



Senate District 6

Oct. 22, 2011 Election

Senate Report

Mike Mannino's Long-Running Fight to Protect Taxpayers

Real-Life Tax-Buster

Anti-Tax Leader to Seek New Senate Seat Oct. 22

Before There Was A Tea Party, There Was Mike Mannino

CENTRAL — Long before there was a Tea Party, there was a strong anti-tax movement in Baton Rouge called Tax-Busters.

Founded in 1996 by Mike Mannino, the late Fred Dent, and a handful of others, Tax-Busters has always been ready to battle big-government liberals in Baton Rouge who want higher taxes and

wasteful spending. When the Mayor, Metro Council, or EBR Parish School Board have proposed tax increases, Tax-Busters has been there to represent ordinary taxpayers. Tax-Busters' biggest challenge came in 1997 when the school board proposed the largest tax increase in parish history — \$3.2 billion!



Mike Mannino
State Senate

See **HOW** on Page 4



REAL-LIFE TAX-BUSTER MIKE MANNINO speaks out at public hearing in Central. Mannino is an ardent spokesman for lower taxes and against waste in government.

Leading a Blue-Collar Army Against Political Corruption



Mike Mannino is a candidate for the State Senate from District 6 on Oct. 22.

Mike Mannino

Candidate, Louisiana Senate District 6

HAMMOND — I believe the only way to do anything about political

Mannino: Get Rid of Legislators Who Use Office to Enrich Themselves and Friends

corruption is to stand up and fight it. I know that it makes some people very uncomfortable, but it has to be done, or corrupt politicians will take everything we work so hard for in Louisiana and undermine our system of government in the process.

Good roads, good schools, and safe streets all depend on honesty and integrity in the Governor's office, the Louisiana House and Senate, city and parish government, the bureaucracy, and law enforcement. One dishonest politician, one

See **KICK-BACKS** on Page 3



Bodi White's Support of \$63,480 Pay Raise For Himself Becomes Issue in Senate Race

Gov. Jindal Vetoed White's Pay Raise: 'Doubling Legislative Pay Is Excessive'

BATON ROUGE — Rep. Bodi White voted to raise his own pay as a state legislator up to \$63,480 a year and provide future automatic pay raises for himself!

Not bad for a **part-time job!** Unfortunately for Bodi White, Gov. Bobby Jindal vetoed the bill, saying "A doubling of legislative pay is **excessive**, I oppose a system of **future automatic pay increases** without subsequent legislative action, and I believe putting any salary increase into effect **in advance of the next election** is bad

See **NO LEGISLATOR** on Page 8



PAY RAISE FOR LEGISLATORS — Senate candidate Mike Mannino (left) said Rep. Bodi White's vote to double his pay as a legislator should tell voters a lot.

**LOUISIANA SENATE
SENATE DISTRICT 6
Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011**

**Mike Mannino (R)
Bodi White (R)**

District includes parts of East Baton Rouge (Woodlawn, Shenandoah, Central, Baywood, parts of Zachary), southern St. Helena, one pct. in northeast Livingston, and parts of Tangipahoa (parts of Independence, Hammond, and Ponchatoula).

Early Voting: Oct. 8-15

God, Family, and Our Country

Mike Mannino: Happily Married With 5 Children, 4 Grandchildren

CENTRAL — For Mike Mannino, life is about God and country, home and family.

He and his wife Vanda have five children and four grandchildren. Most of the children are grown and have their own homes and families.

Mike and Vanda live with their youngest daughter, Vallen, in a beautiful three-story home they built on 11 acres on Blackwater Road in Central. Mike built three ponds on the property. The ponds have geese and ducks and plenty of fish. The family has lots of dogs, and the place is always bustling with kids and grandkids.

Now, with Mike's Senate campaign underway, the place is busier than ever! Vanda is a high school teacher, and daughter Vallen is a senior in high school.

Mike loves to rebuild antique cars. He and his dad have built and rebuilt one particular Model A Ford a couple of times since finding it in 1961. Mike also has a love of sports. He played linebacker on



LARGE MANNINO FAMILY includes five children and four grandchildren, but with most of the kids grown, the Mannino household is much smaller these days. Shown (left to right) are daughter Vallen, wife Vanda, granddaughter Kaylee, and Mike Mannino.

the Broadmoor High School (Baton Rouge) football team and even today is an avid body builder.

Mike has for years coached youth football in Central.

In the public arena, Mike is a

Founder of Tax-Busters, the parish-wide taxpayer protection movement that started in the 1990's

In recent years, he has been a civic activist in the new City of Central. He has fought to make sure the

newly-incorporated city is run honestly and openly. He has particularly fought for public access to public records and for open meetings.

Mike was born in Baton Rouge but his family comes from Tangipahoa.

May God Protect This Sweet Land of Liberty

Mike Mannino

Candidate, Louisiana Senate District 6

PONCHATOULA — America is the greatest nation on earth — not just because of our cities, our majestic mountains, our rivers, and our seashores — but, most importantly, because of our liberty.

Liberty is what makes America

different from every other nation.

Our Founders believed that Liberty is a gift from God, and that the primary purpose of government is to protect and defend that God-given Liberty — freedom of speech and the press, the right to property, the right to keep and bear arms, the right to life, and the right to equal justice under the law.

Every generation of Americans

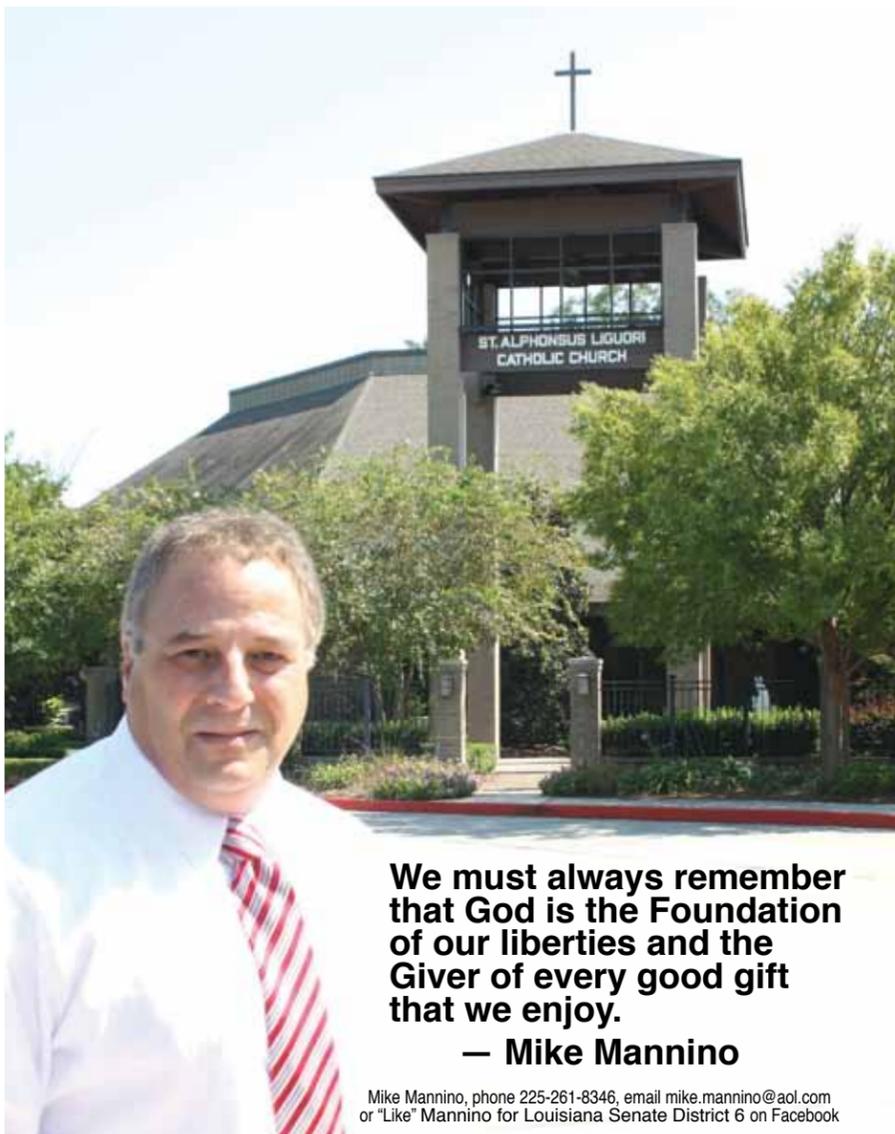
has inherited this Liberty and been able to pass it on to the next generation of Americans. Can we do any less than they have?

The purpose of government is not to enrich corrupt politicians who manage to get themselves into the halls of power. It's not to pass out money and favors to their

friends and political supporters.

The main job of every person in elected office should be to keep our nation strong and free.

I pray God will continue to bless this Sweet Land of Liberty. As your Senator, I will fight everyday to protect our state and nation and keep our Liberty.



We must always remember that God is the Foundation of our liberties and the Giver of every good gift that we enjoy.

— Mike Mannino

Mike Mannino, phone 225-261-8346, email mike.mannino@aol.com or "Like" Mannino for Louisiana Senate District 6 on Facebook



Vanda and I have lots of kids and now grandchildren. God, country, and family mean everything to us.

— Mike Mannino

Honesty and Integrity Are Most Important Issues

Kick-Backs, Payoffs, Corruption, Favoritism Should Have No Place in State Government

Louisiana's History Of Corrupt Politics Is Unworthy of Our State's Future

Continued from Page 1

dishonest bureaucrat, one dishonest cop undermines the rule of law and destroys what little faith people still have in their government.

It's easy to blame the politicians for what's going on in government today. I must admit to doing that quite a bit myself.

But the truth is, we the people are really to blame for what's been going on. Too often, we sit on the sidelines and don't get involved.

Most people don't run for office. Most people don't contribute to candidates. If the truth be known, most people don't even vote. The people who do vote have selected the people we have in office today.

Sometimes we elect people for the wrong reasons. Sometimes we vote for someone because we know them or we went to high school together. But there are a lot of people whom I know or went to high school whom I don't think would make a good Senator.

If we know someone is of questionable integrity, why would we vote for them? We need to elect people who are truly honest — people who are "straight arrows." We need people who can be counted on



Mike Mannino, a real-life Tax-Buster and a blue-collar Patriot

Let's create an Army of blue-collar Patriots to clean up Louisiana politics.
— Senate candidate Mike Mannino

to do what's right when no one else is looking.

As your Senator, I want to create an Army of blue-collar Patriots who are committed to getting corruption out of state and local government. It doesn't matter whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or Independent, black or white, liberal or conservative — you deserve honesty in government!

As your Senator, my first goal will be to end the kick-backs, pay-offs, corruption, and favoritism in our government. To be part of this movement, call me at 225-261-8346, email me at mike.mannino@aol.com or "Like" Mannino for Louisiana Senate District 6 on Facebook.

WHAT I BELIEVE by Mike Mannino

- Free enterprise
- Limited government
- Right to life
- Right to property
- Keep & bear arms
- Cut the waste
- Lower taxes
- Balanced budgets
- Good roads
- New bridge over Amite at Hooper Rd
- Good schools for all

From Machinist to Middle Management at World's Largest Corporation, Nation's Largest Oil Refinery

BATON ROUGE — Mike Mannino's mom and dad moved to Baton Rouge from Independence in 1953 to take over Colonial Grocery Store on North Acadian Thruway.

Mike Mannino's grandfather owned the store until health prevented him from continuing its operations.

Some of Mike's earliest memories are of working in Colonial Grocery, stocking shelves and sweeping the floors.

"It was hard work, but I learned a lot," Mannino said.

He graduated from Broadmoor High School in 1974. Two years later, he became a machinist with Nichols Construction. Then he spent a year working for Lubrication Systems.

In 1979, Mike moved to Central, and the next year, he was hired by Exxon, a move that would change his life. "Exxon is the largest corporation in the world, and they have a very professional environment. It's been a period of tremendous growth and personal development for me."

In 1984, he completed the apprenticeship program. By 1996, he was named a Temporary Supervisor.

By 1999, he was promoted to Permanent Supervisor. He was now in middle-level management at

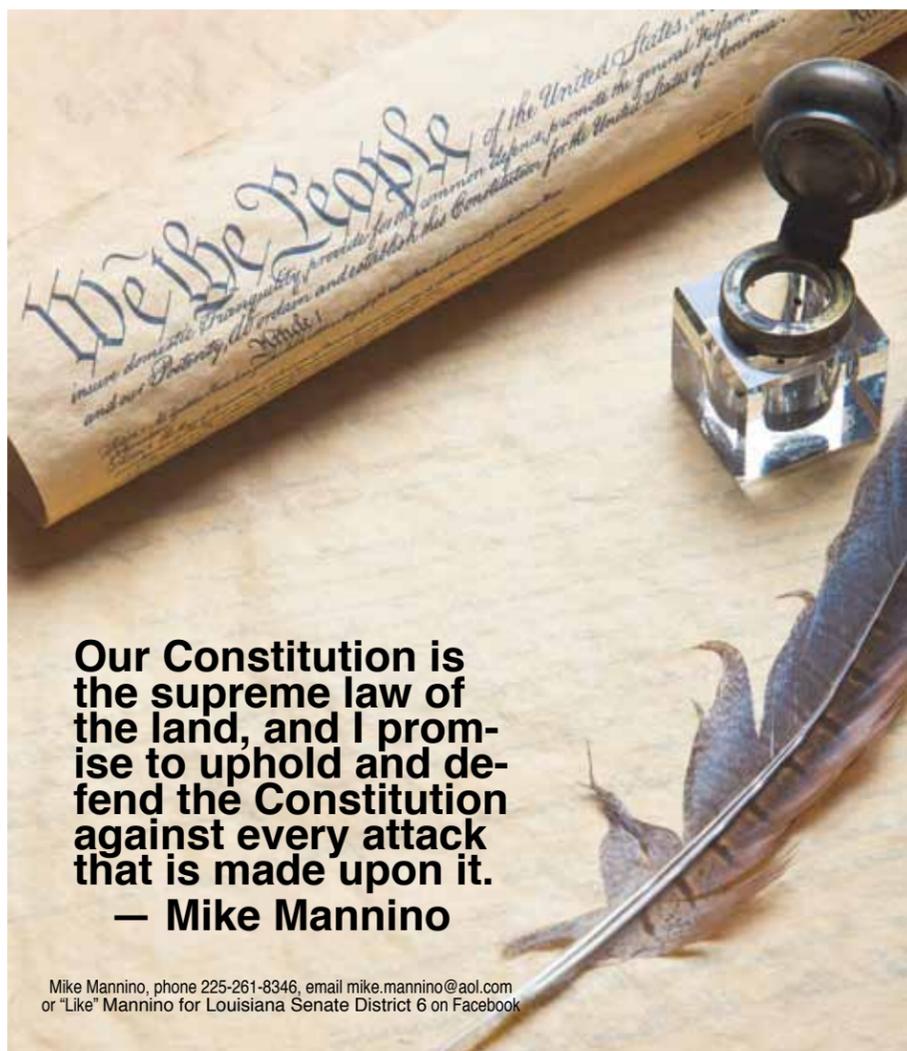
the largest oil refinery in America. "Exxon is subjected to so much scrutiny that we have to do things right. Shortcuts are not tolerated," he said.

Mannino underwent continuous training in many fields to stay up-to-date and meet the demanding expectations of Exxon.

By 2003, he was appointed 2nd Line Supervisor. At times, he supervises as many as 180 employees.

"My 32 years at Exxon has allowed me to learn how things are done in the largest corporation in the world. I've learned how to do things right, to be accountable, and to work with people. At Exxon, the systems in place have to work properly. I feel our local and state governments could learn a lot by looking at private industry."

"At Exxon/Mobil, we face many of the same issues that are faced in state government. There are so many demands on our refinery — from government, stockholders, management, suppliers, customers, and the general public. We take a common sense, business-like approach to meeting these demands — not a political approach. I feel what I have learned in the private sector will be very valuable in helping me meet my responsibilities as State Senator."



Our Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and I promise to uphold and defend the Constitution against every attack that is made upon it.
— Mike Mannino

Mike Mannino, phone 225-261-8346, email mike.mannino@aol.com or "Like" Mannino for Louisiana Senate District 6 on Facebook

Baton Rouge 'Establishment' Was for It: It Appeared Unstoppable

How Mike Killed Largest Tax Increase In EBR Parish History — \$3.2 Billion

Mannino Turned Tide in Defeating \$3.2 Billion Tax in East Baton Rouge

Continued from Page 1

EBR Parish schools Supt. Gary Matthews and the school board said there was a desperate need to repair public schools in the parish. The roofs of schools were falling in, and then was no money to repair them, Matthews said.

But \$3.2 billion was a massive tax increase for a parish the size of East Baton Rouge. While Mannino and Dent knew there was a serious need for school repairs in the parish, it was nothing like \$3.2 billion. So they organized a campaign against the tax increase.

But there was rough going. The proponents of the tax increase seemed to have all of the "establishment" on their side. A full-page ad in the Advocate supporting the tax was signed by everyone from LSU coaches to prominent religious leaders to the Mayor, the Chamber, and numerous elected officials. The proponents of the tax had hundreds of thousands of dollars to spend on their pro-tax campaign.

On the other hand, Tax-Busters



MIKE MANNINO at WSTY-TV studio in Hammond, LA. WSTY-TV is the only TV station in the Florida Parishes.

The school board said a \$3.2 billion tax increase was needed to fix leaky school roofs — but Mike Mannino found out the school board had a warehouse full of brand-new shingles. He photographed the shingles and put the photos on television in prime time. The public was outraged, and the tax was defeated!

had no money to run an anti-tax campaign and thus no advertising. It fell upon a small group of Tax-Buster volunteers to build a grassroots effort against the tax.

As election day neared, Mike Mannino and Fred Dent became in-

creasingly concerned that this massive tax increase was going to pass. They needed a break!

Then, a couple of days before the election, a friend of Mike's called. He had information that the school board warehouse on North Sher-

wood Forest Blvd. in Baton Rouge was full of brand-new roofing supplies, which were just sitting there while the roofs of schools all over the parish were collapsing.

Fred Dent and Mike Mannino

See LET'S CREATE on Page 8

Meet Mike Mannino • Senate District 6

FAMILY AND PERSONAL

- Born in Baton Rouge in 1956
- Graduated from Broadmoor High School in 1974
- Resident of Central for past 35 years
- Married to wife Vanda Withers of Zachary
- Five children and four grandchildren
- Resides on Blackwater Road in Central
- Family is originally from Independence in Tangipahoa Parish
- Loves to spend time with kids and grandkids, fish, and repair antique automobiles

PROFESSIONAL

- Machinist, Nichols Construction, 1978; Lubrication Systems, 1979
- Hired at ExxonMobil in 1980
- Started at an entry level position as machinist apprentice
- Completed apprenticeship in 1984
- Promoted to Temporary Supervisor in 1996
- Promoted to Permanent Supervisor in 1999
- Promoted to 2nd Line Supervisor in 2003; at times, he supervises as many as 180 employees
- Has 32 years' experience with ExxonMobil, the world's largest company, and has risen to a middle manager position at America's largest oil refinery, the ExxonMobil refinery in Baton Rouge

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Founder of Tax-Busters, a group of East Baton Rouge residents who fight government waste and high taxes.
- Took the lead in defeating the \$3.2 billion school board tax, the largest tax increase in parish history.
- Has fought for Open Records in the City of Central; required the City Attorney and city government to reveal important records they were trying to keep from public view.
- Member, Mayor's Committee on City Services, which helped save \$2 million on the City Services contract in Central.
- Member, Mayor's Committee on Reapportionment
- St. Alphonsus Catholic Church; member, Knights of Columbus Council 2803 in City of Central



To Support Mike Mannino for Senate, Call 225-261-8346

People of Central Can Thank Mike for Holding Politicians' Feet to Fire

Mannino's Fight for Public Records

When City Attorney Thumbed Her Nose At Mannino Request For Public Records, Mike Fought Back, And the People Won

CENTRAL— The new City of Central (pop. 27,000) was incorporated in 2005. In 2008, the new City became the first city in Louisiana and one of only four cities in the United States to completely privatize all city services.

The privatization contract was awarded to the Colorado firm, CH2M Hill, for an annual payment of about \$4 million. In many respects, it was a good deal for the taxpayers, allowing the city to operate with a surplus and keeping city employees — and long-term retirement benefits — to a minimum.

However, a major problem arose. Despite state law and its contract with the City of Central, CH2M Hill contended that it was not subject to the public records law.

Central resident Mike Mannino had a problem with that concept. "I don't believe privatization should be used as an excuse to ignore the Public Records law. If a document is a public record in Baton Rouge or any other city, it should be a Public Record in Central."

The issue came to a head when



PUBLIC RECORDS — Mike Mannino (right) succeeded in getting the City of Central to reveal its public records, even though the city had been completely privatized. "Privatization is no excuse for shielding public records from public view," he argued forcefully.

Mannino made a Public Records request for the billing records of the City Attorney, who was also the legal counsel for the Central school board and the Central Transition District.

Morris refused to turn over her records, claiming attorney-client privilege. Then she produced billing records with virtually everything "blacked out" — see illustration at right. Mannino said there is no exception to the Public Records law for an attorney's billing records, and he demanded that the unredacted

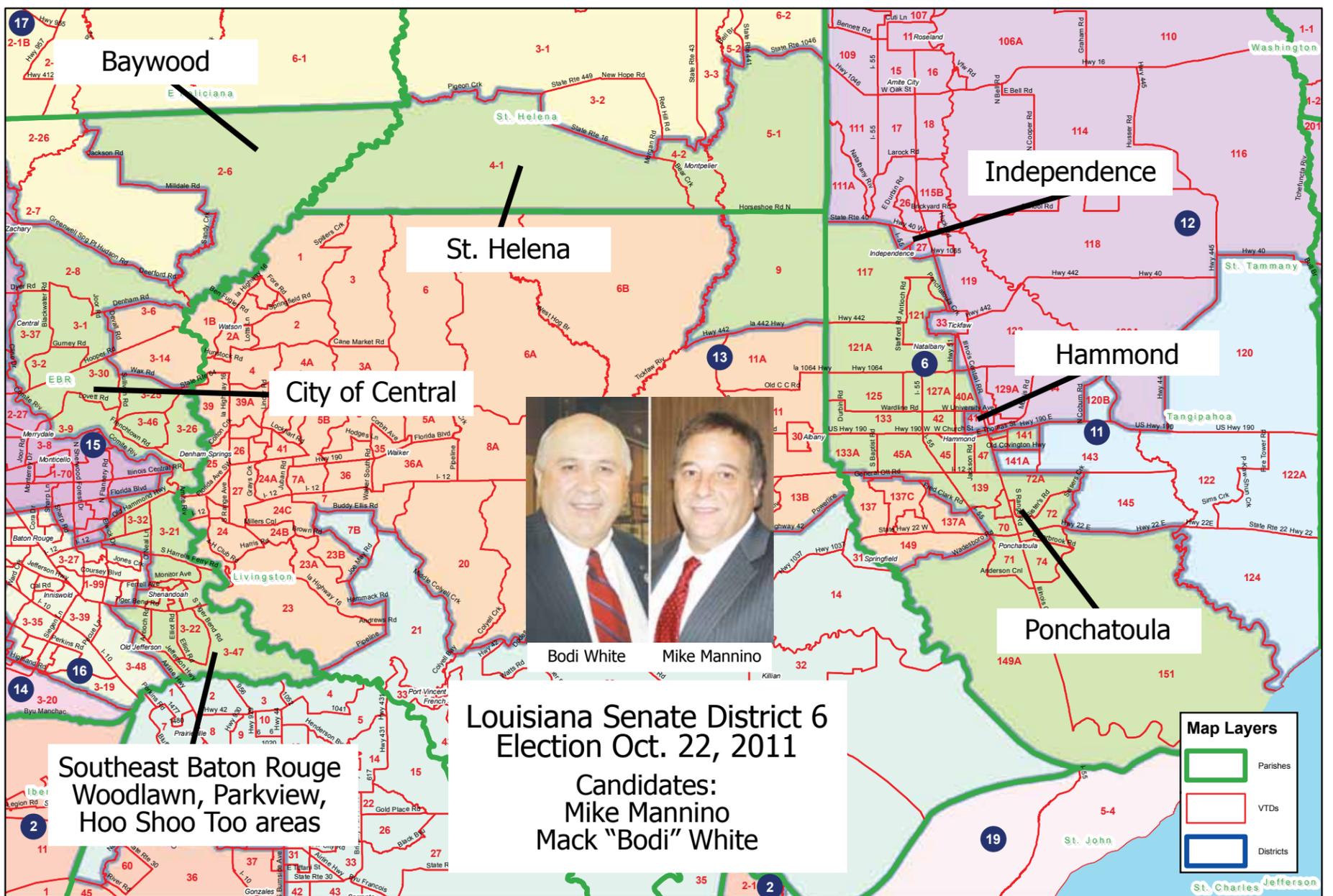
records be released to the public. The Central City Council agreed and ordered the City Attorney to release the records. When they were released, they showed the attorney had been paid more than \$800,000 — far more than anyone in Central had imagined.

Mike Mannino was criticized for making his public records requests. Yet, he was successful in establishing the fact that Public Records will be accessible to the public, even in a privatized city like the City of Central.



One of 700 pages of City Attorney's "redacted" billing records.

New Louisiana Senate District 6 in Green

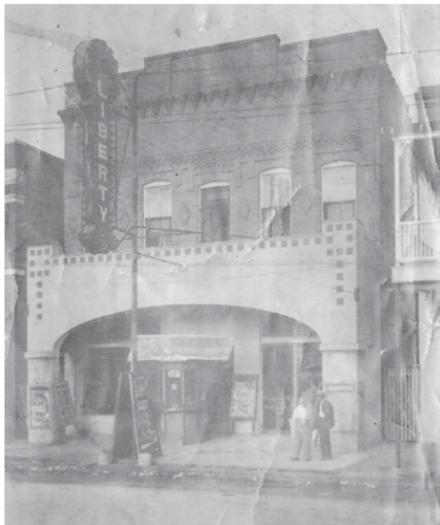


Family from Independence, Long-Time Resident of Central

Mike: Deep Roots in Tangipahoa, Central



MIKE MANNINO'S grandparents — the Guzzardo family — owned a grocery store in Independence. At right, Mike's great-grandmother Guzzardo. Mike is to her left.



THE LIBERTY THEATRE in Independence (left) was owned by Mike's great-grandparents; Mike as a boy in Independence; riding his grandpa's horse, and Mike with his dad.



MIKE WITH GRANDPA MANNINO; playing the guitar; holding his carton of Sealtest Milk, and the car Mike has built and rebuilt over a 50-year period.



MIKE AND VANDA MANNINO with Mike's parents; Mike coaching youth football in Central with his sons and grandson Chris; and granddaughter Edyn (right).



At left, Mike's daughter Vallen with one of Mike's cows. In center photo, Vallen, Vanda, and Mike with their bulldog Maggie. At right, Mike with his sons and grandson.

Compare Candidates on Key Issues



Rep. Bodi White

State Senate District 6

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011



Mike Mannino

Yes Legislative Pay Raise No

Raise Rep. Bodi White's legislative pay to \$63,480 for a part-time job. This massive pay raise bill also established automatic annual pay raises for legislators forever into the future. The pay raise passed by only three votes. Bodi White was one of those critical three votes.

Gov. Bobby Jindal vetoed the raise, saying, "A doubling of legislative pay is excessive, I oppose a system of future automatic pay increases without subsequent legislative action, and I believe putting any salary increase into effect in advance of the next election is bad policy. The voters, who are our collective bosses in this job, should be able to either ratify or reject a legislative pay raise."

Mike Mannino said, "I will never vote for a legislative pay raise."

Yes Tax Internet Users No

Rep. Bodi White's bill to impose a monthly tax on each person who uses the Internet. This bill is clearly unconstitutional, because it would levy a STATE TAX on INTERSTATE commerce in violation of the U.S. Constitution. This bill would have established the dangerous precedent of taxing the Internet, but Bodi White just laughed and told the Senate committee, "Even my grandmother could pay this!" This bill passed the House, but, fortunately, it was killed in the Senate. Mike Mannino said, "I strongly oppose all tax increases, especially on the Internet."

Yes Tax Internet Businesses No

Rep. Bodi White's bill to impose sales taxes on every business in Louisiana that sells on the Internet. This bill is also unconstitutional, because it is an attempt to levy a STATE TAX on INTERSTATE commerce, in violation of the Constitution. It would put Louisiana businesses that sell on the Internet out of business, because their customers would pay about 9% more than if they bought a product from an Internet company from outside Louisiana. Mike Mannino said, "I strongly oppose all tax increases, especially on the Internet."

Yes Illegal Drivers License Tax No

A "fee" is a government charge used to administer the cost of a program. A "tax" is a measure that raises more revenue than the cost of administering the program. The Louisiana Supreme Court ruled the state was imposing an illegal \$15 Drivers License "tax" that exceeded the cost of administering the Drivers License Program. After the court decision, Rep. Bodi White voted to continue that illegal tax.



Where Are Central's Parks?

It's been 41 months since Rep. Bodi White dropped his bill to pull Central out of BREC in exchange for a PROMISE to spend \$6.25 Million to build three new parks in Central — the Greenwell Springs Historic Park, the Central Community Park, and the Central Sports Park.

So where are the parks?

Since Bodi White pulled his bill, Central taxpayers have paid more than \$4.9 Million to BREC in additional taxes for parks. That's \$11.15 Million in promises and additional taxes paid by Central residents.

So where are the parks?

What has Central gotten in the past 41 months? **Nothing.** But Bodi White's business partners have gotten some \$839,000 from BREC! Now BREC says there's not enough money even to build the Sports Park, much less the other two.

So where are the parks?

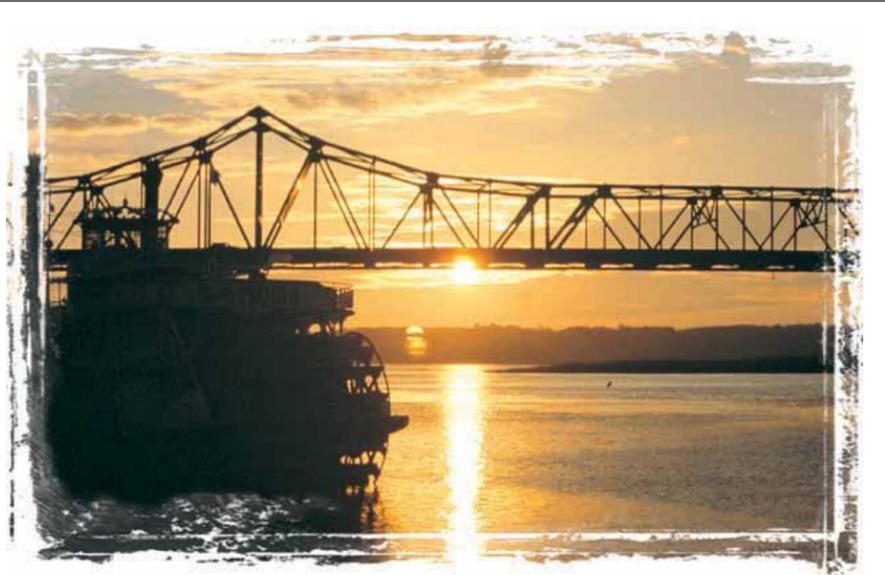
Rep. Bodi White, you haven't produced for Central, but you have produced for your business partners.

Vote Mike Mannino State Senator

As Your Senator, I Pledge to Pull Central Out of BREC and Keep \$1.4 Million in Central Tax Dollars Here in Central Every Year.



Mike Mannino State Senate



Where Is the Hooper Road Bridge?

Rep. Bodi White has been our State Representative from Central for the past eight years. During that entire time, building a bridge across the Amite River at Hooper Road has been the No. 1 highway need in Central.

So where's the bridge?

Even the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce traffic study says building a bridge over the Amite at Hooper Road is the most needed project in the entire Baton Rouge area.

So where's the bridge?

The only thing Rep. Bodi White has done is propose a Toll Bridge over the Amite — contrary to the Highway Priority Plan — with its own commission made of up of his political friends. Our gasoline tax dollars are already paying for that bridge. So why should we pay for the bridge twice — once in taxes and a 2nd time with a never-ending toll?

Are you stuck in traffic, wondering where's the Hooper Road bridge?

Ask Bodi White to explain why he hasn't produced for Central!

Vote Mike Mannino State Senator

As Your Senator, I Pledge to Build a Bridge Across the Amite River at Hooper Road, and Ground-Breaking WILL Occur During the Next 4 Years.



Mike Mannino State Senate

Paid for by Friends of Mike Mannino

Let's Create an Army of Blue-Collar Patriots To Clean Up La. Politics

Continued from Page 4

jumped in a car and drove to the warehouse. They walked in. It was wide open and the lights were on, but no one was there.

They were amazed with what they saw — thousands and thousands of brand-new roofing shingles, 2x4's, nails, and other roofing materials. It was more than enough to repair many schools in the parish.

"The people need to know about this!" Mike told Fred. They placed a call to WAFB-TV and asked them to send over a camera crew. The station declined. "It's too close to an election. If we do something like that, it could change the outcome of the election, and we don't want that responsibility," they said.

Then Mike told Fred, "I'm going to Walgreen's to get a throw-away camera." They returned to the warehouse. Fred waited in the car outside, while Mike went inside to see if he could get some photos.

This time, there was a guard sitting in the middle of the warehouse, talking on the phone. The guard looked up and said, "Hey, where are you going?" Mike just waved and said, "Just take a minute!" Mike went to the back of the warehouse and took more than 20 quite revealing photos.

On the way out, the guard was off the phone and said, "Hey, you can't come in here like that." Mike's last photo was of the guard standing on the loading dock waving his finger at Mike.

Mike and Fred had the photos developed and mounted on poster board.

On the night before the election, WAFB-TV had organized a live, prime-time debate between Fred Dent, representing Tax-Busters, and Dr. Gary Matthews, representing the East Baton Rouge School Board.

Near the end of the debate, Fred pulled out the large photos and went through them. Fred said, "Before you ask for more taxes, why don't you use the materials we've already paid for to make the needed repairs?"

Matthews didn't have an answer, and Mike Mannino's photos were devastating. The parish was abuzz over the debate, and the next day, voters rejected the \$3.2 billion tax increase. The vote was:

**FOR — 34,295, or 37%
AGAINST — 58,934, or 63%**

It was a tremendous victory for the taxpayer public and for Tax-Busters and Mike Mannino!

And that's the story of how Mike Mannino — with a lot help from Fred Dent and the taxpayers of East Baton Rouge Parish — killed the largest tax increase in parish history!

Mannino said, "These are the kind of victories we can have over and over again when the hard-working people decide to take a stand and get organized. To be part of this movement, call me at 225-261-8346 or email me at mike.mannino@aol.com or "Like" Mannino for Louisiana Senate District 6 on Facebook."

No Legislator Should Be Able To Vote Himself a \$63K Raise

Continued from Page 1

policy. The voters, who are our collective bosses in this job, should be able to either ratify or reject a legislative pay raise at the ballot box in regular legislative elections before those funds are expended."

Rep. Bodi White and others in the House thought they had the pay raise issue "greased" for passage. They had the commitments they needed in the House and Senate. They knew such a gigantic pay raise would cause political fallout, but the election was three years away. Meanwhile, they would be getting a \$63,000-a-year pay raise.

When the bill, SB 672, came up in the House on June 13, 2008, the politics had all been worked out. Even the "opponents" of the bill were playing along. Despite massive public opposition, not a single State Representative got up to speak

against the bill.

It was the kind of bill where the opponents voted no but prayed the bill would pass. In fact, many of the opponents said later they were prepared to vote "yes" if their vote was needed to pass the bill.

It was, to put it mildly, a "rigged" vote where the people of the state really had no one in the Chamber willing to stand up and speak on their behalf.

In the end, the bill passed the House 56-42. Fifty-three is the number of votes required to pass a bill. So the bill passed with only three votes to spare. One of those three votes was Rep. Bodi White. He figured the election was a long time away and that the governor would sign the bill.

But the governor vetoed the bill! Now it's time to hold those legislators who voted for doubling their pay accountable.

Yes, Mike, count me in!

To: Mike Mannino, 12221 Blackwater Rd., Central, LA 70714
mike.mannino@aol.com or "Like" Mannino for Louisiana Senate District 6 on Facebook.

Contribution enclosed Get me a sign Volunteer

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip Code _____
Phone numbers _____
Email _____