

WHAT
HAPPENED

Aaron Broussard won his first election in 1974 for Jefferson Parish School Board.

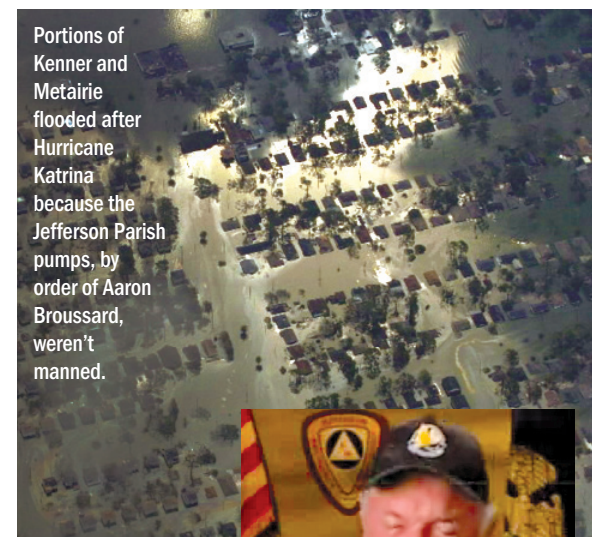


Beloved and admired for decades, the political career of Aaron Broussard came tumbling down in just a few years.

Aaron Broussard arrives at the Federal Courthouse in New Orleans on Sept. 25, 2012, to plead guilty to corruption charges.

Broussard was elected as a member of the Jefferson Parish School Board in 1974, and then was the popular mayor of Kenner, elected to four terms. He was elected to the Jefferson Parish Council in 1995 and served as chairman until 2003, when he was elected as Jefferson Parish President with 72 percent of the vote. Broussard's downfall began with Hurricane Katrina when he made the highly controversial decision to not man pump stations in the parish, leaving several areas of the parish inundated with water.

Portions of Kenner and Metairie flooded after Hurricane Katrina because the Jefferson Parish pumps, by order of Aaron Broussard, weren't manned.



Aaron Broussard broke down in tears on 'Meet the Press' in September 2005.

Jefferson Parish Council Present Aaron Broussard, surrounded by council member Elton Lagasse, Deano Bonano, acting director of Emergency Management, council president John Young, Jr., and member Jennifer Sneed, discuss evacuation plans in the council chambers in 2006.



A recall effort garnered 49,000 signatures. Broussard, however, still won re-election in 2007. A grand jury investigation into Broussard and his administration led him to resign in 2010. Broussard was sentenced to nearly four years in federal prison after admitting in 2012 that he accepted \$66,000 in bribes from a parish contractor and arranged a job for his wife. He was sentenced to 46 months in prison, which he began serving in May 2013. He was released from a halfway house in September 2016.



After he was released from prison in 2016, Aaron Broussard spoke to his former Kiwanis Club.