

Wade Evans to Leave at End of Current Term

Mayor Won't Seek Reelection

Surprise Candidate In Race for Mayor: Coach Sid's Chief of Staff Lon Vicknair

CENTRAL - Retired Naval officer Lon Vicknair has announced his candidacy for Mayor of Central in municipal elections set for Nov. 3.

The native of Central graduated from Central High School in 1999 before embarking on a 20-year career in the United States Navy. He was one of the Navy's highest ranking enlisted men before being commissioned as an officer.

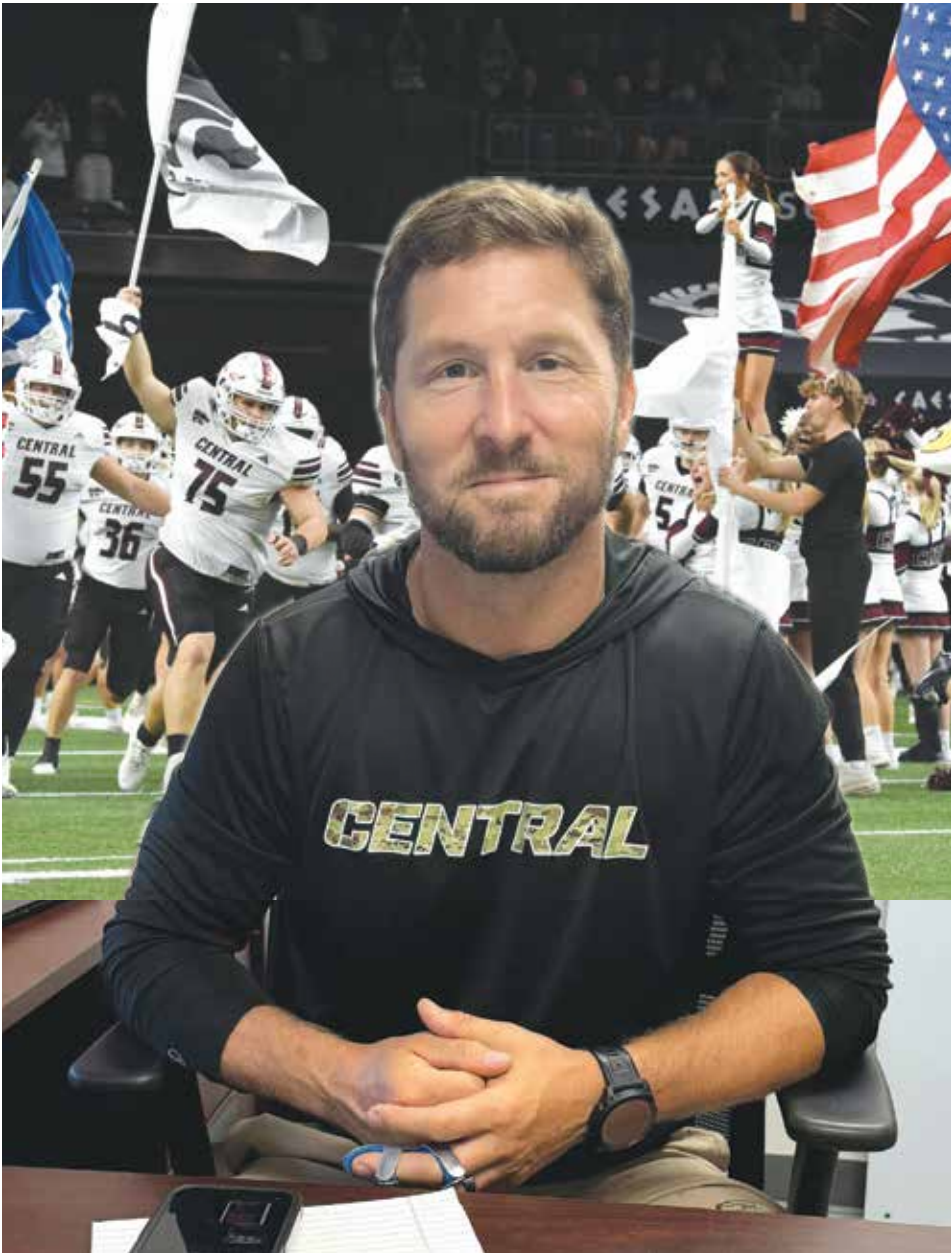
Vicknair was deployed on the ground 13 times to some of the world's hotspots including Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria in both combat and non-combat missions, as well as to Italy, Spain, and Japan.

Most recently, he has served as Chief of Staff to Mayor-President Sid Edwards.

He and his wife Rebecca have four children. She is a Navy petty officer first class and president of Republican Women of Central.

Lon earned his Executive Masters degree in business from LSU

See VICKNAIR on Page 11



EXCITING PROSPECTS — Central High AD and head football coach David Simoneaux is expecting another banner year this fall after a State Championship in 2024 and making the Quarterfinals in 2025. The Wildcats will feature Max Gassiott at quarterback and a host of talented returning starters. The jamboree is Aug. 31 against St. Amant and East Ascension.

Mayor Evans Improved City Services, Built New City Hall, Worked with Central's City Council

CENTRAL - Central Mayor Wade Evans announced this week that he will not seek election to a second four-year term during qualifying Aug. 5-7. As mayor, Evans has made many improvements in city services including an aggressive attack on potholes and emphasis on preventive maintenance.



Wade Evans

He was also a driving force behind construction of Central's new City Hall on Sullivan Road.

In a prepared statement, the mayor said, "After much prayer, reflection, and conversations with those closest to me, I have made the decision not to seek another term as Mayor of the City of Central."

"This was not a decision I made lightly. Serving this community for the past eight years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. When I first took office, I made a simple promise: to leave Central better than I found it. Today, I can say with gratitude and humility that, together, we have done exactly that."

See MAYOR on Page 14

Most Members of City Council, School Board To Seek Reelection; Qualifying Set for Aug. 5-7

CENTRAL - On Nov. 3, 2026, the voters of Central could face the longest ballot in history because all City of Central elected officials and all members of the Central Community School Board are up for reelection at the same time. Until this year, city and school board elections were in different years.

Qualifying for the Nov. 3 election will be held Wednesday, Aug. 3 through Friday, Aug. 5. Clerk of Court Doug Welborn will accept qualifying papers at Central City Hall on Wednesday until 11:30 a.m.

Three members of the Central city government have announced they will not run for reelection:

- Mayor Wade Evans
- Council member D'Ann Wells who will run for Mayor
- Council member Kim Fralick



NOT SEEKING REELECTION this fall will be Central School Board president Roxanne Atkinson and vice president Dr. David Walker, and Council member Dr. Kim Fralick.

Two incumbent members of the Central School Board have announced they will not run for reelection. Both are term-limited:

- School board president Roxanne Atkinson
- School board vice president David Walker

Coach Simoneaux Interview

Central High Football Preparing for Highly Competitive Season

CENTRAL - The next edition of the **Central City News** will feature an indepth interview with Central head football coach David Simoneaux. The season kicks off Sept. 6 against Acadiana (and Doug Dotson) followed by Denham, John Ehret, and West Monroe. The Wildcats will have one of their strongest lineups ever. Leaders include QB Max Gassiott, RB Tristan Rose, Center Landon Crochet, WR Brody Diel, DL Jaydon Garnett, Safety Marvin Joseph, and others.

Tobious Sherwin Threw First 3 Punches, But Pastor Arrested

Pastor Fights Back After Man Threatens To Rape His Wife, Kill His Grandchildren

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — On Tuesday morning, June 23, 2026, Rev. Tony Spell, pastor of Life Tabernacle Church in Central, was working on one of the church’s 52 buses used in its ministry to the poorest of the poor in Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. The pastor heard a



Tobious Sherwin takes first of three swings at Pastor

familiar voice shouting obscenities and making threats. It was Tobious Sherwin, 20-year-old son of Scott Sherwin. According to the pastor, Tobias said, “Hey Tony, I’m going to rape your wife and, when you’re out of town, I’m gonna kill your wife and grandchildren! What the F- are you going to do about it?”

Pastor Spell had heard it all before from the Sherwins, the “neighbors” across from the main entrance to Life Tabernacle who apparently harbor deep hatred to-

ward the church and racial hatred toward the black members of the congregation. According to the congregation, on more than 1,000



SIX YEARS OF THREATS OF VIOLENCE, lurid gestures, profanity, and calling black women and children the N-word by Scott Sherwin (above), his wife (in three photos on right), and son have paused since Rev. Tony Spell fought back against the son.

“This has been the most peaceful time in the last six years! For the first time in six years, our adults and children of all nationalities and races have been able to come to church without being called the N-word and other racial slurs! The people across the street haven’t been shouting obscenities or threatening to rape or kill the women or children of the church. They haven’t been throwing us the finger or grabbing their crotch or laying on the ground with their legs spread eagle! We’ve been able to function like a normal church! What a blessing it has been! We are constantly reminded that what is meant for evil, God turns to good!” — **Rev. Tony Spell of Life Tabernacle**

ward the church and racial hatred toward the black members of the congregation. According to the congregation, on more than 1,000

occasions the Sherwins had shouted obscenities, called black children the N-word, or threatened to rape and kill people going in or out

of the church parking lot. This time Pastor Spell decided to confront Sherwin. On the shoulder

See LIFE on Page 3



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Life Tabernacle Congregation Feels Relief, Six Years of Harassment Has Been Paused

Church Members Say There Have Been 1,000 Or More Incidents by Sherwins over Six Years

Continued from Page 2
of the road, Sherwin didn't retreat but lunged at him and threw three punches, one of them scratching the side of the pastor's head. That's when the pastor fought back against Sherwin. Rev. Spell finally let him up and was walking away but then Sherwin shouted, "I'll see your ass in prison, you M-F-er." That's when the pastor turned and administered a kick to the stomach. Shortly afterwards, the Sheriff's office arrived. Instead of arresting Sherwin for terrorizing and menacing, La.R.S. 14:40.1 (threatening great bodily harm), the Sheriff arrested the pastor for second de-

See PASTOR on Page 13



Testimony of Lacie
Church Member Who
Recounts Threats of Violence,
Racial Slurs against Black
Children and
Adults
by Sherwin
Family
June 24, 2026



Lacie, one of church's faithful -- Mother of 4 who adopted two others said she and her children have been threatened and called the N-word many times by the Sherwins.

LARGE, MULTI-RACIAL CONGREGATION — With more than 10,000 members, Life Tabernacle has one of the largest Sunday Schools in the South. On Sunday morning, 52 buses bring children to church from the poorest areas of the Capital region. Church services on Sunday morning are about 60 percent black with 27 nationalities.

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Lesson to Be Learned from Letlow's Victory Races for Two Congressional Seats Could Be Affected by Miguez's Decision, Role of Trump

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Let's Finish What We Started.

President Trump Could Be Key to Victory for Candidates Who Win Coveted Endorsement

Woody Jenkins

Editor

BATON ROUGE - Julia Letlow's winning the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate May 16 holds many lessons for candidates in Louisiana during the Trump era. Although Treasurer John Fleming had built a strong grassroots organization and was leading in the polls the week of the election, Letlow won easily.

Congresswoman Letlow outspent Fleming at least four to one but had an even greater financial advantage because of millions spent on her behalf by dark money through Gov. Jeff Landry's organization, the Accountability Project.

However, money alone probably could not have secured Letlow's win. It was the full-throated endorsement by President Trump and the effective use of that endorsement that made all the difference.

Now in the race for Congress in Louisiana's Fifth and Sixth Districts, Trump's support and a heavy financial advantage by one candidate could make a big difference.

That candidate may or may not be State Sen. Blake Miguez. Miguez definitely has the money with at least \$2 million in the bank. But will he have the Trump endorsement and in which district?

As candidates campaigned in the May 16 Republican primary, Miguez did have Trump's endorsement. But then things changed. The May 16 election was cancelled and a new Congressional reapportionment plan was put into effect. Now candidates are running in the Nov. 3 open primary. Qualifying is Aug. 5-7.

As of Thursday, July 30, Sen. Miguez has made it clear he is running for Congress this fall, but he had not yet said whether he will run in the Fifth District or the Sixth District. The Fifth District includes Northeast Louisiana and much of the Florida Parishes, while the Sixth District is centered around Baton Rouge.

Therein lies a dilemma. It would clearly be in Blake Miguez's best interest to represent the 6th District in Congress. It is the political and media hub of the state. A relatively compact area easy to represent. It's easy to fly back and forth from Baton Rouge to Washington. Plus, Sen. Miguez owns a home and a business here.

On the other hand, the Fifth District sprawls from Arkansas to Lake Pontchartrain. Covering the district is roughly equivalent to covering a small state. The senator has few ties there, and flying from Monroe or Alexandria to Washington twice a week would be a nightmare.

The problem is, the Trump endorsement is apparently his for the asking if he runs in the Fifth. But that endorsement is anything but certain in the Sixth.

It appears the senator is waiting to see if the President makes a decision before qualifying opens on Wednesday, Aug. 3.

The irony is, the President is probably not thinking about this at



President Donald Trump
A nod from the President could affect who represents us in Congress.

all. He has a world to fix. Things like this are typically delegated to campaign operatives, and he will probably simply approve their recommendations or perhaps they already have his permission to make decisions like this on their own.

Sen. Miguez's decision about where to run would be easy if the President or his people act soon and tell him if he will have the endorsement and where. But if the President doesn't let him know by Wednesday, the senator will have a fateful decision to make — run in the Fifth and hope the President's support does in fact come through or run in the Sixth, even though the political winds seem to be saying the President won't endorse him in the Sixth.

Meanwhile, here in East Baton Rouge Parish, the Republican Party has already endorsed two outstanding candidates in the Sixth District — Sen. Rick Edmonds and Monique Appeaning. Prior to the May 16 Republican primary, the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish endorsed Monique in the Sixth District and Rick in the Fifth District. At a recent meeting of the Republican Parish Executive Committee, the committee reiterated its support for both candidates in the newly-configured Sixth District, where both have long resided and still do. Appeaning and Edmonds answered the detailed questionnaire of the party and were interviewed in person. The committee said it is not necessary for either to go through that process again.

For the time being, all of the candidates in the Fifth and Sixth Districts are plowing forward with their campaigns, pretending that Miguez doesn't exist but hoping that he chooses to run in the other district and that the President will then endorse them.

The President's endorsement is indeed a big thing in Louisiana in 2026. You certainly would rather have it than not — by a long shot!

As of Thursday, July 30, candidates expected to run in the 5th Congressional District include Republicans:

- Sen. Stewart Cathey
- Misty Cordell
- Rep. Michael Echols
- Rep. Gabe Firment
- Austin McGee

In the 6th Congressional District, Republican candidates are:

- Monique Appeaning
- Larry Davis
- Sen. Rick Edmonds
- Peter Williams

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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 resumed publication as the Capital City News on Aug. 16, 2012, with Vol. 21, No. 1. It has become the St. George Leader. 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.



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Judge Mike McDonald speaks at Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish on most important traits to look for when electing a judge.

Senior Judge with 39 Years' Experience on the Bench

Court of Appeal Judge Mike McDonald Tells What Qualities Make a Good Judge

With 21 Judicial Seats To Be Filled This Year, What Should We Seek In Judicial Candidates

Woody Jenkins

Editor



Judge Mike McDonald (senior status)
Louisiana 1st Court of Appeal

BATON ROUGE - Judge Mike McDonald is a 1964 graduate of Baton Rouge High School and a 1976 graduate of the LSU Law Center. For 39 years, he has been a respected judge in Baton Rouge, serving first as District Judge and then as a member of the First Circuit Court of Appeal. He currently has senior status and is assigned *ad hoc* to replace judges who are recused or otherwise unable to serve.

This fall voters in East Baton Rouge Parish will have to fill a total of 21 judgeships including 15 District Court judges, four Family Court judges, and two Juvenile Court judges.

This week the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish asked Judge McDonald to speak on what voters should look for when evaluating candidates for Judge.

His speech to the group was timeless and could be used anywhere now or in the future as a guide to evaluating candidates for this most important office. During his talk, Judge McDonald poked fun at both federal judges and the legislature.

He asked what the difference is between a federal judge and God? He said the difference is God doesn't think he's a federal judge!

With regard to the legislature, he said they think they're very important and struggle to pass bills by a majority or even a 2/3rds' vote. But

often a single local District Judge can rule their work completely unconstitutional.

This comment highlighted the importance of who is elected to be our judges. It is said the most powerful man in the nation is the President and the second most powerful is the local trial judge. That's because he can put you in prison, send you to death row, take away your children, or allow the seizure of your property.

Judge McDonald said a judge should have four essential traits:

- Integrity
- Impartiality
- Intelligence
- Industry

He said a good judge needs a solid legal background, intelligence, and a balanced judicial temperament.

The judge recalled when he was a lawyer and was asked to support a friend of his for District Judge. "He was a good man and a good lawyer but didn't have the temperament of a good judge. We didn't support him."

Impartiality and integrity are key. "You have to be free of bias and political influence," he said. "You

have to be able to make your decision solely based on the facts and the law, even if unpopular."

Integrity is everything, the judge said, and you cannot base your decisions on race, the wealth of the parties, or personal relationships.

In today's climate, a judge has to have patience and a thick skin. "People take shots at you and file judicial complaints. Sometimes they use complaints as a way to shop for judges. They hope they can have a judge disqualified so that they can get someone who would be more favorable to their cause."

The judge said it is essential that a judge be able to communicate with attorneys, litigants, and witnesses in a calm, courteous, and reasonable manner. This takes patience.

"A judge must listen attentively and has to leave his ego at the door. You must be calm under pressure," he said.

A judge should be intelligent and legally competent, both from a procedural and a substantive standpoint. He must be able to articulate his opinions, both orally and in writing, he said.

It is best if a candidate for judge has broad life experiences and a good legal background. Trial experience is important.

A few years ago, Judge McDonald recalled that President Trump nominated someone to the bench who was a fine person but had never been to court. Sen. Kennedy asked him some basic questions, which revealed that he lacked even a fundamental understanding of how to conduct a trial. Ultimately, the

nomination was withdrawn.

Professional experience, including experience in legal writing and teaching could be important

Above all is character! Jokingly, the judge said "Not that you are a character!" He asked rhetorically, What is the candidate's reputation in the community? How active has he been? How well is he regarded?

It is important that a judge remember something else, he said. Lawyers and judges have lots of cases. But litigants don't. This may be one of the most important things that ever happens in their lives. This is their case, and the judge needs to treat it that way.

Judge McDonald is a master storyteller and often uses a funny story to make his point.

He ended his talk by telling the difference between lawyers and judges. "Once there was a hunting camp that featured an expert hunting dog. His name was Lawyer. Everyone who went to the camp wanted Lawyer to be their dog because he was so proficient. But one day when a hunter came to the camp and asked for Lawyer, he was told Lawyer was no longer available. When he asked why, he was told, 'Well, we changed Lawyer's name to Judge and now all he does is sit on his rear all day and bark!'"

During questions and answers, Judge McDonald was asked how he felt about cameras in the courtroom. He said, "Well, I didn't grow up with cameras in the courtroom so I'm not used to it. My fear is that everyone in court will play to the cameras. However, I guess it would be OK if the video is not released until after the trial is done."

Our thanks to Judge McDonald for his many years of service and for sharing his wisdom with the voters of today and voters of the future.



Woody Jenkins

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THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE was signed on July 2, 1776. That historic event was celebrated at Louisiana’s Old State Capitol on July 2, 2026. The Sons of the American Revolution appeared in uniform, and Ann Bergeron spoke on behalf of Louisiana women of the day. Rep. Mike Bayham was honored for his work on the anniversary.

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Ann Bergeron told about life of Acadian women in Spanish Louisiana.



Louisiana’s Old State Capitol hosted a display of the Louisiana Purchase during the July 4 holiday.

Honoring the Declaration

Old State Capitol
July 2, 2026

Louisiana 250 Commission
Rep. Mike Baham
Chairman
Photos by Woody Jenkins



America 250 on the River Celebration: Louisiana’s Salute to American Liberty



LOUISIANA’S AMERICA 250 COMMISSION held the state’s 250th anniversary celebration of the United States on July 4, 2026. Rep. Mike Bayham is commission chairman. Performers included John Schneider, Amanda Shaw, Wayne Toups, and the Marine Corps Reserve Band. Former Rep. Woody Jenkins served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.



America 250
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So Far, Only Two of 15 District Judgeships Have Contested Races as Qualifying Looms

Five Vacancies in 19th JDC Attract Candidates, None For Incumbents

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Legislature has adopted a new re-apportionment plan for the 15 district judgeships for the 19th Judicial District, which consists of East Baton Rouge Parish.

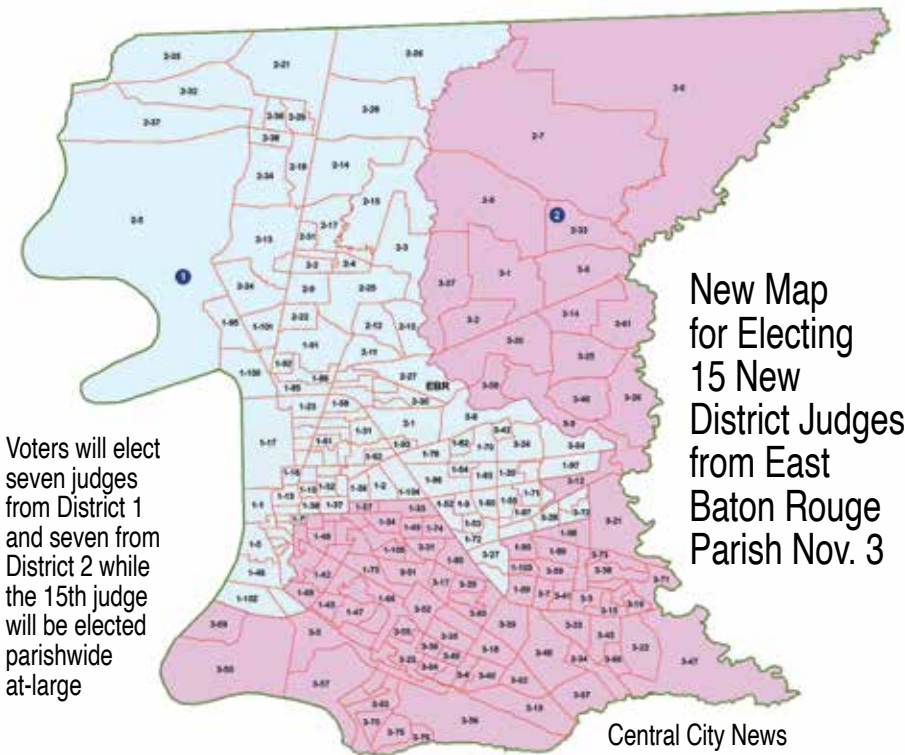
Starting this fall, seven judges will be elected from the new District 1 on the west side of the parish and seven from the new District 2 on the east side of the parish. District 1 is heavily black and District 2 is heavily white.

The 15th district judge will be elected parishwide. The voting population parishwide is 47 percent white and 44 percent black. Most parishwide elections are considered tossups between Republicans and Democrats.

Primarily due to mandatory retirements based on age, there will be five vacancies on the court.

So far, the 10 incumbent judges who are running for reelection have no opposition. Qualifying will be held Aug. 5-7.

Of the five judgeships with no incumbents, three announced candidates are unopposed so far. They are:



NEW MAP FOR DISTRICT JUDGES from East Baton Rouge Parish. Seven judges will be elected from District 1 (blue) and seven from District 2 (red). District 1 is majority black and leans Democrat. District 2 is majority white and leans Republican. The 15th judgeship will be elected parishwide and is considered a toss-up from a party standpoint.

- Democrat Jermaine Guillory who is running in Division L to replace Democrat Ron Johnson.

- Republican Jimmy Manasseh in Division E, seeking to replace Republican Brad Myers.

- Republican Kory Tauzin in Division G, seeking to replace Gail Horn Ray, who is a Democrat. The

new Division G leans Republican.

So far, there are only two judgeships of the 15 that are actually being contested.

In Division M, which is currently represented by Democrat Bonnie Jackson, the candidates are:

- Elzie Alford
- ReAzalia Allen

- A. J. Sabine
 - Vernon Thomas
- All are Democrats.

In the lone parishwide race, two candidates are running to replace Democrat Don Johnson. They are:

- Democrat Winston DeCuir, Jr.
- Republican Justin Delaune.

The incumbent district judges seeking reelection are:

District 1

Division A - Tarvald Smith (D)

Division D - William Jordan (D)

Division J - Colette Greggs (D)

Division K - Eboni Johnson Rose (D)

Division O - Vicky Jones (D)

District 2

Division C- Beau Higginbotham (R)

Division F - Louise Hines (R)

Division H - Fred Crifasi (R)

Division I - Carson Marcantel (R)

Division N - Chip Moore (R)

The old reapportionment plan has 10 Democratic-leaning seats and only five Republican-leaning seats. The new reapportionment plan has seven Democratic-leaning seats, seven Republican-leaning seats, and the one parishwide seat, which is seen as a toss-up.

Retiring will be:

- Don Johnson (D)
- Ron Johnson (D)
- Bonnie Jackson (D), the seat formerly held by Tiffany Foxworth
- Brad Myers (R)
- Gail Horn Ray (D).



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Dr. Raymond Kleefisch graduated from Jesuit High School in New Orleans. He received his B.S. in Biology from LSU in Baton Rouge and completed his certification in Doctor of Dental Surgery from LSU School of Dentistry in 2022. Dr. Kleefisch served as a dentist in the United States Navy for three and half years. He led his dental team at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, the USS John F. Kennedy, and Sewell's Point Dental Clinic.

Dr. Kleefisch strives to deliver high quality comprehensive dental care and treat his patients as he would treat his own family. Dr. Kleefisch married his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Sherman Kleefisch, in 2021 and they have two daughters. He and his wife enjoy being outdoors, hiking, skiing, scuba diving, and spending time with family and friends. Dr. Kleefisch is excited to be back in South Louisiana and serve the Central community.



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Dr. Ariel Brown joined the staff at Record Dental Center in 2024. She is a 2007 graduate of Central High. She graduated from the University of Louisiana-Monroe with a Bachelor of Science degree and received her Doctorate of Dental Surgery at the LSU School of Dentistry in New Orleans. She has practiced dentistry for 11 years. Dr. Brown recently returned to Record Dental after maternity leave.

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Meet the Candidates for District Judge At Forums Hosted by GOP, Chamber



RESIDENTS OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH will have one of the longest election ballots in history this fall, including 15 seats on the 19th Judicial District Court. Eight of those candidates were introduced at the July 14 Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon. From left to right, Judge Tarvald Smith will be running for re-election in Division A, local attorney Winston DeCuir, Jr. is running for a parishwide seat in Division B, local attorney Elzie Alford is running in Division M, Justin Murphy DeLaune running parishwide for Division B, Judge Colette Greggs running for reelection in Division J, District Court Commissioner Kory Tauzin running for Division G, attorney James “Jimmy” Manasseh running in Division E, and Judge Carson Marcantel is running for re-election in Division I. The Chamber EBR held a separate forum July 28 for the remaining candidates who were available.



Elzie Alford
District Judge - Division M



ReAzalia Allen
District Judge - Division M



Winston DeCuir, Jr.
District Judge - Division B



Justin Murphy Delaune
District Judge - Division B



Judge Colette Greggs
District Judge - Division J



Judge Caulette Guillard
Family Court - Division A



James “Jimmy” Manasseh
District Judge - Division E



Judge Carson Marcantel
District Judge - Division I



A. J. Sabine
District Judge - Division M



Judge Tarvald Smith
District Judge - Division A



Vernon W. Thomas
District Judge - Division M



Kory Tauzin
District Judge - Division G

Meet the Candidates for the 19th Judicial District
July 14 and 28, 2026 • Café Américain
Hosted by Republican Party, Chamber of Commerce of EBR
Video by Woody Jenkins • Photos by Jolice Provost



Current Central Mayor, Chief, Council

Central City Council Districts
On Nov. 3, 2026, Central voters will elect a new Mayor, Police Chief, and seven members of the City Council, five from districts and two at-large.

Mayor of Central



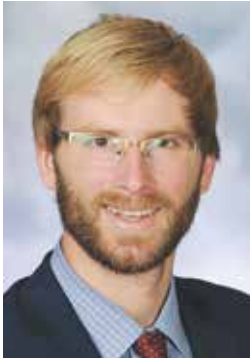
Wade Evans

Police Chief



Roger Corcoran

Council District 5



Briton Myer

Council District 4



D'Ann Wells

Council District 3



Kim Fralick

Council District 1



Tim Lazaro

Council District 2



J.D. Lavergne

**Council-at-Large
(Vote for Two)**



Aaron McKinney



Josh Roy

The City of Central (pop. 30,000) was incorporated in 2005 and is the second newest municipality in Louisiana. It is governed under the Lawrason Act, which applies to cities that are not under a home rule charter. The city has an elected mayor and an elected police chief. The city council consists of seven members. Five are elected from single-member districts and two are elected at-large. The City of Central is unique in a number of ways. It is the first completely privatized city in Louisiana and one of the few in the U.S. All city services are provided by a private contractor. The city runs strong surpluses and has tens of millions in reserve. It is overwhelmingly Republican and conservative.

Vicknair: From Naval Officer to Chief Of Staff for Sid to Mayor of Central?

Continued from Page 1

at the top of his class, *summa cum laude*. He earned a Bachelor's degree at Liberty University, where he also finished *summa cum laude*.

Oil and Gas Executive. After retiring from the Navy, Lon served as Senior Commercial Manager for Petroleum Services Group, an oil and gas operation. In that role, he managed nine independent commercial sites across the U.S. with 200 personnel and more than \$26 million in revenue.

Police Officer. From 2021 to 2025, Vicknair volunteered as a member of the Central Police Reserve. He is a Post-certified law enforcement officer. Lon is past president of the Central Veterans Memorial.

Chief of Staff to Mayor-President. As Chief of Staff to Mayor-President Sid Edwards, Vicknair has direct responsibility for citywide special projects, intergovernmental relations, and daily operations across the 4,600-employee City-Parish government.

His accomplishments in that position include:

- Serving as the Mayor-President's primary point of contact with the City Council and the four other Mayors in the Parish and maintaining a direct working relationship with state and federal lawmakers on matters affecting Baton Rouge city operations.
- Negotiated a partnership with Entergy to convert streetlighting from high-pressure sodium (HPS) to LED along major city corridors, improving energy efficiency, visibility, and public safety.
- Created and launched the Mayor's "Pothole Posse" initiative, clearing a 1,500-work-order backlog and reducing average response time on new requests from report to completion to under three days.
- Facilitated a partnership with American Cruise Lines resulting in a \$2 million investment in city dock upgrades, positioning the facility to



LON AND REBECCA VICKNAIR at 2025 Veterans Day ceremonies at Central Middle School with their four children. Rebecca was the keynote speaker for the event. She is a Petty Officer First Class with the U.S. Navy. Lon Vicknair is a retired Naval officer.

draw more than 20,000 tourists to downtown Baton Rouge annually.

- Worked toward a public-private partnership investing \$6 million to redevelop a City-Parish building into a downtown Fire Museum and Restaurant.
- Partnered with the Governor's office to transfer state-owned land to City-Parish ownership, initiating development of a new Parish Prison with an estimated project cost of \$600 million.

U.S. Navy Service. As a high-ranking enlist-

ed man and then a Naval officer, Lon Vicknair had a variety of responsible positions around the world over 20 years. These included:

- Selective Reenlistment Bonus program supporting manning across 400,000+ sailors; led modernization of Navy aviation manning standards and was hand-selected to manage the fleet-wide transition from P-3 to P-8 aircraft.
- Operated and troubleshoot advanced electronic mission systems as a Naval Aircrewman across six combat deployments supporting special operations forces in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, the Horn of Africa, and Somalia.
- Directed maintenance operations for six P-8 and one P-3 squadron comprising 1,400 technicians and 56 aircraft, ensuring parts, tooling, and manpower readiness for worldwide missions.
- Led airborne command, control, and logistics operations as Assistant Officer in Charge, overseeing more than \$10 million in mission equipment and mentoring 35 direct reports across the 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility.
- Set recruiting, retention, and advancement policy for over 5,600 enlisted aircrew worldwide.
- Served as Senior Special Mission Operator for a Chief of Naval Operations Priority I detachment, delivering real-time intelligence and reconnaissance support to theater commanders.
- Earned Weapons and Tactics Instructor designation (top 1% of Naval aviators) and led classroom, curriculum development, and leadership training programs.
- He is a graduate of the Senior Enlisted Academy at the National War College, a Master Training Specialist, and a Weapons and Tactics instructor.

Personal. Lon and Rebecca have four children and reside in the City of Central.

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Central Private Duo Competes in National High School Fishing Championships in Ky.

CENTRAL - Hard work, dedication, and countless hours on the water have paid off for Lane Forbes and Luke Mire, 2026 graduates of Central Private, who earned a spot in the 2026 National High School Fishing Championship.

The tournament was held on Kentucky Lake along the Tennessee-Kentucky border.

The pair spent the past two years competing on the Central High School Fishing Team. This season, they turned that experience into an outstanding list of accomplishments.

Forbes and Mire finished 6th overall in the Louisiana B.A.S.S. National High School Division while also claiming first place in one state qualifier and second place in another. Their consistent performances secured them second place in the West Division, qualifying

Qualifying Set in EBR For August 5th to 7th

BATON ROUGE - Qualifying is set for Wednesday, Aug. 5 to Friday, Aug. 7 for the following offices on the ballot Nov. 3:

- U. S. Congress
- District Judge
- Family Court
- Juvenile Court
- Mayor, Police Chief, and City Council in Central
- School Board in Baker, Central, Zachary, and EBR Parish
- Justices of the Peace and Constable



CENTRAL PRIVATE GRADUATES Lane Forbes and Luke Mire were honored with a chance to compete on a national level after taking 6th place in Louisiana.

them to represent Louisiana on the national stage.

“This opportunity is the result of a lot of early mornings, long practice days, and a true love for competitive fishing,” the team said. “We’re excited to represent our school, our community, and the state of Louisiana at the National Championship.”

The National High School Fishing Championship was held on Kentucky Lake in July 2026 and brought together many of the nation’s best young anglers to compete for national honors.

Representing Central High School at a national championship is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the commit-

ment, teamwork, and perseverance that Forbes and Mire have demonstrated both on and off the water. Their hometown community was cheering them on as they competed against the nation’s best in pursuit of a national title.

Lane and Luke would like to thank their coaches, Jonathan Bryant and Tom Ensminger, as well as their boat captain, Connor Dawson. They would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many local businesses that generously contributed to help make this trip possible.

Most of all, the young men wanted to thank God for His faithfulness, guidance, and the opportunities He has provided throughout their fish-



ing journey. They are grateful for His blessings and for the people He has placed in their lives to encourage and support them along the way.



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centralcitynews.us
centralcitynews.net (archives)
Central City News on Facebook

Pastor Could Go to Jail for 8 Years

Continued from Page 3

gree battery. He was taken to parish prison where he was booked, stripped naked in front of male and female deputies, and put in a prison uniform. He stayed in jail for seven hours before Sister Shaye, his wife, was able to raise bail money of \$25,000. If convicted, he could face eight years in prison.

Members of Life Tabernacle have documented through photos, videos, and personal testimony a large number of incidents where Scott Sherwin shouts obscenities while he gives the finger or grabs his crotch, sometimes while holding a gun, at members of the church as they arrive and leave the church. On other occasions, his wife lays on her back and spread her legs while Sherwin grabs his crotch.

Often the Sherwins' vile displays have been accompanied by threats



Rev. Tony Spell and wife Shaye

of violence, allegedly with Sherwin or the son shouting that they will rape the women and children. Black women and children seem to be the

special targets of the Sherwins. Church member Lacie Ranges gave an emotional interview with **Central City News** detailing the racial slurs and threats of rape and violence. A QR code to that interview is on page 3.

To better understand this story, it is important to watch the interview Sherwin gave to French television in 2020. In the interview, he says the solution to Life Tabernacle is as an AK-47 rifle. In the interview, Sherwin shows the elaborate surveillance system the FBI installed in his house to monitor the members of Life Tabernacle with cameras, license plate readers, and facial recognition. The Central police have often been visitors to the surveillance system in the Sherwin's house.



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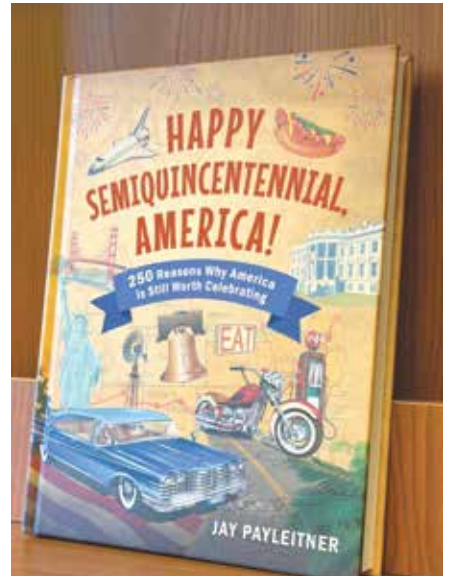
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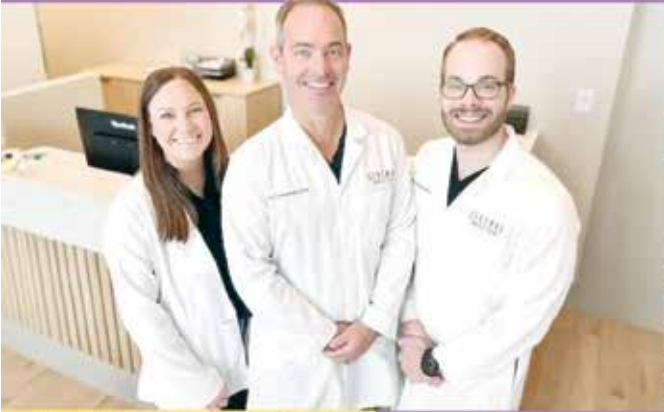
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Qualifying Will Be Aug. 5-7

Mayor Wade Evans Will Not Seek to Run For Reelection Nov. 3

Continued from Page 1

“Over these past eight years, we fundamentally changed the way our city government serves its people. We built an organization centered on accountability, innovation, efficiency, and long-term planning. We challenged old assumptions, forged partnerships that many thought impossible, and laid a foundation that will benefit Central for decades to come.”

“Together, we secured nearly \$75 million in grant funding and financial assistance for transformative projects. We resurfaced approximately 45 miles of roadway, made historic investments in drainage and flood mitigation, built our city’s first permanent City Hall, strengthened our financial position, and advanced projects that will shape Central’s future long after my time in office has ended.”

“None of these accomplishments belong to one person. They belong to an exceptional team of public servants who believed that government exists to serve its citizens with excellence, integrity, and humility. I will forever be grateful for their dedication, professionalism, and friendship.”

“This journey has also transformed me. It has stretched me professionally, deepened my faith, and taught me lessons that I will carry for the rest of my life. I have been blessed to discover gifts that I believe God entrusted to me, and I am thankful that He allowed me to use those gifts in service to this community.”

“Public service has always required sacrifice, but it has also become increasingly difficult. Small-town politics can be an ugly business when disagreement gives way to division and public debate becomes personal. Social media has too often rewarded outrage over understanding and accusation over truth. While I have always believed criticism is part of leadership, I also believe we should strive to treat one another with dignity, remembering that behind every elected office is a human being with a family, hopes, and a sincere desire to serve.”

“I do not share that observation with bitterness. Quite the opposite. I share it with hope; that we can rediscover the kind of civic discourse that encourages good people to step forward and serve their communities.”

“For me, this simply feels like the right season for a new chapter. My passion for building organizations, solving complex problems, and serving others remains as strong as ever. I look forward to carrying those experiences into the next stage of my career and continuing a life dedicated to helping others succeed.”

“To the citizens of Central, thank you. Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, your prayers, your friendship, and even your moments of disagreement. Every experience has shaped me into a better leader, a better husband, a better father, and a better man.

“I leave this office with complete peace. The foundation has been built. The relationships have been established. The systems are in place. Central’s future is incredibly bright, and I will always be one of its biggest supporters.”

“It has truly been the honor of a lifetime.”

“May God continue to bless the City of Central, its people, and those who will lead it into the future.”



WENDY EDWARDS

FOR FAMILY COURT JUDGE

Election Day:
November 3

WendyEdwards.org

Bayou Apparel Central Now Open



CENTRAL - Bayou Apparel has opened its new location at 6657 Sullivan Road in Central. A host of local dignitaries were on hand for the ribbon-cutting, including LSU baseball coaching great Skip Bertman, District Attorney Hillar Moore, Central Mayor Wade Ev-

ans, and others. Bayou Apparel promotes itself as “Your go-to source for LSU gear, school spirit wear, custom apparel, and promotional products. We help teams, schools, businesses, and organizations stand out with quality custom designs and branded mer-

chandise.” Founded by Dan McNamara, Bayou Apparel is a great place to shop for school spirit wear, college apparel, custom apparel, promotional products, gifts, and more. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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