If you're not up-to-date on local politics, a race is underway.

When people typically think of a political race, the mind brings us to the presidential race. Though that isn't what this is, today I'll explain why it's still important and touch on the candidates and what they stand for.

In all reality, local races like this don't take a philosophical approach like the more important positions. Their entire platform might be about one major issue facing Lafayette, in this case the drainage.

Local governments constantly seem like the bottom of the food chain, politically speaking. In many ways it is, but they hold a certain weight to them as all positions should. When dealing with the specific needs of a group of people, i.e. Lafayette, the higher up the food chain you go, the less they know about city-specific problems.

Take the city drainage system I mentioned earlier, which is a major platform in the coming race. President Donald Trump doesn't know that Lafayette has major drainage problems. It's likely neither does our own John Bel Edwards.

Typically, the president is in control of too much to properly analyze a city or state. That's OK because that's what the local government can do, and why we have these positions.

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With that said, let's move on to the people who may be in charge of these local problems in the near future.

First up, as well as the leading candidate financially speaking, is Carlee Alm-Labar, who, as it happens, worked under the prior mayor-president and advised him. As the only non-Republican in the race, her goals involve primarily handling the drainage issues Lafayette faces.

Next up we have Josh Guillory, an army veteran and lawyer in Lafayette who just recently lost in the race against Clay Higgins for a representative seat in the third district. I don't know much about him, but judging from his actions he's tenacious for a political career.

Third, we have a realtor and investor from Lafayette: Nancy Marcotte. Her platform takes a hard anti-abortion and pro-second amendment approach, and she is obviously a Republican. Her stance on drainage mirrors that of her other candidates.

Lastly, we have Simone Champagne, who is the latest to join the race but the most experienced in regards to politics. After spending time in the Staten House of Representatives, she became the Chief Administrative officer of Youngsville, where she still works.

I get it, it's difficult to decipher the difference between these four and the gravity of the position itself. Let this article serve as more of a teaser trailer rather than the full movie. I'm leaving it in your hands to do your own research and vote responsibly. If more people did that, I think change wouldn't be such a foreign word.

Those are your candidates. I didn't have nearly enough time or words to explain them all in depth, but in the minute or two it took to read this article, you're likely more knowledgeable on the topic than you were before. Go out there and vote fellas; it actually means something.