

Biography of Juan A. LaFonta

Juan LaFonta is running for Congress in Louisiana's 2nd District to rebuild and strengthen our city.

The son of a bricklayer and a public school teacher, Juan LaFonta is no stranger to hard work. Since he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in a 2005 Special Election, LaFonta has been an effective and dedicated representative for the people of New Orleans.

Juan represents House District 96 which includes Bywater, Treme, Gentilly, the French Quarter and Faubourg Marigny. He was reelected in 2007 without opposition, and was the first freshman legislator ever elected to a chairmanship in the Louisiana State Legislature when he was elected Chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, a position he held until July 2008.

A lifelong resident of Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, Juan has always believed in the values of faith, family and community. He still lives on the same street where he grew up, taking every opportunity to maintain his connections to the people he represents.

Juan is committed to economic development in his community, working to ease the tax burden on local businesses to help create jobs. He is a believer in accessible healthcare, championing the effort to rebuild Charity Hospital and pushing legislation to expand healthcare coverage and requirements on insurance companies. He serves on the House Commerce, Insurance and Retirement Committees, and on the House Special Committee on Disaster Planning, Crisis Management, Recovery and Long-Term Revitalization, formed after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area.

The reality and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have defined both Juan LaFonta and the Congressional District he is running to represent. Juan was elected to the State House just months prior to the hurricane strike and he was personally involved in pulling family, friends and neighbors, who had retreated to the high dry ground of the Mount Olivet Mausoleum, from the flood waters. In the legislature, LaFonta has been steadfast in his work on hurricane protection and recovery.

LaFonta earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Orleans and a Law Degree from Southern University. Juan is a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and was an adjunct professor at Dillard University for 5 years and serves as a mentor to many in youth in the city of New Orleans.

As a Member of Congress, Juan Lafonta will continue his work for his beloved New Orleans by focusing on economic development, job creation and hurricane recovery and protection. LaFonta will also be a strong advocate for universal health care and a stalwart protector of Social Security and Medicare.