United States (\$6.8 billion). Also, BP will reimburse Louisiana for all attorney fees and litigation costs, so enforcing the law will cost taxpayers nothing.

Similarly, I went after bad actors in the Pharmaceutical Industry to protect seniors and Louisiana taxpayers. These highly specialized complex cases involved fraud against the State by manufacturers in violation of the Louisiana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act and the Medical Assistance Programs Integrity Law. These companies hired the top law firms in the country, and I hired top law firms to assist me in representing Louisiana taxpayers. As a result, these drug companies have paid the State of Louisiana almost \$300 million in settlements and fines and also have paid all of Louisiana's attorney fees and litigation costs so that enforcing the law cost taxpayers nothing.

**03. Should the resources of the Attorney General's office be used to oppose federal laws and rulings? Should the office actively counsel other elected officials on the costs involved with such suits?**

Importantly, the Founders of our country created a system of checks and balances to prevent the federal government from becoming too powerful. As a result, states have a duty to fight the federal government when it infringes on state sovereignty. The Attorney General is the chief legal officer for the State of Louisiana, and therefore, is the proper person to handle this responsibility.

**04. What role should the Attorney General's have in leading the prosecution of public corruption?**

The Attorney General should have a leading role in prosecuting public corruption cases. Although it is appropriate for local officials to prosecute corruption cases, the Attorney General is a statewide official. Therefore, the office does not have the same potential for conflicts of interest or local pressures, which is why, in addition to my prosecutorial experience, local officials have recused themselves and referred cases to me.

I always have focused on protecting the public by prosecuting criminals, and I have used my decades of experience to help the office successfully put criminals in jail. As Attorney General, I developed a number of initiatives to address crime. I created a Fugitive Apprehension unit to assist local law enforcement in finding and apprehending fugitives who are wanted for crimes such as murder, rape, and kidnapping. My office has captured more than 1,200 fugitives. My Cyber Crime Unit recently placed 1st in the nation out of 300 law enforcement agencies at the 27th annual Crimes Against Children conference competition in Dallas, Texas. This unit has investigated and arrested hundreds of offenders for computer crimes including child predators, child pornography, identity theft, and cyber-stalking. I also have focused on and successfully prosecuted public officials for corruption. That's why the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, District Attorneys, and other law enforcement officials have endorsed me over my opponents in this election.

**05. What recommendations on criminal justice will you make as a member of the new Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force created by HCR 82 to develop sentencing and corrections policy?**

HCR 82 does not include this office on the task force. Nevertheless, the Legislature frequently asks for input from my office, and if asked, I will review their findings and provide my thoughts at that time based on the data that they present.

I have dedicated my life to public service exclusively in offices which are responsible for protecting the children and families of Louisiana residents from criminal conduct of all types. The size of prison populations are governed by the application of our laws to criminal activity, and I oppose releasing so called "non-violent" offenders to reduce such populations. However, addressing and reducing recidivism is a very important element of protecting Louisiana citizens against crime.