

Senators

are a true choice

SENATE RACE, from A-1

room of a car wash when he saw a Melancon campaign ad taking credit for “the only bill passed ending President Obama’s job-killing moratorium.”

“There were people all around me and I said, ‘He’s lying,’” Briggs said. “Everybody in the waiting room looked at me.”

Effectiveness is often in the eye of the beholder. Like art, there is no objective measure of the art of compromise.

Two personalities

What is clear in the Louisiana Senate race is that voters are being offered two candidates with diametrically

different personalities, styles and approaches to being an effective representative.

Melancon does not get handcuffed by ideology. He is best known as a leader among the Blue Dog Democrats, the group of fiscally conservative Democrats who often find themselves in the thick of most consequential debates in the House, looking to meet in the middle and strike a deal. The group is more likely than their fellow Democrats to sometimes cross party lines and vote with the Republicans a bipartisan approach that voters say they want to see in Washington.

It’s a style that perfectly suits Melancon’s temperament.

“He’s a gregarious guy; he gets along with everybody,” said Rep. John Tanner, D-Tenn., a co-founder of the Blue Dog Coalition who is not seeking re-election. “People like him. He’s a nice guy. What’s not to like?”

This is a man who, at Washington Mardi Gras, holds an uproarious Cajun joke contest.

Not so Vitter, who is cooler, more detached and among the least gregarious members of the Senate.

“Let’s be blunt: I don’t think David Vitter would win any popularity contest in either caucus in the Senate,” said political

scientist Larry Sabato, head of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “He’s not particularly well-liked.”

But that by itself doesn’t mean he cannot be effective. Sometimes, not caring about how well-liked you are can be liberating, especially in a Senate in which a single member can bollix the entire body, vexing one’s colleagues but exacting a price.

For voters in a state so overwhelmingly opposed to President Barack Obama and the Democratic agenda on Capitol Hill, Vitter’s zeal to obstruct and delay may be considered the very essence of effectiveness.

Melancon has said he wants to be a senator in the tradition of Russell Long, J. Bennett Johnston and John Breaux — using persuasion and relationships to broker deals and gain advantages for his state. But, as Sabato notes, Long, Johnston and Breaux belonged to a far more collegial consensus-driven Senate. The Senate now is a more polarized, less pleasant place. And, in the age of C-SPAN, cable networks and the blogosphere, Vitter can use the Senate floor as a front line in the ideological warfare being played out nationally.

One can imagine scenarios in which either Melancon or Vitter could thrive in the 112th

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Congress.

In a more evenly divided Senate, the affable, nonideological Melancon could join Landrieu as a deal-making centrist to get pragmatic legislation through the process.

For Vitter, with his conservative credentials and tactical approach, could emerge as a mentor to a new class of tea party Republicans likely to ride the GOP wave into the new Senate to push for changes being championed by the national movement.

Different approaches

Both Melancon and Vitter have displayed their different approaches in the current Congress.

Melancon and other Blue Dogs on the Energy and Commerce Committee spent endless hours trying to make changes in the cap-and-trade and health care bills, before Melancon and most of the others ultimately voted against the final products.

On the other side of the Capitol, Vitter was free to trash both bills from start to finish and, as soon as the ink was dry on the health-care bill, write legislation to repeal it, a kind of baby-out-with-the-bath-water approach that violates Melancon’s sense of legislative reason.

Melancon’s Breaux-Johnston

paradigm also recalls an era in which, he said, both Louisiana senators worked in cordial tandem for Louisiana.

Of course, before Vitter, Louisiana had never popularly elected a Republican to the Senate, so the bipartisan pairing is something new for the state.

“Lots of states enjoy having a member in both caucuses,” Sabato said. “That way, no matter who’s in charge, they have somebody in the room.”

Vitter also can argue that on issues of concern to Louisiana — from hurricane recovery to the BP disaster to earmarks for the Army Corps of Engineers and defense projects — that he and Landrieu offer a pretty good one-two punch for the state, even if it sometimes appears that they want to punch one another. Their rivalry can sometimes reach near-comic, spy vs. spy dimensions.

Landrieu and Vitter share a toughness, evident in their capacity for raking witnesses over the coals to score rhetorical points, and a certain legislative ingenuity — or gall — as in Landrieu’s willingness to stick her finger in the eye of the Obama administration by putting a hold on the nomination of Jacob “Jack” Lew to head the Office of Management and Budget until the

moratorium was lifted and drilling permits issued.

In that tactic, she was taking a page from the Vitter playbook, who used a hold on Craig Fugate as head of FEMA to get concessions that would allow some rebuilding in flood zone areas of Grand Isle and in Cameron Parish and another hold on the promotion of Gen. Michael Walsh to exact a commitment from the corps to move forward on some long-delayed flood control projects.

Melancon is not nearly as publicly confrontational. His most memorable moment in the aftermath of the spill was when he teared up at an Energy Committee hearing in late May, a powerful display of his empathy for his coastal constituents whose lives and livelihoods were being damaged.

He also reacted emotionally when the Republicans in the Louisiana delegation disparaged his moratorium amendment, accusing them of “playing David Vitter Republican politics.”

Lost in the furor was the fact that within minutes of the nearly party-line moratorium vote, the House passed a second Melancon amendment to dedicate money from oil spill fines to coastal restoration on a bipartisan vote.

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9905 Bids & Proposals

DOCUMENT 00100 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS The Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office hereby advertises for bids for the remaining work on the Law Enforcement District of the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana, Intake Processing Center/Templeman III & IV - Level 2.

Pile Test Program New Orleans, Louisiana Sealed bids must be accepted until the hour of 2:00 PM on Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, Purchasing Department, located at 2614 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119. Project name or Project Bid Number should be included on the front of the bid and bid envelope. Bids will be publicly opened at 10:00 AM upon completion of administrative tasks. Late bids will not be accepted. FAKE BIDS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE DISCARDED. Sheriff's office is not responsible for the return of any bids by USPS or any other carrier.

Bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances. Any bids received in ink or type written and properly signed by a member of the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, or its authorized representative, will be accepted. Pencil and/or photographic reproductions of any bid are disallowed. However, electronic signatures as defined in 26:202(8) may be acceptable.

Electronic Bidding: Contractors are invited to submit their bid for public contracts through a uniform and secure Internet-based bidding system. Comply with electronic bidding rules in LA R.S. 38:2221(A)(1). Bids and materials may be found online and electronic bids will be accepted at WWW.CEN TRALBIDDING.COM

Description of the proposed project: As per the specifications prepared by Grace and Hebert Architects and Stetler Construction Brownwood, Louisiana. Project scope of work will include, but not be limited to the following: Pile load testing. Pursuant to LA-R.S. 37:2163: Bid documents will be available from the Project Manager, located at the City Blueprint and Supply Company, 504 North Poydras Street at 1904 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70119. Contact Person: Jeff Seagraves, Project Manager, 504-822-8551 General Contractor shall submit evidence of Louisiana State License and shall be paid in full by the Contractor. No returns or refunds will be issued.

Bidder shall certify that he is licensed under the provisions of LA R.S. 37:2158 and show his license number on the front of the bid envelope. Except as otherwise provided, the contractor's bid that does not contain the contractor's correct license number shall be returned to the Bidder stamped "Rejected" and will not be read or opened. Any Bidder who submits a bid for a type of construction for which he is not properly licensed shall be acting in violation of LA R.S. 37:2163 and shall be subject to all provisions for violations and penalties thereon. Any interested person may object to the license classification of the contractor project in accordance with LA R.S. 37:2163.

Bid Proposal: Bids shall be received from bidders only on the form included in the bid documents, as provided in the Louisiana Revised Statutes R.S. 37:2162(b). A single copy of the bid shall be submitted for all portions of the contract work.

Sealed bids in the bid envelope shall not be accepted. Bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid Price (including base bid plus all alternates) must accompany the bid in accordance with the "Instructions to Bidders." A certified or cashier's check in the amount of acceptable bid security. If bid bond is used, it shall be held on Friday, November 5, 2010 at 2:00 PM for all interested parties meet at the OPCSO American Textile Building 819 South Broad, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Performance and Payment Bonds: Upon award of the contract, the successful bidder shall execute a Performance and Payment bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price. All sub-contractors over \$100,000 dollars must be bonded.

Award, Waiver and Rejection of Bids: The contract will be awarded pursuant to the requirements of applicable local and state laws and regulations. To the extent permitted by such laws and regulations, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid received.

Mandatory Pre-bid Meeting will be held on Friday, November 5, 2010 at 2:00 PM for all interested parties meet at the OPCSO American Textile Building 819 South Broad, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Conditions of Sale: Seller provides no warranty against nor assumes any liability for any of the following conditions, including but not limited to the presence of mold, mildew, formaldehydes, termites or other pests. The successful bidder must provide Owner with an Approved Termite Inspection Certificate from a Licensed exterminator for each unit. The mobile home/office is strapped, anchored and blocked in place to be removed and disposed of off-site at 2005. Any remaining holes are to be backfilled and any trash is to be removed. Success-

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and Public Works Department, 107 Bell Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, before 10:00 a.m. Central Time on Tuesday, the 23rd of November, 2010. The time and date such bids will be publicly opened and read will be PORT EADS DOCK AND MARINA RECONSTRUCTION, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Parish Project No. 07-01-03.

The proposed work provides for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, supervision, and performance of the work, in accordance with and in accordance with the Contract Documents on file at the office of the Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation located at 7600 GSRB Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70822.

Copies of the Contract Documents, consisting of the drawings and specifications, may be obtained without charge at the offices of Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation located at 7600 GSRB Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70822; A/C/V - Dodge Division, 1300 North Central Expressway, Suite 666 North Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802; and A/C/V - Joseph Dorminy, McGraw-Hill Information Systems, 2475 Central Expressway, Suite 100, New Orleans, Louisiana 70119. Contract Documents may be obtained from the Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation by any bona-fide Louisiana citizen for a fee of \$300.00 per complete set.

Any bona-fide bidder, upon returning the first set of Contract Documents promptly and in good faith, with current state law (14) calendar days after the bid opening, will be fully refunded in accordance with current state law LA R.S. 38:2221(A)(1e).

Any bidder, upon returning the Contract Documents promptly and in good faith, within fourteen (14) calendar days after the bid opening, will be refunded the amount of the current state laws less handling fees.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Project Site, Port Eads, Louisiana. All attendees must bring a copy of the Marina Boat Launch, Sports Marina, Road, Vehicle, Louisiana, and other information. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Project Site. Bids shall be accepted from Contractors holding a valid license issued by the State of Louisiana, under the authority of the Licensing Board for Contractors, under the classification of "B" General Building Contractor.

No bid shall be accepted unless the bid is accompanied by a bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the base bid and all alternates. The bid security shall be in the form of a certified check or cashier's check drawn on a bank insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Xavier University of Louisiana hereby reserves the right to reject bids for cause.

For general information, questions related to bidding, or technical questions please contact: William H. Nungesser, Sr., Director of Purchasing, 504-412-2000, jprathorn@marinarchitects.com.

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ful Bidder will be required to sign a hold harmless and indemnification agreement with Owner.

Interested Bidders can set up an appointment to view Surplus items by calling (504) 277-5418.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: CONTACT MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2010.

Advertisement dates: Times Picayune - October 15, 2010; The Daily Lakeview - October 15, 2010; Metairie, LA 70006 P - (504) 455-4450

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Xavier University of Louisiana Student Center will be receiving sealed proposals for the renovation of the Xavier University of Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Management, 1 Drexel Drive, Metairie, Louisiana, Building Room 216B, New Orleans, LA 70125. The time and date such bids will be publicly opened and read will be PORT EADS DOCK AND MARINA RECONSTRUCTION, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Parish Project No. 07-01-03.

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from the Architect/Engineer, Bonie Associates, Inc., 41 Allard Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70119. The time and date such bids will be publicly opened and read will be PORT EADS DOCK AND MARINA RECONSTRUCTION, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, Parish Project No. 07-01-03.

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