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# St. George Leader

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March 29, 2025 Election

## CITY OF ST. GEORGE ELECTION GUIDE

Mayor of St. George



Unopposed

Dustin Yates

### City Council at-Large (Vote for up to 2)



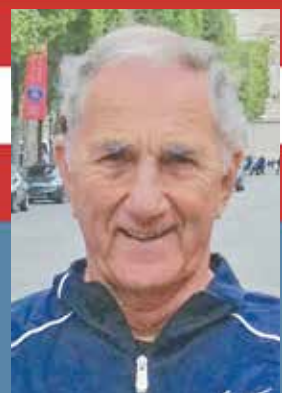
David Dellucci



Scott Emonet



Bill Johannessen



Jim Talbot



Shaunn Wyche

### City Council - District 4 (1 to be elected)

### Home Rule Charter



Patty Cook



David Madaffari



Shannon Powell



Justin Turner



### Unopposed Candidates for Police Chief and City Council



Todd Morris  
Police Chief



Richie Edmonds  
City Council District 1



Steve Monachello  
City Council District 2



Max Himmel  
City Council District 3



Andrew Murrell  
City Council District 5

# Everyone Is Invited to Vietnam Veterans Wall, A Life Changing Event March 20-23 in Central

**BATON ROUGE** — Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Road, Baton Rouge will host *The Wall That Heals*, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington March 20

to 23. Tens of thousands of visitors are expected to attend and view the etched names of the 58,281 men and women who lost their lives.

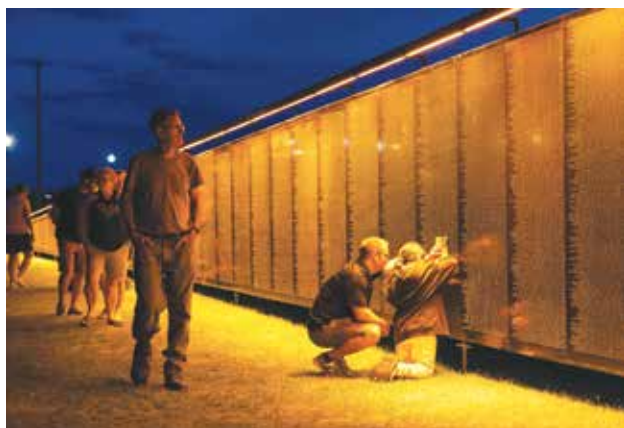
Since *The Wall That Heals* includes an Education Center, there

is an opportunity for students of all grade levels to understand the momentous impact of the Vietnam War. It will be open 24 hours a day.

The massive scale of the wall at 375 feet in length often evokes

an emotional response in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The nearby Haven Café will be available 24/7.

To donate or volunteer, go to [www.thewallthathealsbr.org](http://www.thewallthathealsbr.org).



# Mayor, City Council, Home Rule Charter on Ballot

# St. George's 1st Elections March 29

## Mayoral Candidates Debated the Issues Before Jim Morgan Dropped Out of Race

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — Supporters of Dustin Yates were attending a fundraising event for their candidate Tuesday night, Feb. 18, when they received the news that Yates' only opponent in the March 29 city election had dropped out of the race. The fundraising event quickly became a victory party!

Fellow Republican Jim Morgan announced that he is withdrawing his candidacy. Because his announcement came after the deadline for withdrawal, his name will still be on the election ballot. Earlier, several candidates for the City Council also withdrew.

March 29 will be the first election for city officials since the City of St. George was officially recognized by the Louisiana Supreme Court in May 2024.

Besides the Mayor's race, what will appear on the ballot are five candidates for two at-large seats on the City Council, four candidates for the Council seat from District 4 from the Shenandoah area, and the proposed City Charter.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following:



**ST. GEORGE MAYOR DUSTIN YATES** (left), director of governmental affairs and former Chief Administrative Officer of the St. George Fire Department, tells the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon why he should be the first elected mayor of the newly-incorporated City of St. George. Jim Morgan (right), a retired Baton Rouge businessman, explained why he would do a better job. Morgan unexpectedly dropped out of the race on Tuesday, Feb. 18. However, his name will still appear on the March 29 election ballot.

Whether to vote For or Against the proposed City Charter.

Five candidates for two at-large seats on the City Council:

- David Dellucci
- Scott Emonet
- Bill Johannessen
- Jim Talbot
- Shaunn Wyche

Four candidates for one seat on the City Council from District 4:

- Patty Cook
- David Madaffari
- Shannon Powell
- Justin Turner

Candidates who are unopposed will not appear on the ballot:

- Police Chief Todd Morris
- District 1 Councilman Richie Edmonds
- District 2 Councilman Max Himmel

- District 3 Councilman Steve Monochello
- District 5 Councilman Andrew Murrell

Shortly after the Louisiana Supreme Court decision last May, Gov. Jeff Landry appointed St. George's first set of city officials to serve until the March 29 election. Those appointed were Yates as

See AT-LARGE on Page 4

# VOTE

## David Madaffari

### The Right Choice for St. George Council District 4

DONATE TODAY



## My Platform

#1 St. George School System: Education advocate and will fully support the formation of our St. George School system as swiftly as possible.

#2 Fiscal Accountability: Only the most effective allocation of our tax dollars will receive my vote.

#3 Transparency: Advocate for all government activities to be reported online, including budgets and spending reports.

#4 Citizen Engagement: Host Quarterly and Online engagement opportunities to ensure your voice is heard.

Early Voting  
March 15-22  
Election Day  
March 29

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DavidforStGeorge.com

*I humbly ask for your vote on Election Day! — David Madaffari*

# At-Large Candidate at Reagan Luncheon

Photo by Jolice Provost



**FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE STAR DAVID DELLUCCI** (left) gives an outline of why he should hold one of the two Council at-Large seats. Shaunn Wyche (left/center) said he is ready to serve. He is the only Democrat running for one of the Council at-Large seats. Local attorney Scott Emonet (right/center) explains why he is the best choice for one of the two the Council at-Large seats. Seasoned real estate agent and long-time St. George supporter Jim Talbot tells of his experience and reasons for seeking one of the Council at-Large seats in the new City of St. George. The fifth candidate, Bill Johannessen, was unable to attend the meeting. He and candidates for the District 4 season will speak at the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish meeting at Café Americain at 12 noon Tuesday, Feb. 25. The meeting is open to the public.

Continued from Page 3

Mayor, Morris as Police Chief, and Edmonds, Himmel, Monochello, Cook, and Ryan Heck as Council members.

All of those except Heck are seeking election.

In addition, since Landry appointed the first five members of the City Council, the Council created two additional Council seats. As a result, there are no incumbents running for the two at-large seats.

The March 29 election will be the first citywide election to choose municipal officials. However, voters in the city have been to the polls twice before — the first time

in the incorporation election in October 2019 and again this past Dec. 7 when they approved transferring the existing 2 percent parish sales tax to the City of St. George.

Voters in the City of St. George are seen as overwhelmingly Republican and conservative. On Dec. 7, in the race for Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish, St. George voters favored Republican Sid Edwards over Democrat Sharon Weston Broome by a margin of 74 percent to 26 percent. That was no surprise, because Broome had been the foremost opponent of creating the City of St. George for the past 14 years, both as a State Senator and as Mayor-President.

The biggest issue in the current

election campaign has been a vote by the City Council January 14 setting salaries for city officials.

More than 125 St. George residents turned out to oppose what they considered the excessive pay scale. After a lengthy public hearing, the Council voted 4-1 to approve the salary schedule, which provided the Mayor would be paid \$160,000, the Police Chief \$140,000, and City Council members \$36,000. The citizens present



**Bill Johannessen**  
Council at Large

overwhelmingly disagreed with the salary schedule. Many said the salaries were far out of line and accused the Council of being tone-deaf and failing to listen to the public.

Voting for the salaries were:

**FOR** - Patty Cook, Ryan Heck, Max Himmel, and Steve Monochello

**AGAINST** - Richie Edmonds

Council member Patty Cook was the leading proponent of the salary schedule, and she ended up being the only Council member with opposition. She has three opponents.

Early voting for the March 29 election is March 15-22. If no one gets a majority in either Council race, a runoff will be held May 3.

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Woody Jenkins, Editor • Published Monthly • [StGeorgeLeader.com](http://StGeorgeLeader.com)

The St. George Leader began as an occasional publication devoted to the proposed City of St. George in 2019. Once the City of St. George officially became a city, the St. George Leader began monthly publication with the May 2024 edition.



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MORNING ADVOCATE Baton Rouge, Louisiana Tuesday, Sept. 30 1986

□ Things officials resign. . . . 28  
□ New vote totals given. . . . 38  
□ 1987 flood recalled. . . . 38

**Library fund may bail out C-P budget**

By GENE ADAMS and JIM HENDERSON  
Baton Rouge, La. (AP) — City-parish officials here to roll forward property tax millages and return a library allocation to the general fund to erase most of a possible deficit in next year's budget.

But the city-parish still has a long way to go to find long-term fiscal stability, officials warn.

The adoption Saturday of a special tax for the East Baton Rouge Library system will free almost \$2.3 million in general fund money for this year if the mayor and Metro Council approve its reallocation as a contingency fund to help balance next year's budget...

Councilman Tom Ed McHugh said that with the city-parish already having cut so much last year he doubts that any substantial savings can be realized through further budget cuts without drastically affecting services to the public.

Sept. 30, 1986 MORNING ADVOCATE Baton Rouge, LA

City-parish officials hope to roll forward property tax millages and return a library allocation to the general fund to erase most of a possible deficit in next year's budget.

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Councilman Tom Ed McHugh said that with the city-parish already having cut so much last year he doubts that any substantial savings can be realized through further budget cuts without drastically affecting services to the public.

## Library Board Has an 'Embarrassment of Riches'

# Coach Sid's Library Tax Plan Is Essential for Much-Needed Reform of City-Parish Budget

**A Government Has to Set Spending Priorities But That Is Impossible Currently in This Parish**

Woody Jenkins  
Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — The controversy over funding the parish library system is just the beginning of a conversation that has to play out over the next few years in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The reality is this: Local government has plenty of money, enough money to provide a high level of services to the public for the next generation — without raising taxes! Yet, there is a financial crisis looming.

Why? Because the parish has a number of fiefdoms (little kingdoms) where our tax dollars are locked into lower priorities, and those funds are not available for the highest priority needs of the parish.

The parish library system is one but by no means the only example of this. At this moment, the library system has an "embarrassment of riches."

At a time when the City-Parish government is struggling to pay the bills, the library system is sitting on \$104 million!

Try as they may to defend the obvious irrational use of our tax dollars, library supporters seem blind to reality. No one is proposing we close the libraries or cut them to the bone. But there is no way the libraries — which are currently heav-

ily overfunded — can barrel ahead at full speed while the rest of City-Parish government outside the fiefdoms are having to cut budgets by 10 to 15 percent.

The fiefdoms with their own sources of revenue operate outside any normal system of budgeting. These include the library board, BREC, CATS, and the Council on Aging, among others.

Each one is its own little government, operating as it pleases, outside the control of the public or elected officials.

All of these entities must be part of the annual City-Parish budget and have their spending appropriated by the Mayor-President and the Metro Council, just like the rest of government is funded. That is certainly not the case today.

The Baton Rouge Police Department could have its budget cut to zero, and the library board, BREC, and the others would still be flying high with 150 percent or more than is needed.

The reality is the City-Parish is losing \$48 million or more a year because of St. George getting the 2 percent sales tax, which the people there voted to use for their own needs.

We cannot continue to operate the City-Parish the way it has been — with the fiefdoms in full swing.

The priorities of the City-Parish are police and fire protection, courts,



Woody Jenkins  
Editor

blight and homelessness, roads and highways, drainage, mental health, and the parish prison.

The City-Parish government has many other needs and wants, and there is money for all the reasonable needs of the parish, but we have to be able to take all available tax dollars and prioritize their use.

Because so many of the fiefdoms have dedicated funds, things cannot be changed overnight. It takes time to undo a very bad system.

The library system is first up, simply because their tax is up for renewal. If we did what the library board wants, we would be locked into that part of the problem for another 10 years and basic city services would continue to suffer.

Coach Sid is proposing that the library tax be renewed but at a lower level, and that the funds produced by that tax be used for libraries and other vital services the people need.

Supporters of the current byzantine system have an interesting argument. They say the libraries were poorly funded before 1986, so in order to fund them, the people voted to pass a dedicated tax to protect libraries.

What a joke! That is disinformation and a complete re-write of history. What really happened was the City Council was having trouble funding the Baton Rouge City Police and other essential services. So they took library funding out of the budget and went to the voters with a separate library tax. The entire purpose was to fund the police and essential services!

The problem is, the library tax produces far more revenue than is needed for libraries, and it is not being controlled by elected officials

who are responsible for the overall well-being of the parish.

The library tax should be renewed but the funds should flow into the City-Parish budget and be appropriated like everything else.

The fiscal hit to the City-Parish budget caused by St. George is just beginning. The prior administration was too busy fighting St. George to prepare for its inevitable arrival. As a result, the local government is caught between raising taxes or dramatic cuts in the highest priorities.

There is no need for there to be such a dilemma. We have the money. It just needs to go into one pot and be prioritized.

The situation reminds me of this: Suppose your favorite uncle said, "Son, I've got some extra money and I know how much you love the Internet. I'm leaving you \$100,000 and putting it in trust exclusively for use to pay your Internet bill forever." Great! You've got your Internet covered. But then things get tough, and you can't pay your mortgage or your electricity bill or your food bill. There's \$100,000 over there in trust for your Internet. Unfortunately, you won't have a house to enjoy your Internet or electricity or food.

That's the situation we're in.

The library issue is really a test. Will we buy the shortsighted argument that we must separately fund the library and keep it in a separate pot out of the control of our elected officials, or do we begin the process of bringing sanity to how our money is spent in this parish.

This is really not about libraries but about common sense and fiscal responsibility.

**Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge**  
St. George Council District 4

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# Five Seek Two Council at Large Seats

Meet the Candidates, Learn Where They Stand and Their Plans For City of St. George

## David Dellucci

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — David Dellucci is a Republican candidate for Council Member at Large for the City of St. George. A lifelong resident of East Baton Rouge Parish, David has lived in the newly-incorporated City of St. George for 34 years. Born and raised in Baton Rouge, he was a multi-sport athlete at Catholic High, a 13-year Major League Baseball player, and helped win a World Series.

David has always been dedicated to serving his community. As a philanthropist, he founded two charitable organizations and raised over \$250,000 to support local causes. His efforts have helped hurricane victims, law enforcement agencies, military veterans, and youth athletic organizations, demonstrating his commitment to improving the lives of others.

A strong advocate for parks and recreation, David believes youth sports are crucial to a child's development, teaching valuable life skills and fostering community involvement.

Over the years, he has run baseball leagues, hosted free sports clinics, and volunteered as a coach for baseball, flag football, volleyball, basketball, and softball. If elected, David will push for establishing an



David Dellucci for Council at Large

efficient Parks and Recreation Department to ensure every child in our community has the opportunity to be part of a team.

David's vision for St. George is a thriving, clean, safe, transparent, and efficient city. He believes the success of St. George will help revitalize East Baton Rouge Parish. Elect David Dellucci to help lay the foundation for a prosperous future. Our future starts now!

## Scott Emonet

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — Scott Emonet is dedicated to the future of St. George and is ready to bring strong, principled leadership to the Council At-Large. With a deep-rooted commitment to the community, Scott understands the needs of residents



Scott Emonet for Council at Large

and businesses alike. His campaign is built on the pillars of responsible growth, transparent governance, and a vision for a thriving, self-sufficient St. George.

As a lifelong advocate for fiscal responsibility and local empowerment, Scott is committed to ensuring that St. George is managed efficiently and effectively. He believes in prioritizing infrastructure improvements, public safety, and economic development while keeping taxes low and government accountable. His leadership will focus on making St. George a model city—one where families and businesses can prosper without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

Scott's experience in both the private and public sectors gives him a well-rounded perspective on governance. He knows that strong leadership requires collaboration, and he is eager to work with residents, business owners, and fellow council members to create a community-driven approach to decision-making.

Electing Scott Emonet to the Council At-Large means choosing a leader who values integrity, transparency, and a results-driven approach. His passion for St. George's success is unwavering, and he is ready to serve with dedication and accountability. Together, we can build a stronger, more independent St. George. Vote Scott Emonet for Council At-Large—because leadership matters!

## Bill Johannessen

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — "All eyes are on St. George. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lay the foundation for a government of, by,



Bill Johannessen for Council at Large

and for the people. We must do this right," William "Bill" Johannessen said in announcing his candidacy for an At-Large City Council seat.

"I grew up in the Shenandoah subdivision and built my house in the Jefferson Terrace Subdivision where my wife, Alison and I have lived ever since," he said.

During the '80s, '90s, and early 2000s, Bill owned and operated a successful business in St. George. His professional success is matched by his extensive history of community service and involvement. Currently, Bill serves as a Deacon at First Presbyterian Church.

His dedication to service extends to his military background, having served for nine years in the Louisiana Army National Guard with deployments to Panama for road construction and in East Baton Rouge Parish service during the historic flood of 1983.

"I have the practical experience needed in this position. I've built roads and made infrastructure improvements as part of my National Guard service. I'll insist on quality work, fair pricing and priority funding for all projects in our community," he says.

Bill and Alison have been married for 26 years. They have two sons, Will and Nicholas. A graduate of Woodlawn High School, he attended LSU.

An early, ardent, and vocal supporter of St. George, Johannessen said he is committed to helping make St. George the shining city that its founders envisioned.

"My priorities for driving St. George forward include growing and maintaining the city's roads and drainage systems, championing

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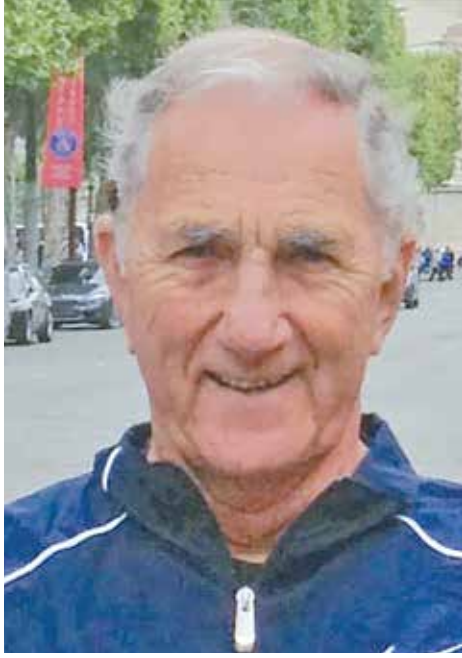
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# Five Other Seats Come from Districts



**Jim Talbot for Council at Large**



**Shaunn Wyche for Council at Large**

smart economic development, and addressing serious crime and homelessness issues.”

“I’m a team-builder and recognize the best way to meet these challenges is through leadership and teamwork. I look forward to walking the streets of St. George, meeting our neighbors, and listening to their concerns while building consensus on tackling the most pressing issues in our community,” he concludes.

## Jim Talbot

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — In a statement, Jim Talbot said, “I’m running for Councilman of St. George to continue my personal 14-year crusade to build a great city and a blue ribbon school system for our

citizens and their children. I’ve donated money and thousands of hours to St. George over the years. If elected, I pledge to donate my Councilman salary back to the city because I believe in public service to our community. I have proven that for 14 years.”

“I’m a Navy Veteran (an expert in Morse Code). Graduated from LSU in Journalism. Sold ads for the Advocate. Operated an Ad Agency for 25 years. Operated one of the first cellular phone companies in Baton Rouge.”

“Became a Realtor, Real Estate Broker and owner of Jim Talbot Real Estate for 30 years. Became a subdivision developer and a home builder. I am still a real estate investor. Semi-retired.”

“I volunteered to become a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for 16 years with service in Uniform Patrol, I drove Sheriff Patrol boats in the Mississippi River, worked in Sex Crimes, and the last six years in Armed Robbery and Burglary.”

“I served nine years on the East Baton Rouge School Board having been elected three times. I served as President one year.”

“I have lived in the St. George area (and Shenandoah) for over 50 years. I have watched our part of the parish get neglected. I know we can do better. I watched (personally) the decline of our school system. I know we can do better.”

“I ask only for your consideration to vote for me and allow me to put all my energy and effort to continue my crusade.”

“Those of you who know me know that I am a Reagan Conservative, meaning I think there’s too much government intrusion in our lives, too many taxes, too much waste of tax dollars and too many people in government looking out for themselves and not the taxpayers. I sincerely ask for your vote on March 29.”

## Shaunn Wyche

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — A Navy veteran and experienced leader, Shaunn Wyche brings a unique blend of public service and professional expertise to his campaign for St. George City Council Member At-Large. After serving his country as an enlisted sailor in the U.S. Navy, Shaunn built a distinguished career in management and business operations spanning more than two

decades in the car sales industry.

Since making St. George his home in 2020, Shaunn has witnessed firsthand both the tremendous potential and unique challenges facing our growing city. A graduate of Jacksonville University with a degree in Finance, Shaunn’s priorities for St. George include:

- **Securing an Intergovernmental Agreement with East Baton Rouge Parish**

- As your council member, I will work to secure an agreement that is cost-effective and ensures residents get the best services possible without unnecessary expenses.

- **Fiscal Transparency & Accountability**

- We need a clear budget process that shows exactly where every dollar is going.

- I will push for open budget hearings, online reporting of city expenditures, and strong oversight to prevent wasteful spending.

- Our residents deserve a government that operates in the open, not behind closed doors.

- **Diversifying Revenue Beyond Sales Tax which disproportionately affects working families and retirees**

- Right now, St. George is relying on a 2% sales tax for revenue. We need a long-term strategy—exploring grants, business partnerships, and development opportunities that don’t burden our most vulnerable residents.

We have a rare opportunity to build St. George into a model city—one that is fiscally smart, transparent, and built for the people, not for politicians.

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# 4 Candidates in Council District 4



Patty Cook for Council District 4



David Madaffari for Council District 4



Shannon Powell for Council District 4



Justin Turner for Council District 4

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — On Saturday, March 29, voters in the Shenandoah area will go to the polls to elect the first-ever member from St. George City Council District 4.

Four candidates will be on the ballot — interim City Council member Patty Cook who was appointed by Gov. Jeff Landry, David Madaffari, Shannon Powell, and Justin Turner. If no one receives a majority of the vote, a runoff election will be held Saturday, May 3.

Here are announcement statements provided by the candidates. Ms. Powell did not provide a statement. The quotes attributed to her are from her Facebook page.

## Patty Cook

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — Patty Cook is running for St. George Council District 4 encompassing areas east of Jones Creek Rd including Shenandoah Estates and White Oak Landing. She and her husband Trey were volunteers and petition coordinators for both petition drives and served on the committee leading the effort to create the City of St. George for the past 14 years. Patty was appointed by Governor Landry in May 2024 to serve on the interim City Council.

Patty graduated from Tara High School and LSU. Prior to starting her family, she was the Director of

Administration for Cellular One. After becoming a mother, Patty shifted her focus to community service and volunteerism, dedicating herself to the causes that matter most to her: education, youth, and local development. Patty has two daughters, a son-in-law and a five-month-old grandson. She is currently a substitute teacher at the LSU Lab School.

Patty has served on various committees within the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. She is a strong believer in parental involvement in schools and knows the difference it can make to students of all ages.

The journey to create St. George

has been a personal mission for Patty. She has dedicated over a decade of her life to creating the city. She is committed to building a St. George that prioritizes the needs of families, supports local businesses, and ensures a vibrant future for all. She is asking for your vote on March 29 to build a city we are all proud of.

## David Madaffari

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — David Madaffari, candidate for St. George City Council District 4, said, "My journey to running for the City Council started out simply as an average citizen desiring to be involved in this historic moment in our state's history. After volunteering with the



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# Want to Represent Shenandoah

Transition District, I felt a calling to attract more people to get involved in the city, utilizing videos and social posts to keep the people informed.”

“This personal engagement with the people of St. George helped me develop my four priorities that I believe will make St. George one of the great cities of Louisiana:

**1. Fiscal Accountability** - I will vote only for the most effective allocation of our tax dollars, demand tangible, verifiable returns on expenditures, and address any conflicts of interest.

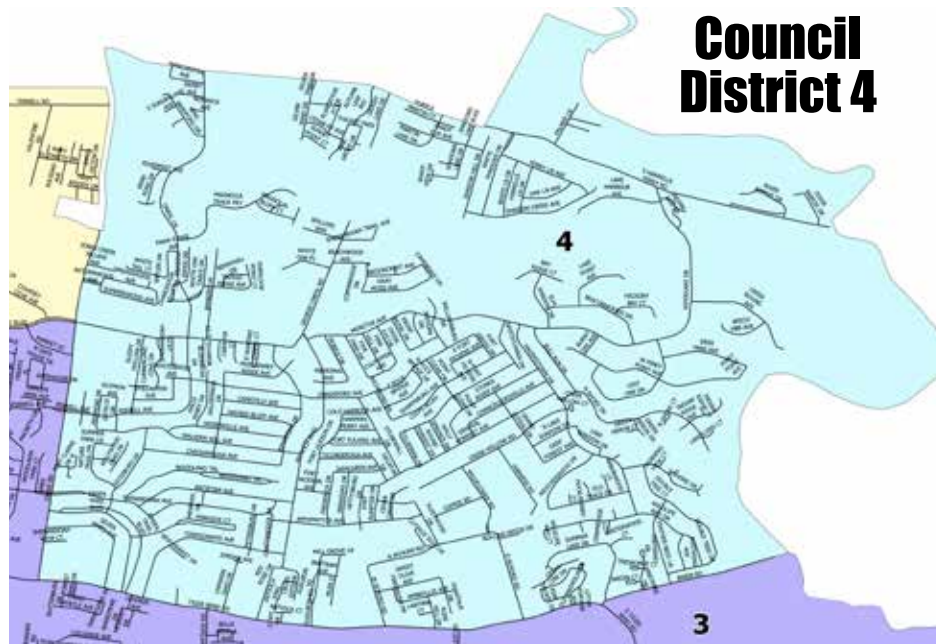
**2. Government Transparency** - I will demand that all budgets and expenditure reports be made publicly searchable online. I will also push for more far-reaching information dissemination to keep citizens informed.

**3. Citizen Engagement** - I will be the most accessible council person by providing weekly updates through videos and social posts, citizen surveys prior to upcoming votes, and hosting Live Q&A's monthly to get to know the issues you care about.

**4. Schools** - I will firmly advocate for the formation of our School District as swiftly as possible. I endorse re-imagining our curricula to include an emphasis on practical life skills, Play-to-Learn, Skills and Trade vocations, and Apprenticeships.

“Please visit DavidForStGeorge.com for complete details on my commitments to you.”

“I humbly ask for your vote on March 29.”



St. George City Council District 4 has four candidates seeking to represent it.

## Shannon Powell

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — Shannon Powell said, “As District 4 Council member, my priority will be ensuring St. George remains a thriving, family-friendly community while keeping the tax burden low. Families need time to grow and strengthen, but financial strain often forces parents to work excessively, leaving less time for their children.”

“I am committed to making responsible, cost-efficient decisions that enhance our city without adding unnecessary financial pressure on residents. By prioritizing smart investments and sustainable growth, we can maintain the high quality of life St. George is known

for—allowing parents to focus on what matters most: raising and supporting their families.”

“St. George’s leadership has justified high salaries for political figures as a way to attract quality candidates, but this mindset is flawed; especially when there are pressing community needs still unmet. Before creating and justifying these salaries, we should have first established a solid foundation and a clear plan for our city’s growth. These positions should be volunteer-based until we have a better understanding of our resources and priorities. Rushed, poorly-planned decisions like these can come at a high cost to our residents. As your District 4 Council member, I will ensure we

take a responsible, strategic approach; focusing on smart investments, eliminating wasteful spending, and making decisions that truly benefit our community. Let’s stop putting the cart before the horse and build a city that works for everyone.”

## Justin Turner

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — “My name is Justin Turner, and I am a local business owner and dedicated member of our community. I own and operate a quality consulting and inspection agency, where I have built processes from the ground up to ensure efficiency, accountability, and long term success. I have also helped establish and continue to provide operational support to a local dog rescue my wife Courtney Turner runs.”

“I am running for District 4 Council because St. George is at a critical stage. As a newly-formed city, it needs strong leadership and a solid foundation for long-term success. Just as I have done in my own business, I want to help establish the policies, processes, and structure that will allow St. George to thrive. As Louisiana’s fifth-largest city, we have a unique opportunity to build a government that is efficient, accountable, and forward thinking from the beginning.”

“I believe in strategic planning, strong leadership, and commitment to the community. My experience in developing systems, solving complex challenges, and working with people to get things done makes me ready to serve. Together we can lay the foundation for a thriving St. George. Vote Justin Turner #18.”



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MARCH 29 ELECTION

# VOTE



ELECT

## JUSTIN TURNER

District 4  
Council Member  
City of St. George

Your Voice, Your City, Your Future

## I BELIEVE IN

- Strategic planning
- Strong Leadership
- Government Efficiency
- Accountability & Transparency

## EXPERIENCE

- Business Owner
- System Development
- Solve Complex Challenges
- Work Hard to Get Things Done

Together we can lay the foundation for a thriving St. George!

Vote Justin Turner #18



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MAYOR  
ST. GEORGE

**Working with you to build the  
future we all deserve.**



**Election Day:  
Saturday, March 29**

# 4 of 5 District Council Seats Already Filled



**Andrew Murrell**  
Unopposed  
from District 5



**Candidates from District 4 —**  
Patty Cook, David Madafarri,  
Shannon Powell, and Justin Turner



**Steve Monochello**  
Unopposed from District 2



**Richie Edmonds**  
Unopposed from District 1

## St. George's Five Council Districts



**Max Himmel**  
Unopposed from District 3

★ ★ ★  
Election  
Day  
MARCH 29



# VOTE

DAVID  
**DELLUCCI**  
COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE ★ ST. GEORGE

I'm a conservative Republican running for City Council because I believe in a bright future for St. George – for my daughter and every child and family in our community. As parents and community members, we have the opportunity to do something special: build a safe, vibrant city that truly thrives. Our future starts now – let's build one we can all be proud of.

*David Dellucci*

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# Upcoming Events at Revolution Square

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**Saturday, April 5, 2025**  
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**Dr. Peter McCullough**  
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**July 2-6, 2025**  
**Revolution: America's**  
**National Youth Conference**  
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# Central Breaks Ground for City Hall

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — The City of Central took a major step forward in its 20-year history last week as Mayor Wade Evans, alongside past and present elected leaders, broke ground on the city's first-ever City Hall. This long-awaited event marks a turning point for the community, symbolizing both progress and unity.

Mayor Evans welcomed leaders who have played a role in Central's journey since its incorporation, recognizing their contributions in shaping the city's growth. "This groundbreaking is more than just the start of construction. It is the foundation of Central's future," Evans said. "For 20 years, we have built this city together, and today, we take another step forward in making Central an even better place to live."

The new City Hall will stand proudly as the northern anchor of the Mainstreet 2030 Vision, a long-term plan to enhance the heart of Central with economic and community-driven development.

During the event, Mayor Evans apologized for his previous stance on building a City Hall, saying the division had set the city back six years and \$3 million. He said there was too much infighting but now the city is unified.

Designed as more than just a government facility, the City Hall property will serve as a central gathering space for both the City of Central and the Central Community School System. Plans include areas for



Photo by Jolice Provost

**GROUNDBREAKING** for new Central City Hall, led by Mayor Wade Evans (center)

community events, civic engagement, and celebrations that bring residents together, further reinforcing Central's sense of community.

"City Hall will be more than a building—it will be a place where people come together," Mayor Evans added. "It will be a hub of ac-

tivity, where our citizens can connect, celebrate, and engage with their local government."

Construction of the new City Hall is expected to be completed in April 2026, with further developments to follow as part of the Mainstreet 2030 Vision.

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March 29

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**COOK**  
COUNCIL MEMBER  
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- St. George Petition Coordinator For 14 years
- Wife, Mother, Grandmother
- Community Volunteer

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

*"I'm asking for your vote for District 4 Council on March 29 to build a future for St. George that we can all be proud of."*

*Patty Cook*

Paid for by the Patty Cook Campaign



# Proposed City Charter Will Be Decided By Voters of St. George on Mar. 29 Ballot

## Charter Proposes Unique Council-Led City Government

Woody Jenkins  
Editor

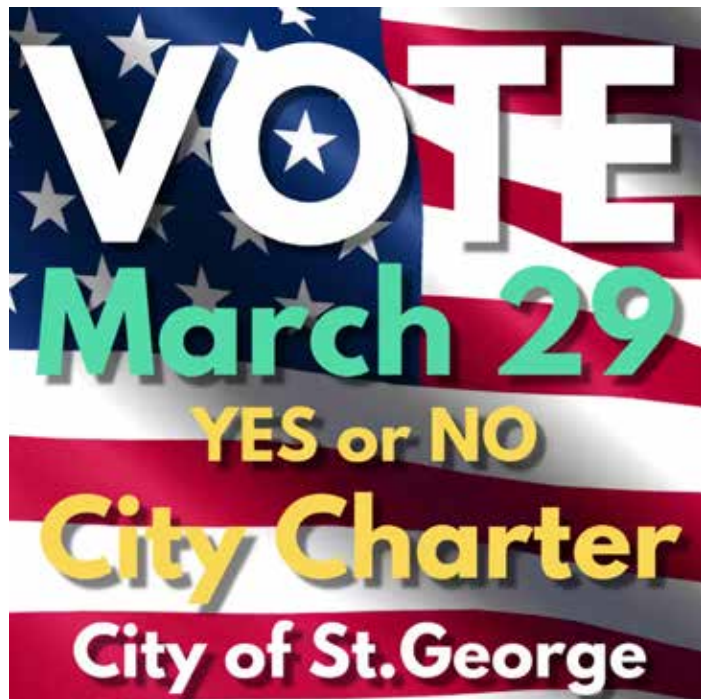
**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — After four months of work, the St. George Charter Commission under the leadership of Councilman Ryan Heck has drafted a proposed City Charter for St. George.

Under state law, once proposed, the Charter goes directly to the people for a vote, which will occur at the same time as St. George’s municipal election on Saturday, March 29.

The proposed Charter is unique, at least in Louisiana, in that it provides for a Council-led government. Of the 303 municipalities in the state, none has a Council-led government. The others all follow the traditional model of a strong mayor and strong separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches.

In Louisiana, state law provides a standard format for municipalities. It is called the Lawrason Act, unless a city opts to adopt a City Charter. A total of 31 of 303 cities have a City Charter in Louisiana. However, no city in Louisiana with a City Charter has a Council-led government.

One of the chief features of the



Lawrason Act is a strong Mayor. The Mayor appoints almost all officials and runs the executive branch of the municipal government. The Mayor also proposes the city budget. Under the Lawrason Act, the City Council can accept or reject the city budget but cannot amend it. This all-or-nothing approach tends to force the Mayor and Council to work closely on budget matters.

In a Lawrason Act city, the Mayor also presides at City Council meetings and can veto ordinances passed by the Council. However,

the Council can override a veto by a two-thirds’ vote. One of the advantages of a strong mayor form of government is that if things go bad, voters know who to hold accountable — the Mayor.

The proposed St. George City Charter provides for a significantly different form of government. Most power would reside in the Council, which would appoint a City Manager to run the city day to day. The City Manager would have considerable power, even proposing the budget for the city.

**CHARTER VOTE** — On March 29, 2025, residents of St. George will be asked to vote Yes or No on a proposed City Charter. The proposal would create a “City Council-led government,” the only one of its kind in Louisiana. St. George and most other cities in Louisiana are currently governed by the Lawrason Act. Central, the only other privatized city, has chosen not to have a City Charter.

Day to day, city employees would be subject to the jurisdiction of the City Manager, who would hire and fire them, not the Mayor.

The Mayor would continue to preside at Council meetings and could veto ordinances, subject to being overridden by the Council.

Discussions at the St. George City Council indicate the Council is considering paying the City Manager \$250,000 or more a year.

Opponents of the City Manager position say it might be appropriate for Baton Rouge or a traditional city but not for a privatized city like St. George is likely to be.

The City of Central, the only privatized city in Louisiana, has never had a City Manager. Central contracts with IBTS to provide all city services. IBTS is a non-profit which returns part of any profit to the City of Central.

The purpose of the private company that runs the City of Central is just that — to run the city. It provides all city services for the city except police and fire.

One elected official in Central said, “Why would we want a City Manager? Managing the city is what we pay IBTS to do. The Mayor works directly with the program director of IBTS. There is no need to pay someone \$250,000 to ‘run the city’ in a privatized city.”

However, the St. George Charter Commission feels the City Manager is needed to be a buffer between the City Council and the private com-



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CITY OF ST. GEORGE East Baton Rouge Parish ELECTION Saturday, March 29, 2025	Lawrason Act	Proposed City Charter
<b>Who runs the government?</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>7-member City Council</b>
<b>Who runs the City day to day?</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>CITY MANAGER</b>
<b>Is City Manager required?</b>	<b>Optional</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>If there is a City Manager, who chooses?</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>7-member City Council</b>
<b>Who proposes City Budget?</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>CITY MANAGER</b>
<b>Who can fire City Manager?</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>7-member City Council*</b>
<b>Who presides at City Council meeting?</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>
<b>Can Mayor veto ordinances?</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Can City Council override vetoes?</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Can Mayor veto line items in budget</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

\*Subject to Mayor's veto

pany operating the city. IBTS is short for Institute for Building Technology & Safety. The founders include the Council of State Governments, National Association of Counties, National Governors Association, the National League of Cities, and the International City/Council Management Association.

IBTS won the master contract

to run the City of Central in 2011 over CH2MHill and several other bidders. Their contract has been renewed repeatedly since then.

The City of St. George has hired IBTS to staff the Planning & Zoning Commission and administer building permits and occupational licenses during the city's startup period. If St. George does in fact pursue a privatized model, IBTS

and other contractors would likely compete for that contract.

IBTS has established its office in St. George at 13646 Perkins Road. The program manager in St. George is Scot Byrd.

Central could be considered the best model of a privatized city in the nation. It has only five city employees and operates with large surpluses. IBTS provides 45 staff to

run the City of Central.

The pioneer in public-private partnerships was Sandy Springs, GA. However, it moved away from the privatization model and now has more than 400 city employees.

If voters approve the proposed St. George City Charter, the charter will govern the city. If it fails, St. George will continue under the Lawrason Act provided by state law.



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