

“This Baton Rouge man has a hobby of running for, and losing, local elections”

Steve Myers hasn't won any of the 12 elections he's run for, and he doesn't expect to. He keeps running when no one else will.

“The worst thing is when someone gets elected with no opposition. When I see that, there's a good chance I'm putting my name in,” he says.

Myers, 70, isn't ashamed of his political history, “I'm 0-for-12,” he says. He talks about it the same way he talks about everything else he's tried, like running a marathon, climbing Mount Rainier and even starting a sports magazine. He calls himself a “one and done” person, someone who tries things just to see if he can do them. Campaigns are the only exception; he says they're one of his hobbies.

Whether it was for Congress, mayor, justice of the peace or city council, he says he's always run when he feels his voice or the voices of others are not represented. He's run as a Republican, a Democrat and an Independent.

Myers says he doesn't care if people call him a loser. He says he claims his own small victory by how little he spends on his campaigns compared to his opponents. One year, he said he spent 22 cents per vote where his opponent spent around \$15 per vote.

Across his 12 campaigns, the one he felt the strongest about was his 2009 mayoral race, when he challenged the city's “single-family” zoning rule. As a landlord who rents to students, he argued the law was unfair and inconsistently enforced. He brought his case to the Louisiana

Supreme Court and lost, but says he views it as a win because the city stopped enforcing the issue.

One of his current tenants, Olivia Harrison, said she didn't know about the case until recently but wasn't surprised he took it that far. "Mr. Steve fights for people, especially when he thinks something's unfair," she said. Myers often refers to his tenants as "my students."

After his most recent 2024 mayoral race, where he focused on crime and family instability, Myers says he doesn't plan to run for public office again.

Apart from politics, Myers has had a long, successful career. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in journalism. He later founded Tiger Rag magazine, worked as a sports writer, earned a law degree and moved into real estate and property management. The most important thing he says he's done is strengthening his Catholic faith.

Myers was born and raised in New Orleans, but he claims he didn't grow up until a few years ago when he started regularly attending Mass at St. Agnes Parish in Baton Rouge and volunteering at its food pantry.

"You just see a different part of the world, a different part of Baton Rouge, different part of life," he said.

Myers says he has a strong sense of curiosity for the world around him. He talks about his former tenants, old voters and parishioners with clear memories, as if they haven't left his mind since he met them. At home, he keeps stacks of old theology and philosophy books and says he won't read anything unless it's at least 100 years old, mostly by Chesterton, C.S. Lewis or various Vatican documents.

Myers has a tendency to turn even the smallest question into a deep conversation. In a two-hour interview, he answered about five questions, each one expanding into a story or lesson until he forgot where he started.

“Maybe I talk too much, it might be a sin,” he says. For some, his talkative nature makes a difference. He tells a story that chokes him up about a panhandler he met at Walmart. He says he started talking to her, as he often does with strangers, and asked her what her name was.

“Finding out someone’s personal story is just fascinating to me,” he said, “after talking for like 15 minutes you realize this is a normal person.”

He says after they talked, she told him that he was the first person in a year to ask her what her name was. It was Laura.

“It felt valuable. I wrote her name in my prayer list and I still pray for her,” he said.

One of his legal clients, Charley Garrett, said Myers took her case because he said it looked like a “food fight,” a term she said he uses often to describe drama. She said he told her that he doesn’t take many legal cases anymore but he felt bad about the situation she was in.

“He became passionate about my case since it’s an issue with my landlord and he thought what they were doing was completely wrong,” Garrett said. She said she’s on the phone with him for hours as he updates her on every detail.

Her mother, Abra Garrett, said Myers stepped up to help her daughter when no one else would take the case. She said she felt helpless dealing with the situation from Dallas while her daughter was in Baton Rouge, but once Myers was involved she said she felt instantly relieved by his assurance that he would take care of it.

Myers says any work he does is important to him. He says if he can be of use to people from his knowledge or prior work, he's going to help them.

Myers says he's at the age where he reflects on his life more. He says he wants to start slowing down, but he can't seem to find the time. Even if he doesn't run for office again, he won't stop showing up for his clients, for daily 6 p.m. Mass or for the strangers he meets at the grocery store.

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Sources:

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