



Election Oct. 12, 2019, on Creating City of St. George

# St. George Leader

October 2019 • Vol. 1, No 1 • 24 Pages • Circulation 25,000 • 20,000 online • “Like” St. George Leader on Facebook • 225-261-5055

2-Cent Parish Sales Tax Will Simply Transfer to City

## City Won't Need New Taxes

### First Edition of A Newspaper For St. George

**ST. GEORGE** - Community Press, LLC, publisher of the *Central City News* in the City of Central, the *Istrouma Journal* in North Baton Rouge, and the *Capital City News* in South Baton Rouge, has launched the *St. George Leader*, to serve the people of the proposed City of St. George.

Woody Jenkins, who is editor of all four community newspapers, said, “The southeast area of the parish has been without a newspaper since the closure of the *Southeast News*. Now, with the strong possibility that voters will create a new city, it is imperative that St. George have its own independent news source. The hostility of *The Advocate* to St. George makes it impossible for them to fill that role, because

See LEADER on Page 8



Photos by Shane Evans

**LT. GOV. BILLY NUNGESSER** (right) at the Ronald Reagan Newspaper Luncheon with (left to right) the late Metro Council member Buddy Amoroso, St. George movement leader Norman Browning, and Metro Council member Dwight Hudson. Council member Amoroso was a fervent supporter of incorporating the City of St. George.

**EARLY VOTING SEPT. 28-OCT. 5 • 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
City Hall downtown • Coursey • Secretary of State  
**ELECTION DAY IS SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 2019**  
at Your Regular Precinct 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Central Has Huge Budget Surpluses With Lower Taxes Than in City of BR

**BATON ROUGE** - A high-ranking official of a company that administers privatized cities such as the City of Central says a computer model his firm uses indicates the revenues of the proposed City of St. George would be more than sufficient to cover its expenses without the need for additional taxes.

The official said, “The population of St. George is four times greater than Central, but the tax base is about 10 times greater. Central is basically a residential community, whereas St. George has a strong commercial and retail base. St. George will be able to cover all of its expenses and have a very larger surplus left over. I assume that surplus will be used in part to improve the roads and streets in St. George. But there is

See ST. GEORGE on Page 8

## Residents Deluged with Propaganda Campaign

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — The campaign against incorporating the City of St. George really began in January 2014 with a speech by then-Mayor-President Kip Holden before the Baton Rouge Rotary Club. Holden condemned supporters of the proposed City of St. George and described them as a “small group of people,” even though more than 10,000 people had signed St. George petitions even as he spoke.

Since then, the propaganda campaign against the proposed City of

St. George has continued in earnest. The campaign has been led by the *Baton Rouge Advocate* newspaper, which has published scores of false and misleading articles and columns. *The Advocate* has been joined by the far-left group Together Baton Rouge, organized by Saul Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation (see Page 18), and BRAC and BRAE, which never met a tax they didn't like.

In that first speech in January 2014, Mayor-President Holden poured out a litany of carefully-crafted clichés designed to end the discussion about incorporating the

City of St. George:

- It will break up Baton Rouge.
- It will impose a burden on future generations.
- It will bankrupt our future.
- It will cripple one of the strongest economies in the nation.
- It will divide us.
- It will take a major financial toll.
- It will take Baton Rouge taxes.
- They'd have to provide police, fire, garbage, and public works.
- They would have to elect city officials.
- It would duplicate existing government services.
- Duplicating services means du-

plicating costs.

- It will mean higher taxes!
- It will mean loss of funding for the D.A. and other officials.
- It will hurt public safety.
- It will hurt our bond rating.
- We're being held hostage in a disagreement over schools.
- It will turn back the clock on racial harmony.

**Only One Thing Was True.** Every single thing the Mayor-President told the Rotary Club about the proposed City of St. George was false, except for one thing: If the new city is created, there will be an

See RESIDENTS on Page 3

## Republican Party Endorses Parishwide Officials

**BATON ROUGE** — The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has voted to endorse four parishwide officials:

- Sheriff Sid Gautreaux
- Assessor Brian Wilson
- Clerk of Court Doug Welborn
- Coroner Dr. Beau Clark

All four have Democratic opponents who have been endorsed by the Democratic Party.

The GOP said, “We are blessed in East Baton Rouge Parish to have four very capable, honest, hard-working conservative individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of this parish. We are honored to endorse all four as being worthy of reelection.”



Assessor Brian Wilson



Clerk of Court Doug Welborn



Sheriff Sid Gautreaux



Coroner Dr. Beau Clark

# What City Will Look Like When New Mayor Sworn in

# Facts About New City of St. George



Map of New City of St. George, Louisiana

## Things to Know About Louisiana's Newest City

**Population:** 86,000 • **Rank in LA:** 5th largest after New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Lafayette. St. George will be larger than Monroe, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Kenner, and Houma

**Land Area:** 60 Sq. Miles • **Location:** Southeast portion of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

**Median Household Income:** \$79,000 • **Median Income Rank in LA:** 2nd in State. Highest is Youngsville in Lafayette Parish (\$94,564). Next: Zachary (\$75,472), and City of Central (\$70,618)

**Demographics:** 79 percent white; 12 percent black, 8 percent Latin, Asian, and other

**Voter Registration:** 27,124 Republicans, 13,375 Democrats, 14,141 other party or no party  
54,680 Total Registered Voters

**City Officials:** Mayor, Police Chief, and 5 to 7 members of City Council (Lawrason Act)  
Initially appointed by the Governor • Special election to be held within six months.

**Estimated Tax Revenue:** \$48 million • **Source of Revenue:** Existing 2% parish sales tax plus existing occupational license fees • **Estimated Expenses** \$34 million

**Law Enforcement:** East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office will continue to provide law enforcement (funded by existing property tax millage)

**Fire Protection:** St. George Fire Protection District will continue to provide fire protection (funded by existing property tax millage)

**Roads and Streets:** Existing parish roads will be allocated between the Parish of East Baton Rouge and the City of St. George by an intergovernmental agreement between the two. St. George will assume maintenance of an estimated 354 miles of city roads allocated to it. The State of Louisiana will continue to maintain state roads located in the City of St. George.

**Drainage:** Existing waterways, bayous, creeks, and other drainage will be allocated between the Parish of East Baton Rouge and the City of St. George by an intergovernmental agreement. St. George will assume maintenance of waterways allocated to it.

**Public Works, Planning and Zoning, Building Codes, Issuances of Permits, and Occupational Licenses:** Will be administered by the City of St. George.

**Garbage & Trash, Sewer Fees, Animal Control, and Mosquito Abatement:** Will be unchanged

# Residents Have a Legal Right to Form A City if They Choose, Despite Critics

Continued from Page 1

election for Mayor, Police Chief, and City Council. That's true!

The things he said were simply talking points but they are not true, and he could not back them up then or now. Since 2014, the opponents of St. George really haven't come up with a single new argument against St. George.

**A Basic Principle of Our Law.** The basic principle at issue here is that people living in unincorporated areas of Louisiana have the right under Louisiana law to organize a new city (La.R.S. 33:1 et seq). Furthermore, the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 has a specific provision (Art. 6 §2), which repealed a part of the City-Parish Plan of Government, which had prohibited the formation of new cities in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The law is clear — people have a right to file an incorporation petition with 25 percent of the registered voters and then vote on whether to incorporate. If the ayes have it, the incorporation can still be challenged but the likelihood of such a challenge being upheld is extremely small.

Virtually all of the issues which are likely to come up in any legal challenge to the incorporation of St. George have already been decided by the courts. One of the most important cases is *Devall v. Starns*, which challenged the incorporation of the City of Central.

For example, the notion that voters outside the proposed city should get to vote on the incorporation of a new city was dealt with in *Devall* and disposed of as without merit. For a more detailed explanation of the legal issues, see Page 23.

**A Tale of Two Cities.** Instead of trying to go through the Mayor-President's ill-advised and over-the-top remarks one by one, there is something to realize.

We don't have to guess how incorporating a new city in East Baton Rouge Parish would work. It's already been done! The City of Central (population 28,000) was incorporated in 2005. We know that the City of Central has NOT raised taxes since it was incorporated in



WAVING THE FLAG — Local realtor Jim Talbot worked Jones Creek Rd. for signatures.

“ Obviously, the City of St. George is not breaking away from the City of Baton Rouge. It's not part of the City of Baton Rouge. We're talking about the unincorporated areas that the City of Baton Rouge never wanted to annex. Suddenly, the fact that the people there want to have their own city is “dividing us.” How ridiculous! St. George is going to be right next door to Baton Rouge. It will still be in East Baton Rouge Parish! Everyone will travel from one city to the other freely and seamlessly. There won't a 10-foot-high wall or checkpoints. Having a great new city right next to Baton Rouge can only make Baton Rouge better. ”

2005. In fact, it doesn't even impose a city property tax. It has had budget surpluses year after year and has an accumulated surplus of \$40 million. This success can be attributed largely to privatization of city services — the same plan proposed by the leaders of the St. George.

St. George will not be run the way Baton Rouge is run. It will be run on a 21st century model of privatization.

The simple way to understand what is being proposed is to compare two cities right here in our area — the City of Hammond (pop. 20,000) and the City of Central (pop. 28,000). They are two pretty nice cities but they were founded on two very different models of government. Hammond was founded in 1818 and follows the same model as cities in the 1800's. Central was founded in 2005 and follows a 21st century model.

In Hammond, with a population smaller than Central, city government costs four times as much! There are 325 employees in Hammond, compared to three full-time and 13 part-time employees in Central. Privatization and Central's frugal government are why Central has a surplus of \$40 million on hand, which can be used for capital improvements and emergencies.

**Central: A Conservative, Cost-Conscious City Government.**

**City Employees.** With only three

employees, the City of Central has no bureaucracy, and the public is not accruing vast unfunded liabilities for hundreds of city employees who may want to retire in the future. This obligation simply doesn't exist in Central.

**Law Enforcement.** Like other

## Who Is Woody Jenkins and Why Is He Writing About Proposed City of St. George, Louisiana

*Editor's Note: This edition of the St. George Leader consists primarily of articles written by editor Woody Jenkins, which previously appeared in the Central City News or Capital City News.*

**BATON ROUGE** - Former Rep. Woody Jenkins represented Baton Rouge in the Louisiana Legislature for 28 years, longer than anyone in state history. A native of Baton Rouge, he graduated from Istrouma High, the LSU School of Journalism, and the LSU Law School.

As a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973, he succeeded in amending the Constitution to allow the incorporation of new cities in East Baton Rouge Parish. That change made the cities of Central and St. George a legal possibility. In the House, he authored constitutional amendments that created the Baker and Zachary school systems. Later, as editor of

residents of East Baton Rouge Parish, the people of Central pay a law enforcement tax to fund the Sheriff's Office. Before Central was incorporated in 2005, the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office was the primary law enforcement agency. Now 14 years after incorporation, the Sheriff is still the primary law enforcement agency in the new City of Central. The tax has not been increased, and Sheriff Sid Gautreaux says he has no additional costs because of the City of Central. Logically, why would he? He's providing the same services he has in the past.

Sheriff Gautreaux said, “If the City of Central wants additional patrols or services over and above, then they have to provide the funding.” This year, the City of Central will pay the Sheriff's Office about \$100,000 for additional patrols.

The City of Central has no reason to create its own full-time police department. That would duplicate the services already provided by the Sheriff. But Central does have a part-time volunteer Central Police Force which assists the Sheriff's Office. The Central Police Department has only one full-time employee, 14 part-time employees, mostly police officers, and eight reserve officers. They function similar to Reserve Sheriff deputies. Every police officer in the Central Police Department is fully certified. Central police patrol neighborhoods and work traffic accidents, freeing the Sheriff from that responsibility. They are also available for any emergency that may occur.

When I interviewed Sheriff Sid Gautreaux on the topic, he said he will continue to provide the same level of law enforcement protection after incorporation that he did before incorporation, if citizens vote to incorporate St. George. He also said that if the city wants extra patrols other special services, it will have to pay the Sheriff's office expense of doing so.

**Fire Protection.** Before incorporation  
See SURVEY on Page 12

### A Tale of Two Cities

#### City of Hammond, LA

Founded: 1818

Population: 20,000

Annual Budget: \$30 million

Deficits: Struggles to avoid a deficit of \$500,000 a year

Number of Employees: 325

Number who may someday retire at taxpayer expense: 325

A Traditional City, much like others founded in the 1800's

#### City of Central, Louisiana

Founded: 2005

Population: 27,000

Annual Budget: \$8 million

Surplus: \$1-2 million a year

Cash Reserves: Over \$40 million

Number of Employees: 3 full-time, 13 part-time police officers and dispatchers.

Number who may someday retire at taxpayer expense: 3

A Fully Privatized City, built on a 21st century model

City services are provided by IBTS, a non-profit organization established by the National Governors Association. IBTS has about 20 of its employees assigned to the City of Central.

“ Yes, big companies may put an office in Baton Rouge, but where are the employees going to live? You can bet that, unless something changes, they will be headed to Livingston and Ascension! But St. George will provide people with a great place to live right next door to the City of Baton Rouge in the southern part of THIS parish — a city with good schools and safe neighborhoods. ”

the Central City News, he helped create the City of Central and the Central Community School System. Jenkins said, “Texas has more than 1,000 school systems, each with a high school, a middle school, and two or three elementary schools. For many years, my goal has been to break the EBR School System down into seven community school systems, more like those in Texas. Smaller systems are more governable and provide a better education for students.”

A lifelong journalist, Jenkins is founder and editor of the Central City News. He has covered events surrounding the incorporation of Central and creation of the Central school system for the past 15 years. The Central City News has been named the outstanding community newspaper in Louisiana for six of the past nine years. Jenkins was named the Volunteer of the Year in the EBR Parish School System for 2018.



Woody Jenkins

# Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish GOP Endorsements for Oct. 12

**BATON ROUGE** - The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has endorsed Baton Rouge businessman Eddie Rispone for Governor in the Oct. 12 primary. The move was a surprise because the state GOP endorsed both Rispone and Congressman Ralph Abraham (R-Ado), the two major Republican candidates running to replace Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Parish Republican chairman Woody Jenkins said both Rispone and Abraham are fine candidates but it is time for Republican voters to make a choice.

“Here in Baton Rouge, we know Eddie Rispone and have watched him grow from a young man in humble circumstances to one of the most outstanding business leaders in Louisiana. We have questioned him in great detail on policy issues, and he is solidly conservative and pro-family on all major issues. However, he is also a man with a lot of heart, a person who first and foremost cares about people and the real life consequences of our policy decisions. He is not a politician and doesn’t weigh everything to be politically correct, but we believe four years from now we will all be very happy that we elected Eddie Rispone as our governor.”

Eddie Rispone’s grandfather Joe Rispone arrived from Sicily and passed through Ellis Island on Sept. 12, 1912, and eventually settled in the Florida parishes of Louisiana. Joe was the first Rispone, and everyone in the world by that name is descended from him.

As a baby, Joe was abandoned in a basket in front of the home of a midwife in Sicily. When she discovered the basket and pulled back the cover, the baby opened his arms wide to her, and she exclaimed, “risponde,” meaning he responds or he is alive. She gave him the last name of Rispone, a name otherwise unknown in Italy.

Eddie Rispone’s father Sam and his mother, Rosalie Gulino, moved from Amite to Baton Rouge in 1940, so Sam could work for a contractor at Kaiser Aluminum. He later got a job at Standard Oil. The family built a house on the corner of Hollywood and St. Dorothy Street.

Sam and Rosalie raised their seven children, including Eddie in that 1,000 square foot home. By 15, Eddie was working construction with his oldest brother Sammy. Eddie attended Redemptorist High, which was just a few blocks away, and he was an All-State football player for the Wolves. He graduated in 1967. He became a committed Christian.

In 1989, Eddie and his brother Jerry started ISC Contractors, a specialty contracting firm. It grew and became very successful, grossing hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Today, Rispone has 3,000 employees.

“In Baton Rouge, we know Eddie Rispone as a very successful businessman but an even better man. He gives of himself at every turn. He has been one of our most generous citizens in giving to worthy causes but he also gives what is most valuable — his time,” Jen-



**Republican Party of  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
Endorsed Candidates  
October 12, 2019  
Election**

|                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>Billy Nungesser</b><br>Lt. Governor |  <b>Kyle Ardoin</b><br>Secretary of State   |  <b>Jeff Landry</b><br>Attorney General    |  <b>John Schroder</b><br>Treasurer           |  <b>Mike Strain</b><br>Agriculture       |  <b>Tim Temple</b><br>Insurance              |
|  <b>Bodi White</b><br>Senate - Dist. 6 |  <b>Franklin Foil</b><br>Senate - Dist. 16 |  <b>Rick Edmonds</b><br>House - Dist. 66  |  <b>Scott McKnight</b><br>Senate - Dist. 68 |  <b>Paula Davis</b><br>House - Dist. 69 |  <b>Michael DiResto</b><br>House - Dist. 70 |
|  <b>Greg Spiers</b><br>BESE Dist. 6    |  <b>Beau Brock</b><br>Judge Div. A        |  <b>Beau Higginbotham</b><br>Judge Div. C |  <b>Trae Welch</b><br>Judge Div. L          |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                  |
|  <b>Sid Gautreaux</b><br>Sheriff      |  <b>Brian Wilson</b><br>Assessor          |  <b>Doug Welborn</b><br>Clerk             |  <b>Dr. Beau Clark</b><br>Coroner           |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                  |

kins said.  
“In the governor’s race, we feel Eddie Rispone is best positioned to defeat the incumbent governor. Unfortunately, Congressman Abraham, whom we all admire, has been hurt by the constant negative attacks launched by the Edwards campaign. In the runoff, we fear his limited resources would have to be spent in defending himself instead of selling his positive message. On the other hand, Eddie Rispone has never been in politics and has a stellar record in business. There is very little to attack, although the

opposition can of course make up anything. When Sunday, Oct. 13 arrives, Eddie Rispone will have the resources to immediately sell his positive plan for Louisiana and contrast it will the Edwards administration record.”

The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish is the largest parish party in the state in turning out Republican voters. More Republicans actually vote in the parish than in any other.

The party also made the following endorsements:  
• Lt. Governor - Billy Nungesser  
• Secretary of State - Kyle Ardoin  
• Attorney General - Jeff Landry  
• State Treasurer - John Schroder  
• Agriculture Commissioner - Mike Strain  
• Insurance Commissioner - Tim Temple

- Sheriff - Sid Gautreaux
- Assessor - Brian Wilson
- Clerk of Court - Doug Welborn
- Coroner - Dr. Beau Clark
- District Judge - Div. A - Beau Brock
- District Judge - Div. C - Beau Higginbotham
- District Judge - Div. L - Trae Welch
- Board of Elementary and Secondary Education - Greg Spiers
- Senate Dist. 6 - Bodi White
- Senate Dist. 16 - Franklin Foil
- House Dist. 66 - Rick Edmonds
- House Dist. 68 - Scott McKnight
- House Dist. 69 - Paula Davis
- House Dist. 70 - Michael DiResto

Jenkins said, “Remember to vote for Beau — we have three good Beaus on the ballot!”



**Follow  
St. George Leader  
on Facebook**

# COMMUNITY PRESS, LLC

St. George Leader

Vol. 1 • No. 1

910 North Foster Drive

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Istrouma Journal

910 North Foster Drive

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Vol. 3 • No. 2

Phone (225) 261-5055 • Entire contents © 2019

Email stories and photos for all papers to [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com)

Published Monthly

The Leader was founded April 30, 1998. The Central City News was founded April 21, 2005. They merged May 4, 2006. The South Baton Rouge Journal began publication in 1989. It went on hiatus in 2008 during its 20th year of publication. It resumed publication as the Capital City News on Aug. 16, 2012, with Vol. 21, No. 1. The North Baton Rouge Journal began on August 11, 1966 and went on hiatus in 1976. It resumed publication as the Istrouma Journal on April 6, 2017.

Editor & Publisher

Business Manager

Account Executive

WOODY JENKINS

JOLICE PROVOST

KIM POWERS

Member, Louisiana Press Association and Chamber of Commerce of EBR Parish

Deadline for news and advertising: 5 p.m. Friday before publication

\$18 a year by subscription in advance • \$25 a year outside East Baton Rouge

SNPA

NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION

LOUISIANA PRESS ASSOCIATION

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR ST. GEORGE** — Gubernatorial candidate Eddie Rispono (right) has been a strong backer of St. George since 2014. He is shown here with St. George Leader editor Woody Jenkins (left). Rispono resides in St. George.

# How a Prominent Civil Rights Leader, Acie Belton, Set in Motion St. George

State Constitution Was Changed in 1975 to Allow Incorporation of Scotlandville, Central

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**BATON ROUGE** - People in Baton Rouge should open their minds to the idea of incorporating the new City of St. George, especially when we realize how it all got started.

In Louisiana, any community of 300 or more people anywhere in the state outside an incorporated municipality has the right to file a petition calling for an election to form a new city. But it hasn't always been that way.

In 1971, the federal courts ordered that the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate should be reapportioned into single-member districts. In the elections that year, both blacks and Republicans were elected in significant numbers for the first time since Reconstruction. I was 23 years old and ran for the new House seat from North Baton Rouge — north of

Choctaw, east of Scenic, and inside the Airline Highway. It was a vigorous campaign, and I was elected, as was Edwin Edwards, the new governor.

During the 1972 regular session of the legislature, Gov. Edwards proposed and the legislature approved calling a constitutional convention to consider drafting a replacement for the Louisiana Constitution of 1921. I ran and was elected a delegate. Our deliberations began in early 1973.

Soon after my election as a delegate, I got a call from Mr. Acie Belton, the president of the Second Ward Voters League. He was one of the most respected civil rights leaders in our parish and indeed in the state.

He was a big, imposing man, who might bring fear to anyone who didn't know him. In person, he was more like a teddy bear, warm and kind. I had only met Mr. Belton a couple of times before he called me. "Rep. Jenkins," he said, "I have a favor to ask. There's a provision of the Constitution I'd like you to try to change."

He said, "There's a provision of the 1921 Constitution that forbids Scotlandville from incorporating, and we would like the right to in-

### LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION OF 1921

**East Baton Rouge Plan of Government - Section 1.05**  
**Adopted in 1949 (made part of the Louisiana Constitution)**  
The incorporated town of Zachary and the village of Baker shall be parts of the rural area as defined in section 1.08 and shall continue in existence as municipalities subject, except as specifically provided in this plan of government, to the general laws of the state relating to incorporated towns and villages respectively, and may enlarge their boundaries as provided in such laws. **No additional city, town or village shall be incorporated in East Baton Rouge Parish.**

### LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION OF 1974

**Louisiana Constitution of 1974**  
**Article VI §8. Home Rule Parish; Incorporation of Cities, Towns, and Villages**  
**Section 8. No parish plan of government or home rule charter shall prohibit the incorporation of a city, town, or village as provided by general law.**

corporate."

I was incredulous. "Mr. Belton, how does the Constitution prevent Scotlandville from incorporating?" I asked.

He said, "The Plan of Government for East Baton Rouge Parish provides that there shall only be three municipalities in the parish. It forbids any others. Some years ago, Mayor Woody Dumas had a provision placed in the Constitu-

tion of 1921 that ratifies that part of the Plan of Government and elevates it to the constitutional level. This convention may be our only chance in our lifetime to change it!"

Mr. Belton said, "I believe the people of any area should be able to incorporate themselves into a new city and provide protection of their city and services to enhance life. The people of Scotlandville should

See AFRICAN on Page 10

## ISTROUMA KIWANIS CLUB



Serving the Children of North Baton Rouge

Meets 12 Noon

1st & 3rd Mondays

Doe's Eat Place

3723 Govt. St.

Visitors Welcome

Istrouma Kiwanis on Facebook



## Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019

Sponsored by Republican Party of EBR

11:30 Reception • 12 Lunch • \$19.50

Café Americain • 7521 Jefferson Hwy.

No Reservation Necessary

"Like" Capital Republican on Facebook or go to [CapitalRepublican.com](http://CapitalRepublican.com)



THE VOICE OF ST-GEORGE

WSGX 95.1

CLASSIC ROCK OF 50'S AND 60'S

DOWNLOAD 'MY TUNER' FROM APP STORE

## Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge

A Small Business Chamber

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019

Lunch 12n \$19.50 • Café Americain

7521 Jefferson Highway

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

[www.ChamberEBR.com](http://www.ChamberEBR.com)



See HOW on Page 12

# DOUG WELBORN

## CLERK OF COURT

### What a Difference a Few Years Make...

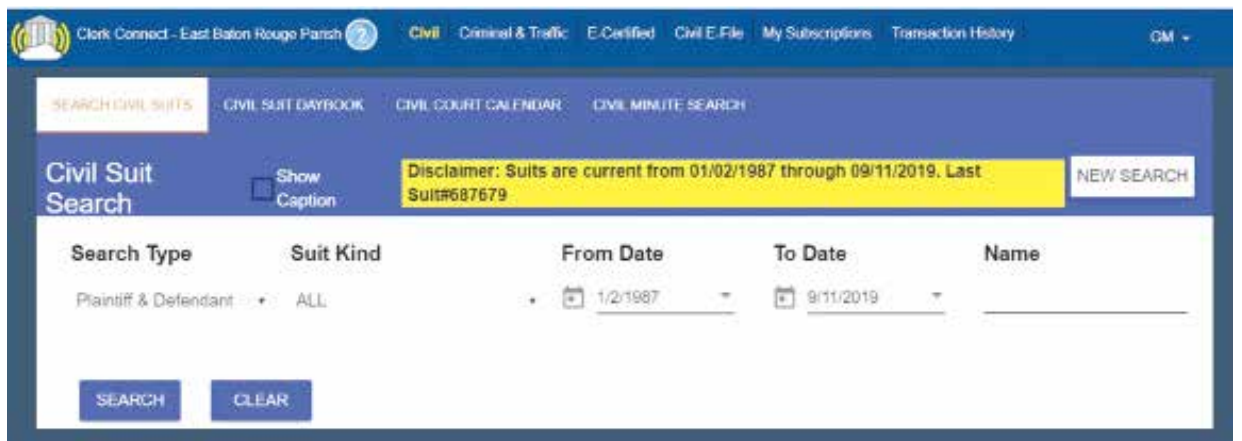
*At Home, a Few Years Ago*



*Today, Look How They've Grown!*



*At the Clerk's Office, a Few Years Ago, Everything Was on Paper. Since Then, We've Led the State in Computerizing Our Office, and So Much Is Available with a Few Key Strokes.*



*"Just because a governmental office might be the only place to receive a particular service doesn't mean a citizen deserves any less than the very best customer service found in the competitive private sector..." — Doug Welborn*

This office operates almost entirely with self-generated funds rather than tax dollars. Duties include Conducting our Elections in EBR Parish • Recording of Mortgages • Filing of suits and legal documents • Sharing of criminal records among Law Enforcement • Marriage licenses • Birth and death certificates • Domestic violence assistance • Genealogical research • Copies of needed documents • Training of attorneys and researchers

**DOUG** — **#114** —  
**WELBORN**  
— **CLERK OF COURT**



Organizers Started with Names of 18,000 Supporters

# St. George: More Going for It This Time

New Boundaries  
Eliminated Pockets  
Of Opposition to  
Incorporation Push

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**BATON ROUGE** - When the movement to incorporate a new city in the southeast part of East Baton Rouge Parish began in earnest in 2014, it was given little chance of success by most elected officials, media, and business leaders. Today, quite the opposite is true. When organizers of St. George announced that they are launching a second petition drive that would call for a referendum on the issue, no one was laughing. The dynamics of the issue have taken a 180 degree turn.

First, it is important to realize that only the people of the proposed City of St. George will get to sign or not sign the petition and only they will get to vote in the referendum. The matter will not go before the Metro Council, the Mayor-President, or the legislature. It is for the residents of St. George or any proposed city to decide whether to incorporate. Last time around, the proposed City of St. George included all



**WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL** will be the hub of the new Southeast Community School District if organizers of the proposed City of St. George get their way. After the city is incorporated, they plan to go to the legislature and ask for a referendum to amend the state constitution to allow the creation of the new school district. Failing that, they could use a little known provision of the state constitution that allows a municipality to operate its own school district and receive MFP funds and levy local property taxes for school purposes.

## With 86,000 People, St. George Would Be State's 5th Largest

unincorporated areas of the parish south and southeast of the City of Baton Rouge. Now the revised map excludes areas that were opposed to or lukewarm in their support of St. George. In other words, if the people in an area did not want to be included last time, they aren't included in the proposed city this time. That could well eliminate most of the opposition from within St. George. In addition, last time around, the organizers of St. George started with nothing. They did not know who would support their proposed city. But this time, they started with

See ST. GEORGE on Page 10

## Café Américain Restaurant and Catering

Catering On Site and Off Site • Banquet Facilities Available



**Seafood • Pasta • Steaks • Great Soups • Cheesecakes**  
Food Made Fresh From Scratch Everyday



**Family Owned and Operated Over 30 Years • Friendly Neighborhood Atmosphere**  
7521 Jefferson Hwy • Baton Rouge, LA • (225) 924-9841 or (225) 927-1626  
Mon - Thurs 11 to 8:30 p.m. • Fri - Sat 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. • Sun 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Working with Volunteers and Without Big Money

# St. George Is a Citizens Movement

### Tax Base of New City Sufficient to Cover All Reasonable Costs

Continued from Page 1

little doubt there will be a tax surplus and certainly no need whatsoever for a tax increase."

His statement came just as opponents of St. George launched a campaign to convince voters that creation of the City of St. George will raise their taxes.

Meanwhile, pro-St. George incorporation leader Norman Browning said St. George opponents are using fear tactics and targeting elderly voters with false claims that St. George will raise taxes.

"On its face, it's so illogical," Browning said. "The very purpose of St. George is to get out from under the high tax, big government policies of Baton Rouge and allow our citizens to keep our tax dollars in St. George. This is the most prosperous part of the parish with the strongest tax base. The existing tax structure is more than sufficient to fund the City of St. George and provide a strong surplus. Where do you think you are more likely to have a tax increase — Baton Rouge or St. George? That is obvious."

Volunteers for St. George have been working hard to close strong during early voting and leading up to election day, Saturday, Oct. 12.

St. George is a citizens movement composed of volunteers and no big backers. They have been opposed by *The Advocate* newspaper, BRAC, BRAF, and big money interests in Baton Rouge.

It's a case of David vs. Goliath.



(Left to right) Sign waving for St. George, signing a petition, delivering petitions, and delivering withdrawals.



**ST. GEORGE LEADERS** — Those delivering 4,630 additional petition signatures during the first petition drive were Sen. Bodi White, Lionel Rainey, Norman Browning, Dustin Yates, and Josh Hoffpauir.



**CHECKING** — Registrar of Voters official Patricia Fuglar, St. George supporters, and Dianne Hanley, who opposes it.

# Spokesmen Outline Reasons for St. George

**BATON ROUGE** - Chris Rials and Andrew Murrell, two leaders of the St. George movement, reviewed efforts to create the City of St. George at a meeting of the Greater Baton Rouge Civic Association earlier this month. Some the accomplishments they cited were:

- 17,000 signatures collected in seven months with 14,585 validated, 1600 more than required
- The largest petition in the state's history
- St. George's population will be larger than the combined population of 290 out of 308 municipalities in Louisiana.
- St. George will be larger than the entire population of 15 parishes
- On October 12, 2019 the City of St. George will become the largest city ever incorporated in state history
- It will be the 3rd largest city ever incorporated in our nation.
- St. George will be the 5th largest city in the state, surpassing Lake Charles in population
- It will be in the top 4 percent of municipalities in the nation.

Murrell cited the Top Five Reasons for the City of St. George as

1) Crime. The 193 murders in 2017 and 2018 were the highest

two-year total in East Baton Rouge Parish history. St. George will increase East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's office coverage of St. George.

2) Taxes. A total of 23 new taxes have passed since 2003. That totalled \$53 million in additional taxes in 2018 — more than total St. George budget. Since 2009, Baton Rouge has increased spending by more than the cumulative total budget increases of Lake Charles, Lafayette, New Orleans, Alexandria, and Shreveport. In 2017, JP Morgan identified Baton Rouge as the 5th most over-leveraged city in the U.S. They said the city must raise taxes 24 percent to meet its 30-year liabilities. There are no documented plans by the administration or BRAC to address this financial reality.

Central has not raised their taxes since they incorporated in 2005, and neither will St. George.

3) Drainage. The City-Parish administration would not prioritize \$2 million in a nearly \$1 billion budget to obtain \$255 million in federal monies secured by Congressman Garret Graves. The City-Parish administration asked the governor and state taxpayers

to pay for East Baton Rouge Parish drainage improvement. Look at your ditches — overgrown with grass, trash, sediment-filled culverts. The City of St. George will address drainage.

4) Schools. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System ranked 58th out of 70 statewide school districts, with the lowest performance scores among large municipalities. Five school closures since 2014, while surrounding school districts expand their schools and economies. Our future majority minority school district will compete with Zachary and Central.

5) Unprecedented Exodus. Residents have been voting with their feet. There are 6,000 fewer residents in East Baton Rouge Parish now than in 2016. An East Baton Rouge Parish School System study forecasts a further loss of nearly 20,000 residents by 2030. And an EBR Parish Land Use Study confirms that by 2030 there will be fewer residents in EBR Parish, residents over 60 years of age will increase by 50 percent, and residents over 70 will double.

However, St. George will turn this around and grow our city and EBR Parish.

## St. George Leader Hits Retail Stores, Mailboxes Across City of St. George

Continued from Page 1

people in St. George simply don't trust them."

Jenkins has more than 55 years in journalism. He was inducted into the LSU Journalism School Hall of Fame. Jenkins and his staff have won more than 200 awards for excellence in journalism, including outstanding community newspaper in Louisiana for six of the past nine years.

The staff has won 1st Place for Best News Coverage, Best Investigative Reporting, Best Breaking News Story, Best News Photo, Best Sports Photo, and Best Retail Ad Design. Jenkins has won Best Columnist in the state on many occasions.

For information on advertising in the *St. George Leader*, call Advertising Manager Kim Powers at 225-921-8784 or the office at 225-261-5055 or email [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com).



Greenwell Springs Road, August 2016

Copyright 2016 All Rights Reserved

# When Our Future Was Uncertain and Our Property Values Temporarily Collapsed...

**Assessor Brian Wilson reassessed the value of more than 40,000 properties *downward* to reflect the reality of the situation and make sure we were not overtaxed during a time of recovery!**



**Brian Wilson**  
East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor

I am proud to represent East Baton Rouge Parish, which is filled with strong and determined people who are passionate about their community. Since the flood of August 2016, it has been a privilege for my staff and me to work with so many of you to make sure your property was assessed fairly during this difficult period. We are proud to have assessed more than 40,000 pieces of property, including most of yours, which were damaged by the flood.

Our parish embodies the best Louisiana has to offer. In spite of all we have been through, the future looks bright, and I am proud to serve as your Assessor!

*— Brian Wilson*



Click QR Code to Watch  
Assessor Brian Wilson  
at Ronald Reagan  
Newsmaker Luncheon

**St. George**   
**VOTE EARLY**  
Sept 28-Oct 5 on Coursey or SOS

**Brian Wilson • East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor**  
222 ST. LOUIS STREET, BATON ROUGE, LA 70802  
PHONE 225-389-3920

# African American Delegates to CC/73 Pushed to Allow New Cities in EBR

Continued from Page 5

not be discriminated against in this way!"

I told Mr. Belton I would research the matter and call him back, which I did the next day. In that conversation I pledged my support. Soon George Dewey Hayes, the delegate from Scotlandville, and Delegate Mary Wisham were on board. We went to the Committee that was drafting the Local Government provisions of the new constitution and were met with a stone wall. There was no way to pass it in committee. We would have to go to the floor of the convention and have a floor fight.

Delegate Gary O'Neill from Central contacted me and said some people in Central also wanted the right to form a city someday.

I drafted the amendment to provide that the right of incorporation in East Baton Rouge Parish would be the same as in the rest of the state. We introduced the amendment and began lobbying the delegates of the convention to support it. Mayor-President Woody Dumas came to the convention, which was meeting at Independence Hall near the State Capitol. He was on a tear! He was lobbying hard against the proposal. He found me and told me if I didn't withdraw it, he would defeat me in the next election.

When the proposal came to the floor, I offered the amendment and spoke in favor of it. The transcript of that debate is online in the archives of the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973, or CC/73. Our coalition of delegates worked hard and prevailed. The convention voted for the amendment, meaning that municipalities could be incorporated anywhere in the state.

Mayor-President Dumas was so angry that he went to Gov. Edwards and threatened to oppose the entire constitution unless that provision were removed. However, Gov. Ed-



Late Rep. Johnny Jackson fought for right of people to incorporate.

## Watch NAACP, St. George

Download  
QR Reader



wards refused to try to remove it.

When the proposed Louisiana Constitution of 1975 went before the voters of the state, the amendment allowing the people of East Baton Rouge Parish to incorporate new cities, if they choose, was intact. The constitution was approved by the voters, and today it remains the law of our state.

“One of our biggest victories of the Constitutional Convention for African American delegates was protecting the right of local governments to incorporate. It was the biggest fight I personally had, and we were able to expand the right of certain areas such as Scotlandville to incorporate!”

— The late Rep. Johnny Jackson of New Orleans speaking of his experience as a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973

The late Rep. Johnny Jackson of New Orleans, who served as a delegate and worked tirelessly for the Scotlandville amendment, said on the 40th anniversary of the new constitution that the passage of our amendment on incorporation was his proudest moment in the constitutional convention.

He said, “One of our biggest victories of the Constitutional Convention for African American delegates was protecting the right of local governments to incorporate. It was the biggest fight I personally had, and we were able to expand the right of certain areas such as Scotlandville to incorporate!”

The reason it was such an important issue across the state was that there had been efforts to stop the incorporation of some majority black cities in such diverse areas as Plaquemines and Caddo parishes.

Ironically, despite the passage of the new constitution, the Plan of Government of East Baton Rouge Parish remained unchanged, still saying that there will only be three municipalities in the parish.

When the people of Central voted to incorporate their new city in 2004, attorney Bob Raborn filed suit to challenge the incorporation of the city. One of his legal arguments against incorporation was the fact that the Plan of Government article limiting to three the

number of municipalities in the parish was still on the books.

On appeal the Louisiana Supreme Court upheld the incorporation of the City of Central. Among other things, it ruled that the Plan of Government provision was repealed by the new constitution. That was obvious, but it nevertheless removed that argument from the table in the future.

It is ironic that the opponents of the incorporation of the City of St. George have repeatedly alleged that the incorporation is a racist act designed to discriminate against African Americans.

In reality, the right to have additional cities in East Baton Rouge Parish came directly from civil rights leader Acie Belton who believed that “...Any area should be able to incorporate themselves into a new city and provide protection of their citizens and services to enhance life. The people of Scotlandville should not be discriminated against in this way!”

The truth is that incorporation is a normal function of government in Louisiana. The people of St. George have the legal right to propose a new city. If they can get the required number of signatures and win the referendum, then it is right and proper to recognize and respect the new City of St. George and the people it will serve.

# St. George: More Going for It This Time

Continued from Page 7

the names of 18,000 who signed the first St. George petition. Gathering the signatures this time was far quicker and easier than before.

Last time around, the organizers of St. George got enough signatures, but while the Registrar of Voters was certifying signatures, a group called Together Baton Rouge launched a campaign to have signers of the petition withdraw their names. Ultimately, over the course of two months, they got a few hundred people to withdraw their signatures, leaving the organizers with more than 18,000 signatures but still 71 short.

In 2016, the legislature changed the law regarding withdrawal of signatures. While there was no time limit before, now signers of a petition have five days after the petition is submitted to withdraw their names. That made it difficult for Together Baton Rouge to go back try to get people to withdraw their names.

The political atmosphere surrounding the St. George movement has also changed. Many thought the election of a new Mayor-President

would take the steam out of the St. George movement, but the contrary appears to have happened.

The leading opponents to St. George, the vast majority of whom live in Baton Rouge rather than St. George, still remain opposed. However, many who had reservations about St. George and others who sat on the sidelines have changed their minds and are now supportive. One example is well respected local contractor Eddie Rispone, who also happens to be running for governor.

The main goals of the organizers of St. George are public safety and good schools. After the City of St. George is incorporated, they plan to go to the legislature and seek approval of an amendment to place the Southeast Community School System in the Constitution. This would mirror the independent school systems already created in the parish in Zachary and Central. Those systems are ranked the No. 1 and No. 2 in Louisiana. Organizers of St. George think their schools would be very competitive with those of Zachary and Central.

Amending the state constitution would require a two-thirds vote

of each house of the legislature, a statewide referendum, and a referendum in East Baton Rouge Parish and St. George.

Or the other hand, organizers have another option, which is little known and has never been attempted although it seems clearly authorized by the Louisiana Constitution.

State law allows municipalities to do all things that are not specifically forbidden to them by law. Municipalities are not forbidden to begin or operate a school system. Art. 8, Section 13 (B) of the Louisiana Constitution specifically says that “city school systems” will receive their share of MFP funding. Likewise, Art. 8, Section 13 (C) provides that the right to levy a five mill property tax for school purposes is afforded to any “city school board actually operating, maintaining, or supporting a separate system of public schools.” Note the word “supporting.”

This subsection also provides that “any municipality or city school board which supports a separate city system of public schools may levy an ad valorem tax for a specific purpose.” Note the word “supports.”

The language suggests that the City of St. George could create a public body to operate a city school system and that if it “supports” that school system, then the system would be entitled to MFP funds and the levying of property taxes like every other school system in the state.

Under the provisions of Art. 8, Section 13, no “city school boards” or “city school systems” currently exist. That is clear because the section says that “for purposes of this section,” the existing school systems in Central, Zachary, Baker, Monroe, and Bogalusa “shall be regarded and treated as parishes.”

The bottom line is that if St. George is successful in incorporating, the question of whether or not it also operates a school system may not be controlled by the two-thirds vote requirement for amending the state constitution.

With 86,000 residents, St. George would be the 5th largest city in Louisiana behind New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Lafayette and ahead of Lake Charles, Kenner, Bossier, Monroe and Alexandria.

Analysis by editor Woody Jenkins



# What's for Supper?

WE HAVE MEAL SOLUTIONS:

Hot Deli Items

FROM RED BEANS N RICE TO SEAFOOD N STEAKS

Grab N Go

PACKED AND READY TO GO MEALS JUST HEAT AND SERVE AT HOME!

Sushi

FRESH MADE BY OUR SUSHI CHEF ON SITE!

Fresh Salad Bar & Cut Fruit Section

Hot Soup & Gumbo



**Hi Nabor**  
Your Homegrown Supermarket  
Since 1963

5383 JONES CREEK ROAD • 225-751-3380  
9620 FLORIDA BLVD • 225-927-5450  
7201 WINBOURNE AVE • 225-357-1448

# Gov. Edwards Opposes School District

## JBE Supports Right To Incorporate But Opposes St. George Incorporation Effort

**BATON ROUGE** — When then-Rep. John Bel Edwards was running for governor in October 2015, he agreed to answer a number of policy questions posed by the *Central City News*. Two of those questions dealt with the proposed City of St. George and the proposed Southeast Baton Rouge Community School System.

Regarding the proposed Southeast Baton Rouge Community School System, Edwards was clear and forthright: He opposes it.

With respect to the proposed City of St. George, his answer was nuanced. He said he supports the right of voters in St. George to vote on whether to incorporate “as long as the requirements of law



GOV. JOHN BEL EDWARDS said he supports the right of incorporation but opposes the incorporation of the City of St. George. He also opposes creation of the Southeast Baton Rouge Community School System, which could be considered after incorporation.

*In the 2015 Governor's race, the Central City News submitted a series of questions to then candidate for Governor, John Bel Edwards. Here are his answers on two questions related to St. George:*

### LOCAL ISSUES

68. Will you support the creation of the Southeast Baton Rouge Community School System?

EDWARDS: No

69. Do you support the right of the voters of the proposed City of St. George to vote on whether to incorporate?

EDWARDS: Yes, as long as the requirements of law are met.

**Earlier this year, Gov. Edwards approved putting St. George on the ballot, but urged voters to vote No.**

are met.”

As governor, he received the certified petitions from the Secretary of State's office and had the obligation to call the election on incorporation. The governor took the position that his staff needed to review all the petitions, instead of simply accepting the certification from the Secretary of State. As a result, he delayed calling the election for several weeks. Nevertheless, he did eventually call the election for Oct. 12.

Earlier this year, at the behest of East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, Gov. Edwards formally came out and announced his opposition to St. George becoming a city.

If voters approve the incorporation of the City of St. George, Edwards will have the responsibility of appointing the first officials from among those nominated by legislators representing St. George. They will serve about six months until a special election can be called.

# Survey Showed White, Black Residents Wanted Same Things

Continued from Page 3

ration, the people of Central funded the Central Fire Protection District through property taxes. The district was providing excellent service. So there was no reason to create a new duplicatory fire department in the City of Central. Similarly, the St. George Fire Department will be unaffected by the incorporation of St. George. It is a completely separate governmental agency.

**Sewer Services.** Central was part of the parish sewer system before incorporation, and it still is. The people pay the same sewer user fees as residents of Baton Rouge. The same is true in St. George.

**Garbage Collection.** Garbage collection is parishwide. So the people of Central receive the same garbage service that they did before incorporation, and they pay for it with the same monthly user fee as in Baton Rouge. So will St. George.

**Parks and Recreation.** Parks and recreation in Central are provided by BREC which levies the same property tax in Central that it does in Baton Rouge. So the incorporation of Central made no change in parks. That will be true in St. George as well.

**Not Complex, Not Duplicatory. Not Expensive.** The creation of the City of Central was really quite simple — not complex or duplicatory — with respect to police protection, fire protection, sewer, garbage collection, and parks. All those services are the same now as they were before incorporation. The only difference is that Central has added a volunteer Central Police Force to supplement the Sheriff's Office.

**What Did Change in Central?** Three major areas did change: 1) public works, 2) planning and zoning, and 3) plan review, permits, inspections, and Code enforcement. These are very important areas of local government, and all require considerable expertise. However, these services can readily be contracted out to private providers.

The City of Central contracts with IBTS, a non-profit organization established by the National Governors Association to provide these city services, along with a variety of other things, such as personnel to answer citizens complaints and problems.

IBTS provides the Public Works Director for the City of Central, engineering services, personnel to staff the planning and zoning commis-

“We surveyed black residents of Central and asked if they had been discriminated against in Central. Not one said they had been. Asked why they chose to live in Central, they gave three reasons: Good schools, safe neighborhoods, and a wholesome rural atmosphere. When we surveyed white residents of Central, they gave exactly the same reasons. People seem to want the same things.”

sion, clerical staff, and building officials to do inspections.

Unlike inefficient local governments, which may send out four or five inspectors to one job site, IBTS sends a Certified Building Inspector — one person who performs all inspections, including building, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical.

In addition to the 20 employees that IBTS provides to staff the Central Municipal Services Center, IBTS contracts with general contractors to repair potholes and provide street overlay. It uses sub-contractors who work at pre-negotiated prices. Some services such as lot cutting are done at a fixed rate per linear foot, rather than by the hour.

**Taxes.** Municipal taxes in Central have NOT gone up with incorporation. In fact, they are LESS than municipal taxes in Baton Rouge. For one thing, the Central City Council has staunchly refused to levy a municipal property tax. However, since the city is run so efficiently and is compiling large surpluses, there is no thought of a tax increase by the City of Central. Instead, the city fathers have been considering where to use some of its accumulated surplus for capital improvements without the necessity of acquiring debt.

Experts in privatization we interviewed estimated that the City of St. George could run the entire city with fewer than 10 employees, while utilizing a private contractor such as IBTS to provide city services. They estimate the contractor would need to utilize roughly 50 staff members and certainly no more than 70 to provide the services that citizens will expect.

**Charges That St. George Is Breaking Away, That It Is Divisive, or That It Is Racist.** These allegations are intended to inflame passions but have nothing to do with reality.

Obviously, the City of St. George is not breaking away from the City of Baton Rouge. It's not part of the City of Baton Rouge. We're talking about the unincorporated areas that the City of Baton Rouge never want-

ed to annex. Suddenly, the fact that the people in St. George would want to have their own city is “dividing us.” How ridiculous! St. George is going to be right next door to Baton Rouge. It will still be in East Baton Rouge Parish! Everyone will flow from one city to the other freely and seamlessly. There won't a 10-foot-high wall or checkpoints.

Truly, having a great new city right next to Baton Rouge can only make Baton Rouge better. Yes, big companies may put an office in Baton Rouge, but where are the employees going to live? You can bet that, unless something changes, they will be headed to Livingston and Ascension! But St. George will provide people with a great place to live right next door the City of Baton Rouge in the southern part of THIS parish — a city with good schools and safe neighborhoods.

The real racism in this debate has been the knee-jerk reaction against St. George. Somehow if an area is majority white, conservative, and Republican, it shouldn't be allowed to incorporate and have a city. That is a racist position to take.

It is also racist to assume that blacks and whites are looking for something totally different in a city. Will blacks, Latins, and Asians want to live in St. George? Of course they will!

A few years ago, a black political leader from Baton Rouge made a statement on WAFB-TV about what a racist community Central is. At the *Central City News*, we believed that was false but we wanted to find out what the black people living in Central thought about the Central community. We wondered if they saw it as a racist place to live?

Members of our staff went to the Central Wal-Mart to survey black customers as they came out of the store. The first question we asked was, “Do you live in Central?” If they said no, we thanked them and ended the interview. If they said yes, we proceeded with the next question,

which was, “Since you have lived in Central, have you experienced any acts of racism or been made to feel uncomfortable out here?”

We got looks of puzzlement, laughter, and a lot of “Are you kidding? We love it out here! People treat us great!” Out of 100 interviews, not a single black resident of Central said they had been discriminated against or felt uncomfortable in Central because of race.

We then proceeded to the next question, which was “Why do you live in Central?”

Here were the top three answers: 1) Great schools: “We want a good education for our children, and we couldn't get it in Baton Rouge!” 2) Low crime: “Out here we can let our children play in the yard without fear of anything happening to them!” 3) Rural setting: “We love the country atmosphere.” “It makes us feel at home!”

But the most interesting part of our survey was yet to come. We decided to poll the white people coming out of Wal-Mart and ask them the same question: “Why do you live in Central?”

Amazingly, the whites answered the question the same — good schools, low crime, and country atmosphere. And in exactly that order!

The black people and the white people wanted the same things!

The opponents of St. George who holler “Racism!” are doing such a grave injustice to this community and to its people. St. George isn't about race. It's about creating a city where people of ALL races can go to public school and get a good education and where people of ALL races can live in their home or shop at the store without fear of being robbed or murdered. It's about creating a city where the people control their own destiny, and decisions are not made from afar.

I have a challenge to the people who are opposing St. George based on accusations of racism. The challenge is this: Go out to Central and ask black people how they enjoy living in Central and having their children attend the Central School System. Then maybe you will be able to speak with some authority about what having its own city and school system will mean to St. George.

The bottom line is, it's up to the people of St. George to decide if they want a city or not. And the decision should be based on the truth, not ridiculous lies and distortions.

# GREG Spiers

BESE | District 6

## Meet Greg Spiers

- > Christian
- > Former U.S. Navy SEAL
- > Former High School Teacher / Coach
- > IT Professional
- > Husband and Father

## On the Agenda

- > Be a voice for our teachers
- > Replace Common Core / LSSS
- > Change standardized testing policies
- > Provide more opportunities for ALL students
- > Give more authority to local school districts



Make Learning Great Again  
[www.gregforbese.com](http://www.gregforbese.com)

Proudly Endorsed By:





# Bodi is Getting the Job Done!

**Bodi White understands the devastation that was caused by the 2016 Flood. That's why he has worked to fund the important flood control projects for our area:**

- Comite River Diversion Canal
- Dredging of the Amite River
- 5 Major Flood Control Projects in East Baton Rouge Parish
- Better Drainage of Local Tributaries Across Southeast Baton Rouge

## Mack "Bodi" WHITE

STATE ★ SENATE

Early Voting: Sept. 28-Oct. 5 Election Day: Oct. 12

[mackbodiwhite.com](http://mackbodiwhite.com)  /BodiWhite

Paid for by Bodi White for State Senate Campaign

# Service to Our Country

## Effective Conservative Leadership for Baton Rouge



Franklin Foil family – Andy, Grace, Tanja, Franklin, and Kathleen

### Franklin Foil

- Member, Louisiana House, 12 years
- U.S. Navy Captain
- Military Judge currently serving his 28th year
- B.A from LSU; J.D. from Loyola School of Law
- Elder, First Presbyterian Church • Eagle Scout
- Married 28 years • Three children

#### Former U.S. Congressman Henson Moore said

"As a state representative, Franklin has proven he can be trusted to listen and always do the right thing."

#### Senator Dan Claitor said

"In the Louisiana Legislature, I've worked with many but few have been as hardworking and effective as Franklin Foil. It's why I support Franklin to replace me as the senator for District 16."



Endorsed  
by  
Republican  
Party of East  
Baton Rouge  
Parish



"Use of military rank, job titles or photographs in uniform does not imply the endorsement of the U.S. Navy."



# St. George Vote Is Really a Showdown Between Liberals and Conservatives

Are We So Paralyzed by Fear Of Criticism That We Cannot Act in Our Own Best Interests?

**BATON ROUGE** - There is really no mystery about whether the proposed City of St. George will be a success, and there is certainly no mystery about whether the proposed Southeast school district will be a success.

We don't have to guess whether incorporating a new city and creating a new school system in this parish can work. We have real-life models right here in East Baton Rouge Parish — the City of Central and the independent school districts in Central and Zachary.

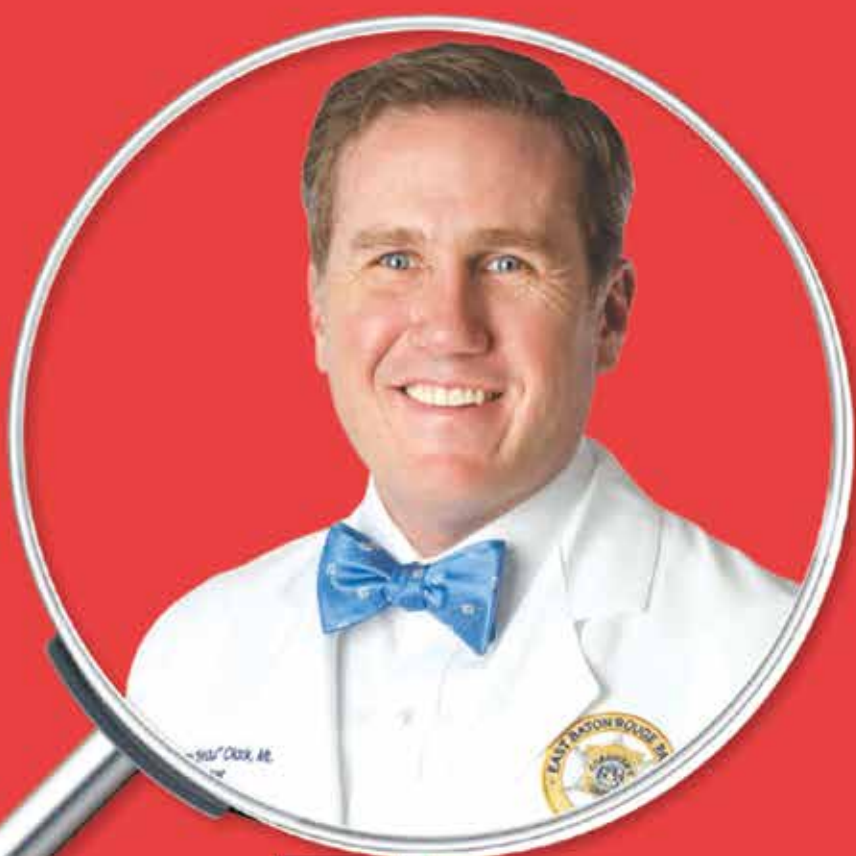
The City of Central (pop. 28,000) was created by the voters in 2005. It is now celebrating its 14th birthday. Central is the only fully privatized city in the State of Louisiana and one of the very few in America. It was created on a 21st century model — not a 19th century model, and it is working beautifully. It has only three city employees (compare Hammond, pop. 20,000, with 325 city employees). Central contracts out everything and runs the city on 25 percent of the cost of the City of Hammond. Central has a \$1-2 million a year



Woody Jenkins

“The opponents of St. George raise baseless fears. Their arguments are absurd. “We want to all stay together!” they chant, as though the unincorporated areas of the southeast part of the parish were somehow part of the City of Baton Rouge and were “breaking away” from the City of Baton Rouge. The unincorporated areas are **NOT** part of the City of Baton Rouge, and they are not breaking away from anything. They are forming their own city at their own expense, in order to improve their lot, just as anyone has the right to do under Louisiana law.”

Look Closer and You'll See  
that in the race for  
East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner,



The  
Choice is  
**CLEAR.**

RE-ELECT #117  
**DR. BEAU  
CLARK**  
C O R O N E R

#ElectBeauClark2019  
www.electbeauclark.com

Paid for by Elect Beau Clark

Election day is  
October 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Early voting ends  
October 5<sup>th</sup>.

surplus and \$40 million in the bank.

The Zachary Community School System began in 2003. It has had the No. 1 school system in the state for 15 of the past 15 years. The demographics are 50-50 black-white.

The Central Community School System was created in 2007 and quickly became the No. 2 school system in the state.

Central has no industry and no large businesses except a Wal-Mart. Yet, it is a model of fiscal integrity and sound business judgment.

Is there any doubt that St. George, which has perhaps the highest per capita income in the state, will be able to have a successful city?

No, there is no doubt. The opponents don't really say that. They raise baseless fears. Their arguments are absurd. “We want to all stay together!” they chant, as though the unincorporated areas of the southeast part of the parish were somehow part of the City of Baton Rouge and were “breaking away” from the City of Baton Rouge.

The unincorporated areas are not part of the City of Baton Rouge, and they are not breaking away. They are forming their own city at their own expense, in order to improve their lot, just as anyone has the right to do under Louisiana law.

On the other hand, the proposed Southeast independent school system would greatly strengthen public education by bringing 10,000 or more students back into the public schools. Many of them would be white, and the proposed Southeast school system is projected to be 60-40 white-black.

But that is bad. The opponents of St. George think the current East Baton Rouge Parish School System, which is a one-race school system (nearly 90 percent black), is wonderful, but a racially diverse school system like St. George will be is somehow a great evil.

“Today, conservatives are supporting the St. George incorporation movement and liberals are fighting it. In fact, defeating St. George has become a cause célèbre for the far left in this state.

The reality is, St. George has the potential to bring tens of thousands of people back to this parish and prevent it from becoming another Detroit or News Orleans. And therein lies the explanation of why the far left hates St. George so much: They know Zachary, Central, and St. George will prevent this parish from tipping over the edge and becoming a mecca for the far left.”

CONSERVATIVE ★ OUTSIDER ★ BUSINESSMAN

VOTE EDDIE RISPONE  
ON ELECTION DAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH



ENDORSED BY REPUBLICAN PARTY  
OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

  
**EDDIE RISPONE**  
— for GOVERNOR —

PAID FOR BY EDDIE RISPONE FOR GOVERNOR

# Why BRPD Officers Live Outside Baton Rouge: Police, Residency, Public Schools, St. George

The Ungarnished Truth:  
Working Families Move  
Where Crime is Low and  
Public Schools Are Good;  
That's Not Baton Rouge!

**Woody Jenkins**

Editor

Statistics from the Baton Rouge Police Department show that 58 percent of all police officers live in Central, Zachary, or parishes other than East Baton Rouge Parish.

Many people complain about that but no one seems to want to ask Why? In reality, only 20 percent of the force actually resides in the City of Baton Rouge. But Why?

When you say the words, “middle income working people,” that describes virtually every member of the Baton Rouge Police Department. They work for a living. They are not abjectly poor, but they certainly don’t make a lot of money. Even with husband and wife working, few Baton Rouge Police officers can afford to send their children to private or parochial schools. Yet, they want a good education for their children.

So like most of the rest of the “middle income working people,” in the Capital region, they live in Central, Zachary, Livingston, and Ascension parishes, where crime is low and public schools are good.

The problem really began back in the 1960’s and 1970’s during integration. In the late 1960’s, the parish had a system of neighborhood schools. Some were overwhelmingly white, some overwhelmingly black, and quite a few were racially mixed. However, Federal District Judge John Parker, unhappy with the rate of integration, ordered cross-town forced busing in order to achieve a targeted racial balance in each school.

His court orders, which extended more than three decades, left the East Baton Rouge Parish school system less integrated. Today, almost 90 percent of students in the system are black. We have *de facto* segregation if not segregation by law. Now the EBR school board is once again pursuing neighborhood schools. There is no longer forced busing, although there are plenty of buses crisscrossing the parish.

The current EBR school board inherited a Byzantine system of magnet schools, gifted and talented, charter schools, and neighborhood schools.

This system insures that most neighborhood schools will be failing or near failing schools. Why? First, the magnet schools pull away the best students (and often the top leaders) from the neighborhood schools. The gifted and talented programs pull out most of the other top students. Then many parents who pay attention to their options sign up for charter schools.

That leaves the rest of the kids — who have been left out of the sweepstakes — to attend their



**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS** from many jurisdictions honored a fallen comrade. Few police officers live in Baton Rouge.

neighborhood school. There are of course a few good neighborhood schools in this parish but very few.

The thing to realize about Baton Rouge is that things are not “normal” here. They are not normal because we are missing one important segment of the population — “middle income working people with children.” They don’t live here. Oh, some do, but not many.

East Baton Rouge Parish but especially the City of Baton Rouge consists of retired people, poor people, wealthy people, students, single people, and married people without children. But what’s missing is “middle income working people with children.” It’s not that there’s an exodus going on. They already left! Long ago.

That’s why only 20 percent of the Baton Rouge Police Department lives in the City of Baton Rouge. You could take a cross section of any other category of “middle income working people” and probably find about the same percentages.

How can we bring those middle income working families back to East Baton Rouge Parish?

You will never do it with the current Byzantine structure of schools in East Baton Rouge Parish where neighborhood schools are deprived of the top 50 percent or so of their students.

But there IS a way to bring “middle income working people” back to East Baton Rouge Parish — a way that is almost certain to work!

But you may not want to hear it. We KNOW how to do it because it’s already been done — in Zachary and Central, the No. 1 and No. 2 school systems in Louisiana.

An analysis of enrollees in the Central school system shows that more families move to Central from Livingston Parish than from Baton Rouge! They come back to East Baton Rouge Parish for the good schools in Central!

Who are the people who have moved to Central from Livingston Parish? Mostly, they are former residents of Central who moved to Livingston for good public schools. They didn’t want to be in Livings-

ton. They wanted to be in Central. So when Central got control of its schools and it became one of the top school systems in the state virtually overnight, people started returning to Central.

That’s what the proposed City of St. George is all about. It’s about returning people to public schools in East Baton Rouge Parish by creating a city with its own new *independent community school system* — a system like Zachary and Central, which are free of the Byzantine structure of schools in the EBR system where true neighborhood schools are virtually impossible.

It’s not about “dividing” the City of Baton Rouge. The City of St. George is exclusively in unincorporated areas of the parish that the City of Baton Rouge

doesn’t want and never annexed! The new Southeast Baton Rouge School System will bring people back to this parish from Livingston and Ascension by the tens of thousands, because our former residents would rather be in EBR, *if the schools are good!*

So, yes, most Baton Rouge Police officers do not live in Baton Rouge. It’s because of high crime and poor public schools. But offer good public schools here, and people will pour back into this parish, *especially to St. George where crime is low.*

Like Zachary and Central, the proposed Southeast Community School System will bring middle income working people with children back to the parish and make it once again a “normal” community. Police officers will come too!



**EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH** sheriff deputies live in the City of Baton Rouge.

# What Exxon Means to East Baton Rouge Parish

**Professor Loren Scott**  
Economist

My latest report on the economic impact of ExxonMobil's four facilities indicates the company employs 6,915 employees and contract workers at an average wage of \$74,158 a year — 51 percent above the average wage in East Baton Rouge Parish. For the last 10 years, the company has invested in excess of \$250 million A YEAR in capital spending at these plants. Taking into account the multiplier effect, every 10th job in the parish can be traced back to these four plants. Yet, Together Baton Rouge says ExxonMobil is not doing enough.

In 2017, ExxonMobil paid East Baton Rouge Parish \$32.7 million in property taxes, two and a half times more than the 2nd ranked payer, Entergy. No other company in the state writes out a check that large to a parish government. In second place is Entergy, paying St. Charles Parish a much lower \$20.1 million. But TBR says ExxonMobil is not doing enough.



ExxonMobil is the largest taxpayer in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Adding in direct and indirect sales taxes generated through the multiplier effect, ExxonMobil produced \$88.5 million for our local government — enough money to pay the salaries of 58 percent of the public school teachers in the parish. As a result, depending on what ranking you use, our schoolteacher pay ranks between 11th and 16th in the state. But TBR says ExxonMobil is not doing enough.

In 2017, ExxonMobil and its employees contributed \$1.4 million to our United Way, about 14 percent of UW's total collections and the largest from any entity in the region. The ExxonMobil Foundation contributed \$1.1 million to LSU and Southern universities last year, and the company and its employees and retirees contributed \$4 million to Baton Rouge area nonprofits and schools. But TBR says ExxonMobil is not doing enough.

TBR points out that ExxonMo-

bil's Joliet Refinery in Illinois receives no property tax breaks. The Joliet Refinery is half the size of Baton Rouge's. Would TBR like to take all the numbers in the previous paragraphs and cut them in half?

TBR says the company's refineries in Texas pay more in property taxes. The refineries in Texas did not have to write out a check for \$17.5 million in corporate income taxes like ExxonMobil did in Louisiana in 2016. In addition to no income tax, Texas has a unified sales tax collection, does not tax manufacturing utilities, does not tax manufacturing equipment, does not tax manufacturing inputs, has significantly lower local sales tax rates, and has a much higher ranking in education, roads and legal environment. But the "economists" with TBR say we do not need the industrial tax exemption to compete with Texas.

The Baton Rouge debate pushed by TBR can create a precedent for every parish with industrial facilities.

If TBR prevails, prepare for the poor in our community becoming much worse off.

Reprinted from *Capital City News* of July 25, 2013

## Together Baton Rouge, Saul Alinsky, and Snake Oil

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In January 2019, far-left Together Baton Rouge launched an attack against ExxonMobil resulting in the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board defeating 5-4 a routine Industrial Tax Exemption (ITEP) for Exxon's Baton Rouge refinery. The school board action and some of the harsh attacks against Exxon raised questions as to whether Baton Rouge was still a good home for Exxon and whether the company would sour on Louisiana's capital city. In 2013, our sister publication, the Capital City News published this article exposing the radical left roots of Together Baton Rouge, which came here in 2011. The school board action has been the result of eight years of radical political organizing at the grassroots level in Baton Rouge.

**BATON ROUGE** — If Brod Bagert had come to the river city of Baton Rouge in the 1850's fresh off the steamboat with a trunk full of snake oil and promises of miracle cures, he could not have gotten a more enthusiastic reception than he got when he arrived here in 2011 with promises to make Baton Rouge "the next great city."

The veteran community organizer began working for the Industrial Areas Foundation in 2002. From his home in New Orleans, it was a natural step to come to Baton Rouge to help organize Together Baton Rouge and use public transportation to push an agenda of urban socialism.

The fact that Baton Rouge is a low density city where few people ride the bus didn't matter. A host of religious liberals and some big businesses represented by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber were eager to join in.

Bagert helped Together Baton Rouge organize mass meetings and generate media exposure in almost every major media outlet in the city. They said poor people were suffering and the reason very few people rode the bus was not enough buses and not enough routes.

**“Saul Alinsky said community organizers should use ‘symbol construction’ to create unity. He would draw on loyalty to a church or religious group to create an organization within which to function. Alinsky said create unity by identifying a common enemy, usually a local politician or opposing group. The next step is to destroy that person or group. The tactic is ‘Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it.’”**

A tax would be needed, Together Baton Rouge said, to increase the Capital Area Transportation System budget from \$12 million a year to \$30 million. A new 10.6 mill property tax, generating \$180 million over 10 years was proposed for Baton Rouge, Baker, and Zachary. Other parts of the parish, which had voted against a smaller tax two years before, were excluded from the vote.

Bagert organized churches in the inner city to get out the vote, and the tax narrowly passed in Baton Rouge and Baker.

The website of Together Baton Rouge, [www.togetherbatonrouge.org](http://www.togetherbatonrouge.org),

says in the "About" section that the group is part of the Industrial Areas Foundation. The Industrial Areas Foundation was organized by Saul Alinsky in 1940 and still follows many of his teachings on community organizing. Alinsky is famous for his book, *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals*. It was published just before his death in 1971.

*Rules for Radicals*, which is in pdf form on-line, says the end justifies the means and advocates "direct action" to create conflict.

Alinsky said community organizers should use "symbol construction" to create unity. He would

draw on loyalty to a church or religious group to create an organization within which to function. Alinsky said create unity by identifying a common enemy, usually a local politician or opposing group. The next step is to destroy that person or group. The tactic is "Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it."

One of Alinsky's rules is "Power is not what you have but what the enemy thinks you have." Another is "Make the enemy live up to its own rules." Still another is "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon."

Alinsky focused on class warfare and knew that if he could make in-roads in the "middle class," he could be victorious.

Snake oil sells!

Together Baton Rouge's current target is the City of St. George.

Watch More on  
Saul Alinsky  
Point Phone  
at QR Code

**The Advocate** worked with  
**Together Baton Rouge** to Create  
A Hostile Climate for Major Industry  
And for Industrial Tax Exemptions.  
Then TBR Lobbied the School Board to  
Reject Exxon's ITEP and They Did!  
Now The Advocate and Together Baton  
Rouge Are Working Together Again,  
Fighting to Kill the City of St. George.



## Let's Elect a Leader with a Lifetime of Service!

- Military Veteran
- Retired East Baton Rouge Police Officer
- Small Business Owner
- Attorney

### But more importantly...

- Christian
- Husband
- Father

### A Conservative Community Leader!

- 100% Pro-Life Rating
- Pro-Family
- Pro-Second Amendment

#### PROUDLY ENDORSED BY:

- Former Police Chief Jeff LeDuff
- Former Police Chief Pat Englede
- Louisiana Law Enforcement Association
- International Union of Police Associations
- Baton Rouge Union of Police
- Baton Rouge Association of Firefighters



**Tommy Dewey**  
*A Lifetime of Service*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

[www.electtommydewey.com](http://www.electtommydewey.com)

Phone: 225-933-3210

Email: [Tommy@electtommydewey.com](mailto:Tommy@electtommydewey.com)

(PAID FOR BY THE TOMMY DEWEY CAMPAIGN)

City of St. George  
Voter Registration Statistics  
September 22, 2019

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| Registered Voters         |
| 54,680                    |
| White Voters              |
| 44,139                    |
| Black Voters              |
| 6,760                     |
| Other Races               |
| 3,781                     |
| Democrats                 |
| 13,375                    |
| Republicans               |
| 27,124                    |
| Other Parties or No Party |
| 14,181                    |



Your St. George Community Newspaper

St. George Leader

Community Press • 910 N. Foster • Baton Rouge 70806  
Phone (225) 261-5055

City of St. George Could  
Be Conservative Bastion

**ST. GEORGE** — If the people of the proposed City of St. George vote to create the new municipality on Saturday, Oct. 12, the ramifications are likely to be far-reaching.

The demographics of the proposed city are white and Republican, overwhelmingly so.

With 86,000 people, it will be the fifth largest city in the state and is likely to become a player in state and even national politics.

Many national retail chains pick their locations based on the size of the city. By being close to a population of 100,000, St. George will be noticed by the chains who may locate here, in some cases even ahead of Baton Rouge, because of St. George's high median income.

Political candidates and elected officials will have to consider the views of the people of St. George with its 86,000 citizens and nearly 55,000 voters.

St. George is likely to get "a seat at the table" whenever policy is being decided at the parish level or in the Capital region.

That will likely mean another conservative voice to go along with the Mayor of Central and parish presidents from Livingston and Ascension parishes.

If, as expected, St. George gets its own school system and rapidly moves into the top tier of school systems in Louisiana, along with Zachary and Central, St. George could become a venue where families with children seek to move. As people look for homes and apartments in St. George, property values

and tax revenue should increase.

As people move into St. George from Livingston and Ascension, it could also affect the demographics of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Politically, the parish is at the tipping point. Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate for President, carried East Baton Rouge Parish by 16,000 votes in 2016, indicating that Democrats now have a decided advantage in the parish.

That could change as conservative, middle income working people return to the southeast part of the parish from Livingston and Ascension.

Furthermore, interest in St. George politics could motivate voters in St. George to turn out at a higher rate than voters in the rest of the parish. President Donald Trump carried St. George with more than 80 percent of the vote. When controversies in St. George cause voters to turnout heavily, voters on both sides of the issue are likely to be conservative and Republican.

That happened last Saturday during the first day of early voting. Voters in East Baton Rouge Parish turned out at a rate 2.5 times higher than in 2015 — largely based on interest in St. George. A total of 569 voters turned out for early voting downtown, 773 in Baker, and 629 in Baker. However, the turnout was record-setting at the two early sites close to St. George. On Saturday, 1,459 turned out at the voting place on Coursey Boulevard and 2,567 at the Secretary of State office on Es-

We believe  
**EFFICIENCY IS POWER**



Energy efficiency and conservation are a great way to affect your monthly bill and it's a lot easier than you think. Simple steps can add up to real savings.

Learn more at [demco.org](http://demco.org)

/DEMCOLouisiana



Rick Edmonds

State Representative

Proven Conservative  
Your State Representative

Four years ago, you had some concerns and I made some commitments to you. I told you that I wouldn't vote for taxes, I would work to get the Pecue Lane Interchange started, and I would stand for conservative values.

Promises Made - Promises Kept.

Now, I am humbly asking you for your vote again - let's continue the progress that has been started!

*Rick Edmonds*



Much Done - Much to Do.

PROVEN CONSERVATIVE RECORD

Rick Edmonds is a **conservative Republican leader** in the Louisiana House of Representatives, authoring and supporting legislation that cuts government waste, increases budget transparency, and demands accountability. He was one of the few who **voted against all income tax and sales tax increases.**

KEPT HIS WORD TO DISTRICT 66

When Rick ran for State Representative in 2015, he committed to be a solid vote for our conservative values. Promise made; promise kept. Rick voted:

- against all major tax increases;
- to increase **transparency in government**;
- to make Louisiana a more **pro-life and pro-adoption** state;
- to protect our **2nd Amendment rights**; and,
- to secure important projects like the **Pecue Lane interchange and the widening of I-10.**



Election Day: Oct. 12 • Early Voting: Sept. 28 - Oct. 5



ENDORSED BY:



Rick Edmonds

State Representative

www.RickEdmonds.com

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BALLOT

Language Below Comes From The Public Affairs Research Council (PAR). For more information, visit [www.parlouisiana.org](http://www.parlouisiana.org).

Amendment No. 1

Offshore Goods Property Tax Exemption

- A vote FOR would create a property tax exemption for certain goods destined for the Outer Continental Shelf.
- A vote AGAINST would continue such taxation unless ruled unconstitutional under the U.S. commerce clause.

Amendment No. 2

Adds Schools to the Education Excellence Fund

- A vote FOR would allow the Education Excellence Fund to finance three more schools and public TV.
- A vote AGAINST would keep the Fund's money limited to the current recipients.

Amendment No. 3

Board of Tax Appeals Jurisdiction

- A vote FOR would Allow the Board of Tax Appeals to rule on constitutional questions.
- A vote AGAINST would continue to assign constitutional questions in tax disputes only to the courts.

Amendment No. 4

New Orleans Tax Exemption for Affordable Housing

- A vote FOR would give New Orleans the ability to create a residential property tax exemption for affordable housing developments.
- A vote AGAINST would keep the current property tax structure in New Orleans.

Paid for by the Rick Edmonds Campaign

# St. George Supporters Were Called Taliban

## Mayoral Candidate Refused to Back Off Use of Word ‘Taliban’

**BATON ROUGE** — In May 2016, Metro Councilman John Delgado brought his campaign for Mayor-President to the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon and outlined his plans for City-Parish government, especially fighting crime. He said crime is the No. 1 problem facing the parish, and he wanted to add 200 officers to the Baton Rouge Police Department.

The outspoken Republican who takes a liberal position on some hot button issues was given a chance to back off from some of his harsh attacks against conservatives in the past, but he refused to do so.

When asked if he would retract his comparison of supporters of incorporating the City of St. George with the Taliban (a terrorist group in the Middle East), Delgado said he was not very politically correct and that the comment was made during “a heated time,” but he did not retract it.

Dwight Hudson, at that time himself a candidate for Metro Council, told Delgado that his public statements on those who disagree seem to take on a pattern of demagoguery. “You talk about being ‘Better Together’ but when it comes to supporters of St. George or opponents of the Fairness Ordinance, you don’t bring us together.” Delgado responded that “I am who I am.”

The first-term Councilman said



Photo by Woody Jenkins

Metro Councilman John Delgado, candidate for Mayor-President in 2016

he would help create good-paying jobs with economic development. One untapped resource is the parish’s 12 miles of undeveloped river frontage.

Improving traffic problems would also be a priority, he said. He discussed the Loop and expanding the Green Light Program. He said the City Parish should be part of solving the education problem in the parish by expanding Head Start and recruiting great charter providers to the parish.

Delgado said supporters of St. George should work together to fix the parish’s problems, but St.

George leader Norman Browning told him he called a meeting of Metro Councilmen to address the problems at Woodlawn High School, and only one — Buddy Amoroso — bothered to come.

“None of the Councilmen who say we need to ‘work together’ showed up, nor did Better Together or One Community, One School System,” Browning said.

Delgado lost the Mayor-President’s race badly, and he has not been active in local politics since.

However, he opened the door to demonizing supporters of St.

George, even calling them terrorists.

Even when Delgado had cooled off — weeks later — he refused to back down and persisted in vilifying the citizens of Southeast East Baton Rouge Parish as Taliban.

The attacks came because people wanted to incorporate and have their own city and their own school system to address the needs of their community.

After Delgado got by with his irresponsible attacks, other local officials became more open in calling supporters of St. George racists. They were certain there was a racial motive in the desire to start a city and a school system.

Better Together? Why would anyone want to be together with the “Taliban”?

### St. George Leader

910 North Foster Dr.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

225-261-5055

centralcitynews@  
hotmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE  
St. George Leader

Community Press, LLC

Woody Jenkins  
Editor

Our Newspapers Named  
Best Community  
Newspapers in Louisiana  
Six of Past Nine Years

# YOU'RE INVITED

  
**Woodlawn**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
5805 Jones Creek Road

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

# 10:15 AM

# Most Issues in Any Legal Challenge To St. George Have Been Resolved

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — The decision by the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal, written by Judge Robert Downing, in the challenge to the incorporation of the City of Central, addressed most of the issues likely to be raised in any challenge to the incorporation of the proposed City of St. George.

The case, *Devall v. Starns*, was decided Dec. 11, 2006, by the 1st Circuit. The ruling was upheld by the state Supreme Court.

In that case, attorney Yigal Bandner made some of the same racial claims against the City of Central that he is making now against the proposed City of St. George.

Some of the key language from that decision is as follows:

- **Residents Outside the Municipality Have No Right to Vote on Incorporation.** “We hold... that plaintiffs failed to sustain their burden of proving that the incorporation procedural statutes were unconstitutional or that the persons living outside of the area of incorporation were deprived of their right to equal protection or their right to vote, and uphold the validity of the incorporation of the City of Central.”
- **City-Parish Plan of Government, Which Attempts to Prohibit Additional Cities from Incorporating, Is Contrary to Louisiana Constitution of 1974.** “It is evident that after 1984, Section 1.05 of the

Plan of Government prohibiting the incorporation of any additional city or town in the Parish of East Baton Rouge was superseded by the general law enacted by the legislature in Title 33 authorizing the incorporation of an area in excess of two hundred inhabitants. Moreover, Section 1.05 violated the constitutional ban on any provision of a parish plan of government prohibiting the incorporation of a city or town as provided by the general law. Thus, as of 1984, Section 1.05 was no longer a viable and enforceable provision.”

- **Louisiana Law on Incorporation Is Not Unconstitutional on Its Face or as Applied.** “We find that plaintiffs failed to prove that any of the provisions of La. R.S. 33:1-7, which provide a procedure for incorporating areas with two hundred or more residents to petition the governor to hold an election on the incorporation issue, are facially unconstitutional. Nor have plaintiffs demonstrated how those provisions are unconstitutional as applied. Plaintiffs failed to offer competent evidence in support of their claim that the boundaries of Central were purposefully drawn in a racially discriminatory fashion or were chosen to deprive black citizens in the area of their right to vote.”
- **No Evidence That Services Could Not Be Provided or That Other Municipalities Would Be Adversely Affected.** “Plaintiffs failed to establish that the petition was fatally defective, or that there

was a deficiency in the certification of the registrar of voters. Instead, Mr. Starns offered evidence showing that the preliminary requirements for incorporation were in fact met. Additionally, Mr. Starns offered evidence demonstrating that public services are being provided to the citizens of Central, and nothing in the evidence indicated that such services would not be provided in the future. Moreover, there was no evidence suggesting that the incorporation would have any adverse effects on other municipalities in the vicinity, nor was there any evidence demonstrating that the incorporation of Central was unreasonable.”

- **A Plaintiff Who Loses Will Have to Pay Attorney Fees and Court Costs.** “For these reasons, we find that plaintiffs failed to sustain their burden of proving any of the grounds upon which the validity of the incorporation of the City of Central was challenged. In accordance with La. R.S. 33:4(E)(1), we enter judgment declaring the City of Central to be incorporated as of July 11, 2005, and having those boundaries as set forth in the legal description of the area to be incorporated in the petition for incorporation. In light of this ruling, all requests for relief raised in plaintiffs’ answer to this appeal are denied as moot. Trial court costs and costs of this appeal are assessed to plaintiffs/appellees.”

As a result of this decision, any challenge to the incorporation of St. George could have a difficult road.



## St. George Leader To Use St. George Knight as Symbol

**ST. GEORGE** — In honor of St. George, the patron saint of England, the *St. George Leader* has adopted as its symbol a St. George knight who carries a shield bearing the St. George Cross.

Key personnel for the newspaper are Woody Jenkins, editor; Jolice Provost, business manager, and advertising manager Kim Powers. Ms. Provost has been with Community Press, LLC, for 10 years and Ms. Powers for five years. For advertising, call Kim Powers at 225-921-1433. For news, ad design, and billing, call Ms. Provost at 225-261-5055. The email for both is central-citynews@hotmail.com.



A photograph of Bodi White, a man with white hair, wearing a dark suit and tie, speaking at a podium with a microphone. He is holding a pen in his right hand.

# Bodi is Getting the Job Done!

**Bodi White understands the devastation that was caused by the 2016 Flood. That's why he has worked to fund the important flood control projects for our area:**

- Comite River Diversion Canal
- Dredging of the Amite River
- 5 Major Flood Control Projects in East Baton Rouge Parish
- Better Drainage of Local Tributaries Across Southeast Baton Rouge

## Mack "Bodi" WHITE

### STATE ★ SENATE

Early Voting: Sept. 28-Oct. 5 Election Day: Oct. 12

[mackbodiwhite.com](http://mackbodiwhite.com) /BodiWhite

Paid for by Bodi White for State Senate Campaign



**VOTE YES FOR THE CITY OF ST. GEORGE**

WWW.STGEORGELOUISIANA.COM

- ✓ Better Government & Local Control
- ✓ Multi-Million Budget Surplus
- ✓ Your Tax Dollars Stay in Your Area



**FACT: NO NEW TAXES**  
St. George incorporation will not lead to tax increases.

**Don't just take our word, trust the experts:**

The organizers of the City of St. George commissioned Carr, Riggs and Ingram LLC, a top municipal accounting firm, to produce a report detailing the financial viability of the proposed city. The report clearly states that the City of St. George would operate with a multi-million surplus and would not have to raise taxes.



**FACT: HEALTHIER ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
Since incorporation, the City of Central has consistently had a surplus.

The Defenders of the Status Quo made these same tired arguments against the incorporation of Central, but Central has never had to raise taxes and always operated with a surplus.

*On October 12<sup>th</sup>, you have a rare opportunity to create a world-class city and give people and families a reason to move back to Baton Rouge.*

**ELECTION DAY SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**VOTE YES FOR THE  
CITY OF ST. GEORGE**



WWW.STGEORGELOUISIANA.COM

Paid for by the St. George PAC