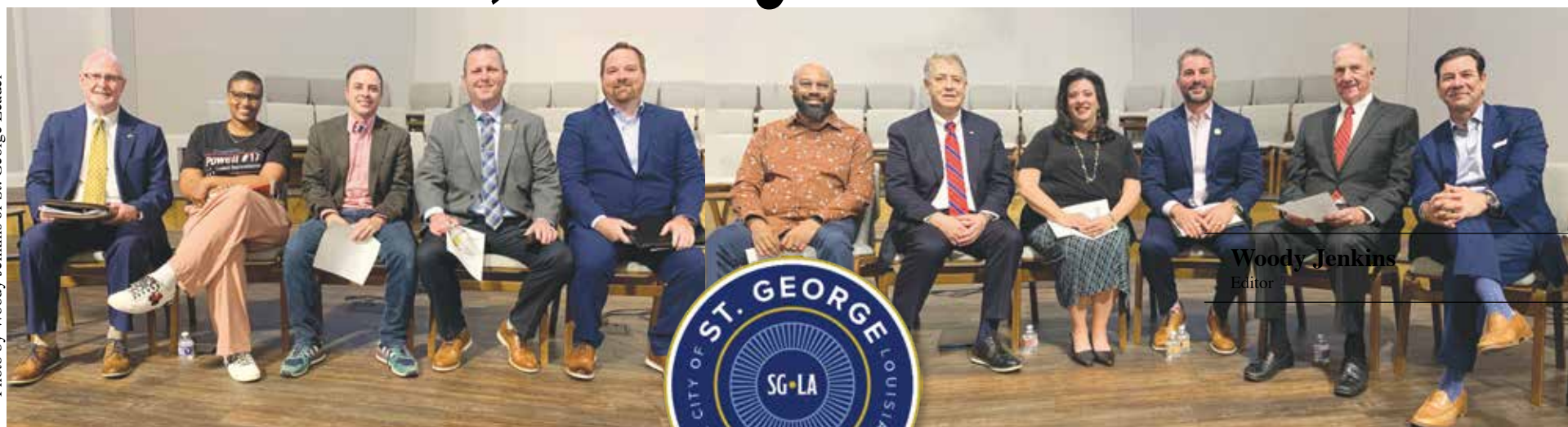




## Four Constitutional Amendments on Ballot Statewide

# St. George Voters Decide Charter, Mayor March 29

Photo by Woody Jenkins of St. George Leader



Woody Jenkins  
Editor

**ST. GEORGE ELECTION** — Candidates for office in the first city election include Jim Morgan, Council District 4 candidates Shannon Powell and David At-Large candidates Shaunn Wyche and Bill Johannessen, Council District 4 Talbot, and Scott Emonet. Police Chief Todd Morris and four candidates for

positions for the City of St. George March 29 include (left to right) Mayoral candidate Madaffari, Mayor Dustin Yates, District 4 candidate Justin Turner, Council candidate Patty Cook, and Council At-Large candidates David Dellucci, Jim district Council seats are unopposed in the election.

## Charter Controversy: Whether Council-Led Government Is Better Than Mayor-Led City

**ST. GEORGE** — During the St. George candidates forum on Tuesday, March 11, candidates explained their position on the proposed City Charter. Here are some of their comments:

• Mayoral candidate Jim Morgan said, “I’m a big No! The City Manager is a key issue. He will

have immense power. The Mayor of Dallas makes half as much as our Mayor. I don’t get the logic of that. The project manager of IBTS does everything a City Manager would do but without paying \$250,000.”

• Mayor Dustin Yates said, “I get no money as Mayor. That will

See HALF on Page 13

## Morgan, Yates Vying for St. George Mayor, Nine Seeking 3 Seats on St. George Council

**ST. GEORGE** — The Rotary Club of St. George sponsored a candidates forum on Tuesday, March 11 that turned into a spirited debate.

Here are highlights, gleaned from the remarks of the two candidates for Mayor, five candidates for two At-Large City Council seats, and four candidates for the

Council seat from District 4. This report lists the candidates in the order that they spoke.

### Mayor of St. George

**Jim Morgan**, a former senior executive vice president in banking, briefly paused his campaign but is back on the campaign trail. Mor-

See ST. GEORGE on Page 3

# Amendment No. 2 Removes Protection for Churches, Non-Profits from Property Tax

## Sanctuary, Parsonage, Little Else Would Have Constitutional Shield Against Property Taxes

Woody Jenkins  
Editor

**ST. GEORGE** — On March 29, four constitutional amendments will be considered by voters statewide. Amendment No. 2 has a **poison pill**: It removes constitutional protection against property taxes for most church property and all non-profit organizations.

If Amendment No. 2 passes, property tax exemptions for churches and nonprofit organizations will be determined by the Louisiana Legislature. The only things that would continue to be protected against property taxes would be the church sanctuary, the parson-

See IF THEY on Page 5

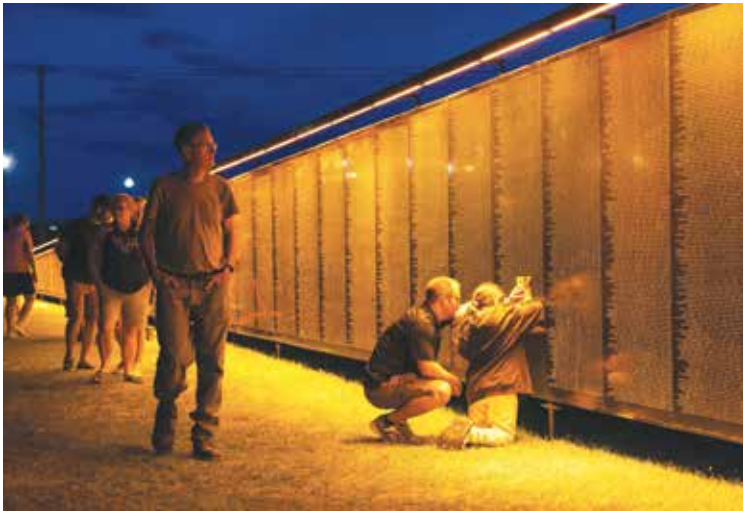
CURRENT Louisiana Constitution protects ALL non-profit organizations including churches from property taxes. The Legislature CANNOT now impose property taxes on any non-profit organization approved under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Amendment No. 2 would repeal the following language and allow the Legislature to remove the tax exemptions.

**Current Property Tax Exemption for Churches and Non-Profit Organizations**  
Louisiana Constitution of 1974 - Art. VII Section 21(B)(1)(a)(i) - Amendment 2 would repeal this.  
(B)(1)(a)(i) Property owned by a nonprofit corporation or association organized and operated exclusively for religious, dedicated places of burial, charitable, health, welfare, fraternal, or educational purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or member thereof and that is declared to be exempt from federal or state income tax;

AMENDMENT NO. 2 protects only three things from property taxes:

1) Church sanctuary, 2) Parsonage, and 3) Seminary training for ministry. The following new language would allow the Legislature to impose property taxes on all other church property and on any and all non-profit organizations including Christian schools and charitable organizations.

**Proposed NEW Section of Louisiana Constitution - Art. VII Section 35(B)**  
Section 35 (B) Property owned by a nonprofit operated exclusively for religious purposes as a house of worship, residential housing for clergy, priests, or nuns, or a seminary or other educational institution training individuals for religious ministry shall be exempt from ad valorem tax pursuant to this Section.



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

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — The Wall That Heals, a 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, is coming to Louisiana from March 20 to 23 at Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Road in Central.

It will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public.

The Wall honors the three million Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

**All Are Welcome at The Wall.** Pastor Tony Spell said, "On behalf of the State of Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish, the cities of Baton Rouge and Central, and Life Tabernacle Church, it is an honor to host The Wall That Heals. For the past five years, we have made a tireless effort to bring The Wall to our state. We welcome all Louisianans and neighbors in surrounding states to come and recognize the Gulf South's deep history of service to America. Let it serve as a teaching tool for schools, organizations and all people to learn the high cost of freedom. We are blessed to host this important event. Our city, state, and nation

all need healing. Let it begin here!"

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit to Baton Rouge to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall," according to Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF.

"Hosting The Wall That Heals provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America," he said.

**An Emotional Experience.** The Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk toward the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors will be able to touch the Wall and do name rubbings of individual service members.

**Hometown Heroes.** The mobile Education Center exhibit will include digital photos of some of the service members who listed their home of record in the Baton Rouge area; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall; a replica of the

In Memory plaque; a map of Vietnam, and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The exhibits are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

**Official Traveling Wall.** Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in nearly 800 U.S. communities. The Wall That Heals is a program of VVMF, the non-profit organization that built The Wall in Washington in 1982. Two VVMF staff members will lead volunteers on site, educate visitors and students, and ensure the reflective atmosphere of The Wall. More information can be found at [www.thewallthathealsBR.org](http://www.thewallthathealsBR.org).

**Motorcycle Escort.** A Motorcycle Escort of veterans, service personnel, law enforcement, and first responders will bring The Wall to Revolution Square on the campus of Life Tabernacle Church at the corner of Hooper and Blackwater Roads in Central.

**Line the Route to Show Support.** The staging area will be at the I-12/O'Neal Lane interchange in Baton Rouge at 12 noon on Tuesday, March 18. The Wall will travel north on O'Neal, which becomes the Central Thruway and

then Sullivan Road, and then west on Hooper Road to Life Tabernacle. The public is invited to show their strong support and love of country along the escort route from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Schedule.** Volunteers will erect the Wall from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday, March 19.

The Wall is constructed with a force of 30-40 volunteers. Construction begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19 before the memorial opens to the public Thursday morning, March 20. The media is welcome to the site during the construction period and thereafter.

Mayor-President Sid Edwards will join the construction crew Wednesday morning. Volunteers will be trained at 6 p.m. that night.

Welcome Home ceremonies will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. with Col. Joey Strickland as speaker. A Remembrance ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Friday with speakers Judge Roy Moore, a Vietnam veteran; Lon Vicknair, and Terry White. Closing ceremonies will be Sunday at 1:30 p.m. with speaker Doc Holliday. Rev. Tony Spell will host all events. Take down of The Wall will begin at 2 p.m.



**YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE** are excited to see The Wall That Heals. Everyone is welcome to line the route The Wall will take from I-12/O'Neal to Life Tabernacle Church.

# St. George Voters Decide March 29

## Amendment Would Narrow Protection for Churches, and Voters Not Being Told Truth

Continued from Page 1

gan told St. George residents gathered at Woodlawn Baptist that his top priorities as Mayor would be:

**1. Schools.** Create the best school district in the State of Louisiana, attracting the best and the brightest with a special emphasis on tech jobs.

**2. No City Manager.** When you have a privatized city, the program director of the company with the management firm is the City Manager, and there is no need to pay a high salary to anyone else.

**3. Reject \$160,000 Salary** and donate part to fund the new superintendent of schools.

★★★

**Mayor Dustin Yates** was one of the three original organizers of St. George and spent 12 years working to create the city. He has a lifetime of service as a teacher, coach, firefighter, and assistant fire chief. He was appointed Interim Mayor by Gov. Jeff Landry.

His top three priorities are:

**1. Schools.** Create a great school system for our children. A bill to do this will be introduced this spring.

**2. Public Safety.** Focus on our police, fire, and EMS and make St. George the safest city in the state.



Photo by Woody Jenkins of St. George Leader

**CANDIDATE FORUM** sponsored by the Rotary Club of St. George drew a large crowd to Woodlawn Baptist Tuesday, March 11 to hear candidates for Mayor and City Council.

★★★

### At-Large City Council Two to be Elected

**David Dellucci.** A veteran of 13 years in Major League baseball and currently a broadcaster for ESPN and the SEC network, Dellucci and his wife are raising their daughter here. His top priorities are:

**1. Crack Down on Crime.** As a burglary victim, he knows the devastating effect on citizens.

**2. Youth Sports Programs.** We have some of the worse parks, and he wants to provide great parks and training programs for our children.

**3. Sensible Development.** If it's wetlands, it stays wetlands. If it's a low lying area, it does not get developed. As a citizen appearing to testify at City Hall, he was treated badly, and he wants to make sure that never happens in St. George.

★★★

**Scott Emonet.** A businessman and attorney with 25 years' experience, he is pro-life and pro-2nd Amendment. His priorities are:

**1. Crime.** He wants to insure our police have the resources and support they need.

**2. Community Schools.** Create options for our children to have their own high quality, safe public schools.

**3. Work with City-Parish government,** not against it.

★★★

**Scott Johannessen.** A graduate of Woodlawn High and LSU, he has lived in St. George for 44 years. His whole life has been devoted to service. He was in business for many years and served in the Louisiana National Guard with deployments to Panama and dur-

ing flooding here. He has served on the Municipal Police and Fire Civil Service Board. His priorities are:

**1. Fix Our Horrible Roads.**  
**2. Develop a Great Education System for St. George.**

**3. Take Care of the Homeless Problem.** Move them up and out.

★★★

**Jim Talbot.** A long-time realtor, developer, and investor, he served in the Navy and as a Reserve Deputy at the Sheriff's Office for many years without pay. He served almost 10 years on the EBR School Board, which made him realize how important it is for St. George to have its own schools. His top priorities are:

**1. Good Public Schools.**  
**2. Crime.** As a law enforcement officer, he understands the severity of the crime problem.

**3. Being Responsive to You the Citizen.** He is committed to listening to you and reflecting your views on the issues.

★★★

**Shaunn Wyche.** He worked for 20 years in sales in the car industry. Since the City of St. George was created, he has been one of the most active participants at Council and City Charter meetings. His top priorities are:

**1. Agreement with the City-Parish on Services** in order to end the confusion.

**2. A Budget that Is Clear and Transparent.**

**3. Forming Partnerships with State and Federal Govern-**

See CANDIDATES on Page 13

# VOTE

## David Madaffari

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

See My Website



## 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

225-772-3283  
DavidforStGeorge.com

I humbly ask for your vote on Election Day!

— David Madaffari

# 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**



# Good neighbor. Great auto rates.



I can help you get the right auto coverage at a great rate. Call or stop by for a quote today.



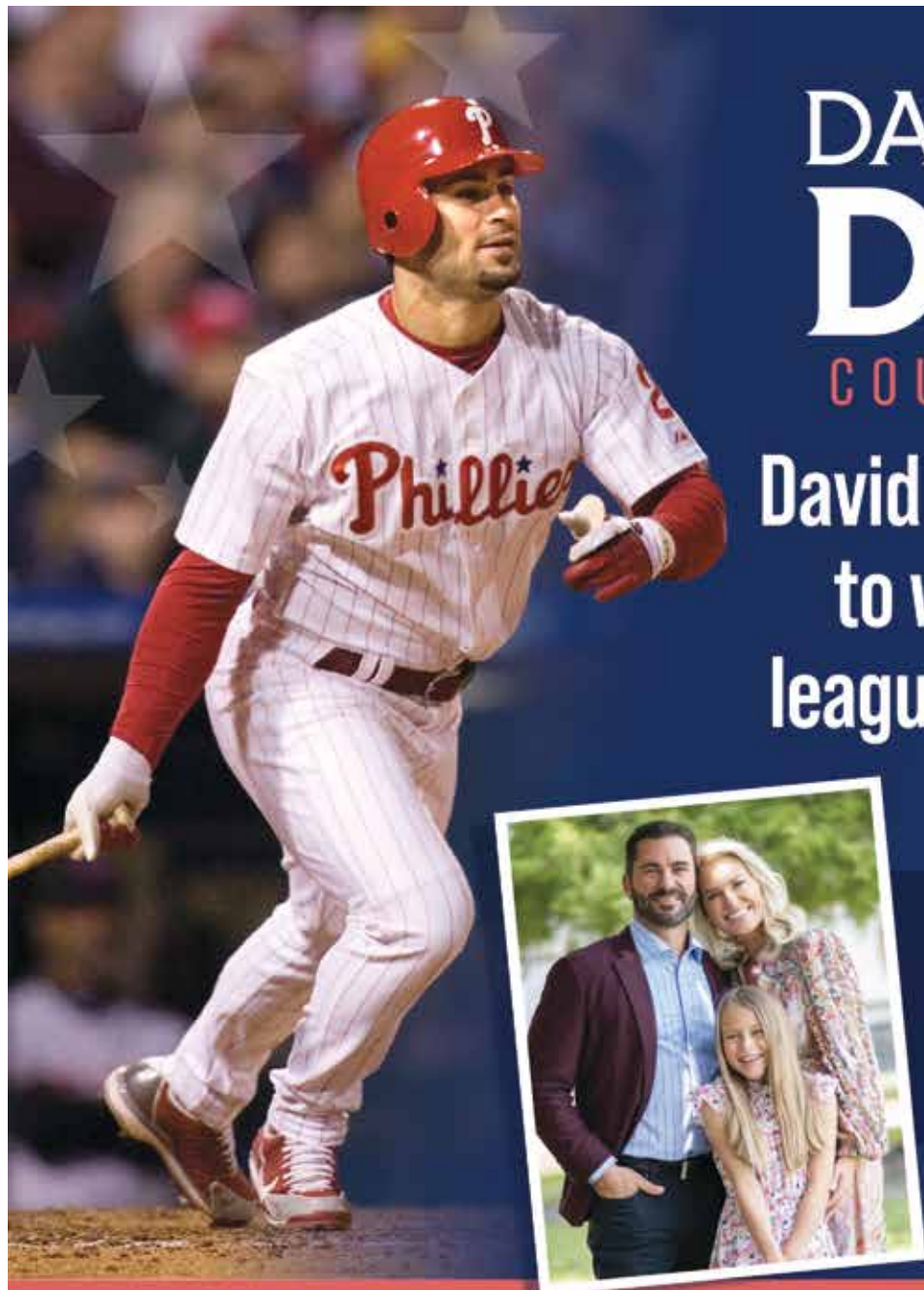
Darnell Browning Ins Agcy In  
**Darnell Browning Agent**

5664 Jones Creek Rd • Ste A  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817-2131

**Bus: 225-752-1600**

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Indemnity Company  
Bloomington, IL  
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company  
Richardson, TX

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.



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

David Dellucci knows what it takes to win—he proved it in the major leagues and in business. Now, he's stepping up for St. George.

- ★ Conservative Republican
- ★ Pro-law Enforcement
- ★ Putting St. George Families First

DavidDellucci.com

Early voting ends **MARCH 22** ★ Election Day **MARCH 29**

Paid for by the David Dellucci Campaign

**COMMUNITY PRESS, LLC**

**ST. GEORGE LEADER**  
Vol. 5 • No. 3  
910 North Foster Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**CENTRAL CITY NEWS**  
Vol. 28 • No. 2 • CCN No. 497  
Post Office Box 1  
City of Central, LA 70739

**SOUTH BATON ROUGE JOURNAL**  
Vol. 37 • No. 1

Phone (225) 261-5055 • Entire contents © 2025  
Email ads, stories and photos to [StGeorgeLeader@outlook.com](mailto:StGeorgeLeader@outlook.com)  
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.

**To advertise, contact us at**  
[StGeorgeLeader@outlook.com](mailto:StGeorgeLeader@outlook.com)  
call 225-261-5055 or 921-1433.

Member, Louisiana Press Association and Chamber of Commerce of EBR Parish  
Deadline for news and advertising: 5 p.m. last weekday of prior month.  
\$36 a year by subscription in advance • \$48 a year outside East Baton Rouge

**Central City News**  
1st Edition • April 21, 2005

**20th**  
ANNIVERSARY

**City of Central**  
Incorporation Election • April 23, 2005  
City Officials Sworn In • July 11, 2005

Amendment No. 2 Contains a “Poison Pill”

# If They Don’t Plan to Tax Churches, Why Remove Their Constitutional Protection?

Continued from Page 1

age, and a seminary for the training of ministers. All other exemptions could be repealed by a 2/3rds vote of the Legislature without a further vote of the people.

The power to impose property taxes would be handed over to the Legislature, instead of enshrined in the Louisiana Constitution.

The administration of Gov. Jeff Landry says, “Oh, the Legislature will never vote to tax churches!”

Really? Then why are they trying to take the constitutional protection for churches and non-profits out of the Louisiana Constitution?

That is the question that has not been answered.

**What Makes You Think They Read the Bills?** We have a real crisis in our state, and the No. 1 crisis is not crime or roads or blight or taxes or flooding.

The biggest crisis is, we have a Legislature that doesn’t read the bills. So anything is possible!

When you have people making laws who do not read and study what they’re voting on, there is no way to predict what they will do.

The reality is, only a handful of legislators ever read long complicated bills. It takes two or three hours a day of homework for a legislator to read and understand the bills during the regular session. If he doesn’t do that, he is at the mercy of the lobbyists, staff, other legislators, and the governor to tell him how to vote. He is a pawn because he really doesn’t know.

The passage of Amendment No. 2 through the Louisiana Legislature is a prime example of that.

This 115-page bill contains many very diverse propositions, some good and some bad. Despite its complexity and far-reaching consequences,

it was passed through the legislature in only a few days. Undoubtedly, the intent was to avoid the kind of thorough scrutiny that any major change in the state Constitution deserves. You can be sure virtually no one in the Legislature read the bill!

Something else. The Louisiana Constitution requires that each bill contain only a “single object.” That is to prevent what happens in Congress where they pass bills that are 1,000 or more pages long. No one reads or understands those bills except bureaucrats who write them.

The U. S. Constitution does not include the “single object” rule,

which is why Congress is able to throw countless diverse subjects into one bill. Our Louisiana Constitution includes the “single object” rule to prevent legislators and voters from being forced to vote for bad things in order to get something good tucked away in the bill.

Amendment No. 2 blatantly violates the “single object” rule. It contains something very bad — bad enough to require us to vote against the entire thing — a poison pill!

**Look carefully at the language of Amendment No. 2** as it relates to churches and non-profits.

Only three things would have constitutional protection from property taxes under Amendment No. 2. One is the church sanctuary, a second is the parsonage, and third is a seminary for the training of people for the ministry.



Woody Jenkins  
Editor

**“As Chief Justice John Marshall famously said, ‘The power to tax involves the power to destroy.’ By maintaining clear constitutional protections, we ensure that churches remain free from government interference and taxation, safeguarding their ability to serve communities without political influence. Please Vote No on Amendment No. 2.”**

— Rev. Lewis Richerson, Pastor  
Woodlawn Baptist Church

Only those three things would be protected by the constitution, and those have to be used **exclusively** for religious purposes.

Throughout the history of our state, nonprofit organizations including churches have always been exempt from property taxes. They have been protected in our constitution and have never been taxed.

However, under Amendment No. 2, that constitutional protection would be removed, and the Legislature could repeal the exemptions.

**What’s currently protected by the Louisiana Constitution** is all land and buildings owned by any nonprofit organization including a church if it is operated for religious, charitable, health, welfare or educational purposes. That organization has to be approved by the federal government as exempt from federal taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

From a practical standpoint, what would the repeal of Louisiana’s current constitutional protection mean? Here are some examples:

- Catholic High, St. Joseph Academy, Parkview, Dunham, and all other private and Christian schools would all lose their constitutional protection against property taxes.

- The Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, United Way and all other nonprofit organizations would lose their constitutional protection against property taxes.

- Any church property such as a family center, gym, ballpark, conference center, and land itself owned by a church would lose constitutional protection, with the exceptions of the house of worship, parsonage, and seminary.

When someone says the Legislature will never get a 2/3rds vote to tax churches, I ask, “How do you know that? They got a 2/3rds vote to put this on the ballot!”

**Why are they doing this?**  
I ask, “How can you tell me what a future governor or Legislature will do? You don’t even know who will be elected, much less how they will vote.”

The truth is, we only know two things:

1. Our current state Constitution strongly protects churches and other non-profits from property taxes.
2. Amendment No. 2 would take away that constitutional protection entirely for all non-profits and for churches except for three specific things on the church campus.

See **THE POISON** on Page 12

**Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**  
Lunch 12n \$25 • Café Américain  
7521 Jefferson Highway  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
[www.ChamberEBR.com](http://www.ChamberEBR.com)

**Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

Sponsored by Republican Party of EBR

11:45 Reception • 12 Lunch • \$25  
Café Américain • 7521 Jefferson Hwy.  
No Reservation Necessary

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

# Dr. Peter McCullough Keynote Speaker 4th Annual Health Freedom Day April 5

### Two New Things in '25: Conference Will Be Held on a Saturday And Free Registration

**CENTRAL** — Registration is continuing for the 4th Annual Louisiana Health Freedom Day, which is planned for Saturday, April 5 at Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Road in Central.

Renowned physician Dr. Peter McCullough, who led the fight for early treatment of Covid-19, will be the keynote speaker for the event, which will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration is free. To register, go to [ltcbr.com](http://ltcbr.com).

The theme of the one-day event will be new opportunities for health freedom in the era of President Trump.

Among the speakers will be:

- Conference host Rev. Tony Spell, pastor of Life Tabernacle, the church that never closed during the pandemic;
- Attorney Jeff Wittenbrink who successfully defended pastor Spell in the Louisiana Supreme Court;
- Dr. Evelyn Griffin, who lost her job with Oschner's because of her refusal to take the Covid vaccine;
- Jill Hines, head of Health Freedom Louisiana, which fights for freedom of choice in the legislature;
- Talk show host Jeff Crouere;
- Reps. Beryl Amedee and Kathy Edmonston, who have championed health freedom in the legislature
- Former Rep. Woody Jenkins, who authored numerous successful bills protecting health freedom when he was in the Louisiana House, including legalizing acupuncture, chiropractic, midwifery, and the ability of optometrists to prescribe drugs; the prohibition against mandatory vaccination in public and private schools, and strong limits on the Governor's power to violate the Declaration of Rights in the Louisiana Constitution during an emergency. He is now editor of the **Central City News**.

The event will be held at Revolution Square behind Life Tabernacle Church at 9500 Blackwater Road in Central.

Registration for the event is free. Lunch will be available during the event at The Haven Café next to the Revolution Conference Center.

To register, go to [ltcbr.com](http://ltcbr.com).



**Dr. Peter McCullough**  
Keynote Speaker



**Rev. Tony Spell**  
Life Tabernacle Church



**Jeff Wittenbrink**  
Constitutional Attorney



**Jill Dillingham Hines**  
Health Freedom LA



**Jeff Crouere**  
Talk Show Host



**Dr. Evelyn Griffin**  
Physician

# LOUISIANA HEALTH FREEDOM DAY

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Dr. Peter McCullough**

Rev. Tony Spell  
Life Tabernacle

Jeff Wittenbrink  
Attorney

Jill Dillingham Hines  
Health Freedom Louisiana

Dr. Evelyn Griffin  
OB/GYN

Jeff Crouere  
Radio Talk Host

Woody Jenkins  
Central City News

**For information, call 225-921-1433**

**11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Saturday, April 5, 2025**  
**Revolution Square • 9500 Blackwater Road • Central, LA**  
**Register at [ltcbr.com](http://ltcbr.com) • Admission Is Free**

**Election Day**  
**Mar. 29, 2025**

**Constitutional Amendments**  
Recommendations  
of St. George Leader

**CA No. 1 - NO**  
**CA No. 2 - NO**  
**CA No. 3 - YES**  
**CA No. 4 - YES**

★★ DUSTIN ★★  
**YATES**  
MAYOR  
ST. GEORGE

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



**Election Day:  
Saturday, March 29**

Paid for by the Dustin Yates Campaign



**THE WALL THAT HEALS**  
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER  
★  
A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

**EVENT CALENDAR | MARCH 18-23 | 2025**

REVOLUTION SQUARE @ LIFE TABERNACLE CHURCH | BATON ROUGE, LA

**TUESDAY, MARCH 18**

**MOTORCYCLE ESCORT – 11:00am - 12:35pm**  
11:00AM – MEET UP Parking Lot Behind Racetrac  
1683 O’Neal Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70816  
12:00 NOON – KICKSTANDS UP Escort begins  
12:35PM – ARRIVAL Life Tabernacle Church  
9323 Hooper Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70818

**OFFICIAL WELCOME – 12:45pm**  
12:45pm Speakers:  
Event Host Tony Spell,  
Chef John Reason, Staff Sergeant E-6 Retired,  
Representative from Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF)

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

**CONSTRUCTION/TRAINING**  
WALL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS – 8:00am  
Media welcome for interviews and to meet  
Baton Rouge Mayor Sid Edwards ( Time TBA)  
VOLUNTEER TRAINING – 6:00pm

\*\*\*\*\*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20**

**OPEN 24 HOURS**  
**WELCOME HOME CEREMONY – 6:00pm**  
Opening of Colors: Colonel Ken Brown, Retired Air Force  
Welcome & Special Music: Tony Spell, Event Host  
(Tony Spell, Singing National Anthem)  
Honored Speaker: Colonel Joey Strickland

**FRIDAY, MARCH 21**

**OPEN 24 HOURS**  
**REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY – 6:00pm**  
Music: Timothy Spell, Singing Some Gave All  
Honored Speakers:  
Lon Vicknair, Chief Warrant Officer  
Staff Sgt Terry White, Vietnam Veteran  
Judge Roy Moore, Vietnam Veteran

\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22**

**OPEN 24 HOURS**  
No scheduled event

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

**CLOSING CEREMONY – 1:30pm**  
Closing Remarks: Tony Spell, Event Host  
Honored Speaker: Erroll “Doc” Holliday, Sr,  
Retired Navy of 20 yrs & Vietnam Veteran  
Retiring of the Colors: Colonel Ken Brown, Retired Air Force  
2:00 pm Take Down of The Wall Begins

\*\*\*\*\*

*Special thanks to all sponsors, volunteers, special guests,  
and honored speakers who made this event possible!*

TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
**thewallthathealsbr.org**

SCAN TO VOLUNTEER:



MOLD MAN SOLUTIONS

Mold Problems?

We Can Solve It!

225-978-9444




MoldManSolutions.com

WATER DAMAGE WE CAN FIX IT



BROSS RESTORATION

FIRE DAMAGE WE CAN FIX IT

BROSS IS BOSS

Water Damage • Fire Damage • Mold Damage  
We Bring Passion and Precision to Every Job



CUSTOMER REVIEWS

Very respectful to us and the items in our home. They do a wonderful job containing the work area and keeping things clean during the work. Highly recommend! Braire K.

I suspected mold in my home and Bross Restoration assessed the situation and told us what our next steps should be. They were absolutely the easiest company to work with! I'll definitely be hiring them again in the future. Erin A.

Contact Us

(225) 256-1095

11940 Industriplex Blvd STE 8  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
brossisboss.com







**Committed to Community.  
Focused on the Future.**

**Strong Leadership.  
Smart Growth.  
A Better St. George.**

**JOIN OUR TEAM AT  
scottemonet.com**



**Early Voting March 15 - 22 Election Day Saturday, March 29**

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT SCOTT EMONET



- IT Consulting:**  
Managed Technology Agreement programs offering preventative maintenance and consulting services.
- Network Security:**  
Enterprise-class network security, intrusion protection, email security and training, and antivirus solutions.
- Cloud File Systems:**  
Secure and easy-to-use cloud-based file system with unlimited storage, unlimited versioning, digital signatures, and sharing.
- Backup and DR:**  
Next-Gen backup and disaster recovery solutions for ultimate data and disaster protection.
- Cloud Hosted Servers:**  
Enterprise class hosted server infrastructure computing solutions to fit every business need.
- SD-WAN:**  
Prioritize internet traffic and load balance simultaneous internet provider connections.

**Technology & Consulting Group**  
18212 E. Petroleum Dr., Bld. 2, Ste A,  
St. George, LA 70809  
(225) 378-2300  
www.TheTACgroup.com  
info@TheTACgroup.com



**JIM**  
**MORGAN**  
**ST. GEORGE MAYOR**

## Platform for Mayor

- Vote NO for the Home Rule Charter as written
- Work to establish St. George School System
- No City Manager, wasting \$250k of St. George taxpayers money
- No to a Mayor's Salary of \$160k for a Ceremonial Mayor with NO Executive Authority
- Pledge to donate 20% of my Salary to the taxpayers of St. George to be set aside for a highly-qualified Superintendent of the St. George School System.
- If the Home Rule Charter is voted in, the Mayor's Salary should not exceed \$98K
- On my first day in office, depending on the form of government voted in, I pledge to implement the salary suggestions listed above.
- Accountability for the city's organization, progress, and success.
- Continue partnership with private municipal contractors. Be a good steward of the taxpayer's money to the best of my abilities.
- Move Council meetings to 6 p.m., so citizens have an opportunity to attend and have their voices heard.
- Quarterly town hall meetings
- Create transparent and fiscally responsible city government



Scan QR Code  
 Learn More  
 About Jim

Endorsed by St. George Firefighters Association and Professional Firefighters Association



**St. George Professional Firefighters Association  
 Local 4524  
 P.O Box 85331  
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884**

March 6, 2025

To: Mr. Jim Morgan

Dear Mr. Jim Morgan,

On February 6, 2025, the members of the St George Professional Firefighters, Local 4524, at a regular meeting, Unanimously approved endorsing you for Mayor of the City of St George. We know that you will represent the citizens of the City of St George, East Baton Rouge Parish, the State of Louisiana, and the firefighters well.

The members of the St George Firefighters, Local 4524, wish you well and we are proud to stand with you and we look forward to working with you.

Thank you,

*Jason Turner*

Jason Turner  
 President  
 St George Firefighters, Local 4524



**PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

of LOUISIANA  
 President Chad Major

March 6, 2025

To: Mr. Jim Morgan

From: Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana

Dear Mr. Jim Morgan:

It gives me great honor to inform you that at the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana, which was held in Baton Rouge, our membership voted to endorse your candidacy for Mayor of the City of St. George. We look forward to working with you in the future and wish you the best of luck with your campaign.

Sincerely,

*Chad Major*

Chad Major  
 President  
 Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana



Jim Morgan

Visit my Website at  
[jimmorganformayor.com](http://jimmorganformayor.com)



ABS has restored over 5,000 properties across the Gulf South since Hurricane Katrina.

# ABS RESTORATION SERVICES

*"The Calm After The Storm"*



At ABS, our estimators are highly trained in Xactimate software for Accurate Assessments.

Water Restoration • Mold Remediation • Emergency Services

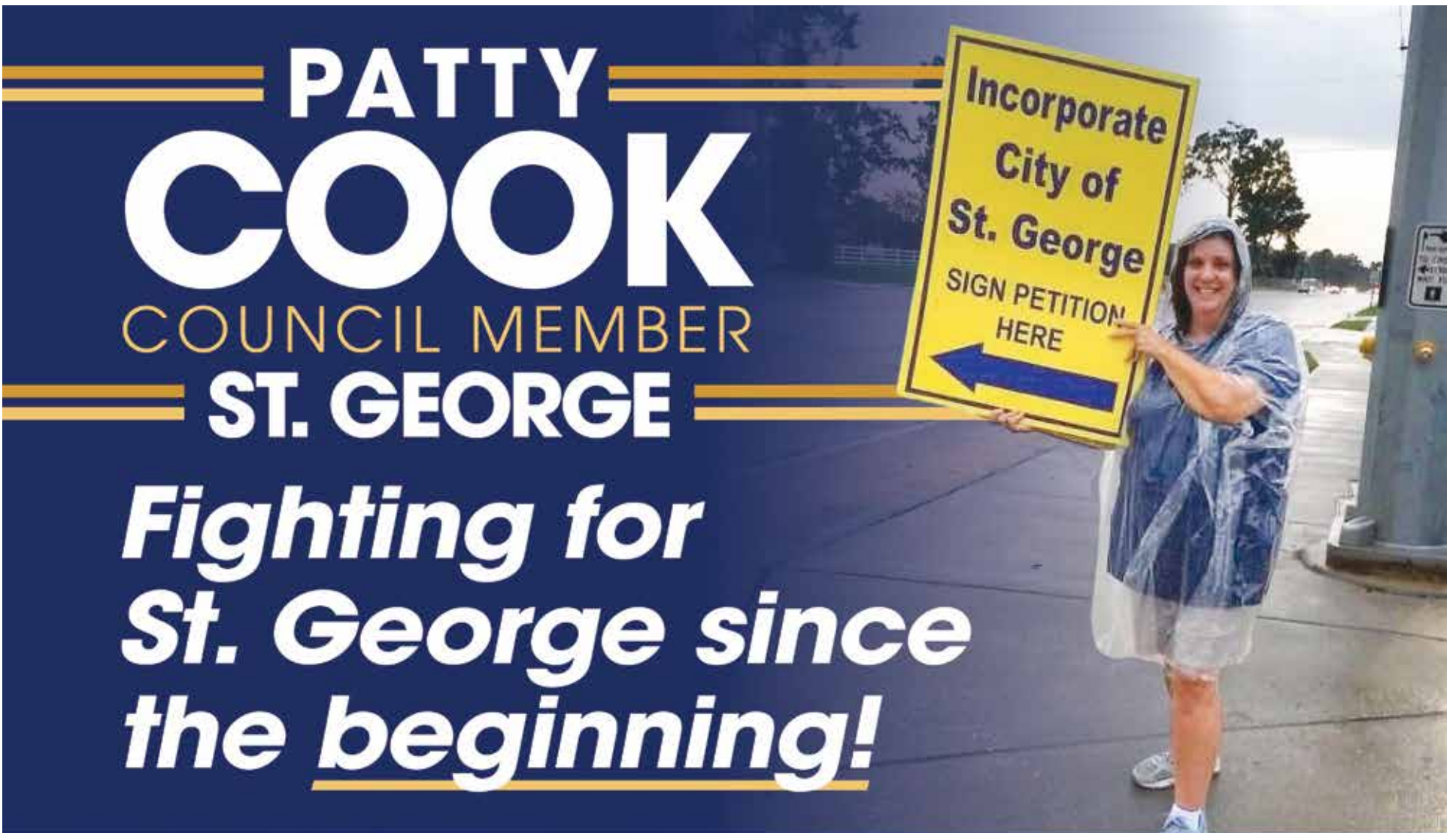
From residential properties to large commercial water damage projects, we handle it all. Unlike bigger companies, an ABS owner is involved in every project from start to finish.



We will work with your insurance company and offer Mold Certificates.

**(225) 978-8099**

[ABSLouisiana.com](http://ABSLouisiana.com)



# PATTY COOK

COUNCIL MEMBER

## ST. GEORGE

*Fighting for St. George since the beginning!*

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES:

EARLY VOTING **ENDS MARCH 22**

ELECTION DAY **MARCH 29**

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

# The Poison Pill in Amendment No. 2

**EXECUTONE** of Louisiana  
Service is our business and our customers are the proof!  
www.executonela.com

Your total communications solutions provider since 1961

- Contact us for our free phone promotion
- Digital and IP Phones
- Hosted Solutions
- Wireless Clock Systems
- Nurse Call Systems
- Fiber Optic & Data Cabling
- School Intercom Systems

Mitel | ascom | HostMyCalls™ AUTHORIZED AGENT | CAREHAWK SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

225-295-3500 Marketing@ExecutoneLA.com

Continued from Page 5

Churches and non-profits will be at the mercy of the Legislature.

**We can't predict what politicians will do or why.** We don't know if they will read the bill. We don't know if they may be trying to get a new bridge or a job for their brother in law or trade their vote for support for another bill. We just don't know what might motivate a politician when a matter this serious comes before them.

However, I will tell you what the politician will tell **you!**

He will say one of two things:

1. Oh, I didn't know that was in the bill! I would have never voted for it if I had known that! or

2. Oh, I hated to vote for that bill but you know how bad we need that bridge the governor promised us!

I recently visited Life Tabernacle Church to better understand what Amendment No. 2 would allow to be taxed and what would still have constitutional protection. It was very interesting.

**How one church would be affected.** Life Tabernacle has 41 acres on the corner of Hooper and Blackwater roads. The sanctuary and parsonage occupy about two acres of the campus and would be protected. Everything else would be subject to property taxes.

As we walked around, I saw the things that could be taxed:

- The fleet of 50 buses used in the bus ministry.
- Offices
- The Family Center
- The gymnasium
- The 5800-seat conference center
- Out buildings used for Sunday school and meetings
- The baseball and softball diamonds used for recreation.

Out of 105,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> under roof, only about 19,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> would have constitutional protection.

Since Amendment No. 2 passed the Legislature, I've talked to many people who say churches and other charitable groups should pay taxes just like everyone else!

Imagine that!

Churches and charitable organizations provide incalculable benefits to the people of our state.

Do you really think that for-profit organizations will provide all the services that non-profits do? And also pay taxes for doing it?

There's never been any history of that. For-profit businesses have a mission. That mission is to provide goods or services and earn a profit.

The for-profit model does not typically include the activities of churches providing for the spiritual needs of people, the outreach to people in the community with great physical needs, or the necessity for schools and other charitable work.

The philosophy of "everybody should pay property taxes" will result in nobody providing the help we rely on churches and non-profits to provide. We will be taxing something that in a great many cases will no longer exist.

If you are a conservative, you don't want government providing all these services. You want the private sector to provide them.

Over the past 60 years, the government has taken over the role of the father with disastrous results. If this passes, the government will take over the role of the church. You can predict the results.

Taxing churches and non-profits is a liberal idea that wants everything to be done by government! Don't call yourself a conservative if you favor taxing churches and non-profits, because you're not.

**How many more churches will close if this passes?** How many more non-profits will go out of business if you impose property taxes on them?

On March 29, Louisiana voters will go to polls and make a decision of great importance.

Please join me in telling the media, church leaders, elected officials, friends and neighbors that Amendment No. 2 must be defeated.

Do the Right Thing, Right Now.

**PARISH IS COMMITTED TO LOUISIANA COMMUNITIES**

**"DO BUSINESS WITH SOMEONE YOU KNOW!"**  
-RYAN THERIOT

30+ YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION & ROOFING EXPERIENCE

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Roofing ✓  
Construction ✓  
Waterproofing ✓  
Restoration ✓

**P**

MORE INFO:  
225-364-1007

www.ParishBuilt.com

## OUR FOCUS

From small residential to complex commercial projects; from advanced digital technologies, to cutting-edge sustainability, PARISH has you covered.

## OUR VISION

We are problem-solvers with focus and craftsman with purpose. We are team oriented with one goal: to exceed customer expectations on time, on budget, and on vision.

# Candidates for One Council Seat from District 4



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



# Candidates for St. George's Two At-Large Council Seats



David Dellucci Scott Emonet Bill Johannessen Jim Talbot Shaunn Wyche

# Candidates List Priorities for City of St. George

Continued from Page 3

ment in order to secure funding so the city will not rely so much on the sales tax.

★★★

### City Council - District 4

**Patty Cook.** She was wed in St. George 24 years ago and has been deeply involved in the community. She joined the St. George movement 14 years ago and helped run the petition drive. She was part of the core group and experienced all the adversity.

She is an appointed member of the City Council and was co-chairman of the City Charter Commission. Her priorities:

- 1. **Schools.** Have quality education for all our children and keep families here.
- 2. **Crime.** Her daughter is afraid

to go out at night, which is symptomatic of the situation we face.

**3. Blight and Cleaning Up the City.** We have too many owners of rental property and too many neighbors who do not keep up their property. We need a sense of pride and we need to keep families here.

★★★

**David Madaffari.** Has been involved in the St. George movement for the past two years. His family's commitment to education led them to home schooling. As incorporation has unfolded, it has been a great civics lesson for his children. His desire to be part of the community led him to do videos on what is happening here. Now he hopes to be an independent voice for St. George. His top priorities:

- 1. **Schools.** We should reimagine

public schools and draw ideas from many of the things done in home schooling such as classic education, life skills, and vocations.

**2. Civic Engagement.** It's hard to get to meetings. We should have more zoom calls and other ways to communicate.

**3. Cost Efficiency and Transparency.**

★★★

**Shannon Powell.** She has worked for the government including as a probation officer, Head Start worker, and as a criminal justice coordinator. She wants to build strong families in St. George. Her top priorities are:

- 1. **Giving Good Information to the Community** so we can make informed decisions.
- 2. **Community Involvement.**

There is not enough participation at Council meetings. Make it fun.

**3. Fiscal Responsibility.** Be conservative with our money.

★★★

**Justin Turner.** A business owner who owns a pipeline inspection agency His wife runs a non-profit dog rescue organization. In business and now for St. George, it's important to get everything right the first time. His priorities:

- 1. **Education and schools.** We should move forward expeditiously and start our own schools perhaps with a charter school model. The Basis charter is a good model.
- 2. **Crime.** Community involvement is important.
- 3. **Salaries of City Officials.** Salaries are too high, and that decision should be reversed.

# Half of Candidates Oppose Home Rule Charter

Continued from Page 1

go to the elected Mayor. The City Charter provides for term limits and requires a vote of the people to raise taxes. The Charter will be revised every 10 years.

### At-Large Council Candidates

**David Dellucci.** I favor the Charter. I believe in a Council-led government. If you want something done, go to your Councilman.

**Scott Emonet.** The people will get it right. I want a home rule charter. Maybe not this one.

**Bill Johannessen.** I'm firmly Against! It is not the document we need. Fatally flawed. To amend it will take 6 of the 7 votes on the

Council and a referendum. Or signatures of 25 percent of voters in 60 days. 60 days is unattainable. The Charter creates an unwieldy situation. The project manager of the private company reports to the City Manager who reports to the Mayor who reports to Council. It makes no sense.

**Jim Talbot.** One of my promises is to be responsive to you. I've listened. 90 percent of the people I've talked to oppose paying a City Manager \$250,000. Dustin Yates is perfectly capable of working with the city contractor without a middle man in between. I would vote No.

**Shaunn Wyche.** I believe in

the Charter. If you want to put your thoughts into action, it provides for referendum. I'm relying on the will of the people.

### Council District 4 Candidates

**Patty Cook.** I was one of two Council members on the Charter Commission and served as co-chairman. I support the Charter 100 percent. We do not need an all-powerful Mayor. Hold the Council responsible. Give people the power.

**David Madaffari.** No! Our country is based on separation of power between executive and legislative branches. This blurs the lines and has the legislative branch running the government. The City

Manager is superfluous.

**Shannon Powell.** The people can make this decision. If you don't have enough participation, this plan won't work. Right now, we do not have the participation. No!

**Justin Turner.** I'm against the Home Rule Charter. I've heard we don't want an all-powerful Mayor. Yet, the Charter creates an all-powerful City Manager who is not elected and cannot be voted out by the people. The Mayor would be liaison between Council and City Manager who would relay things to the private company. It's an unnecessary and very expensive extra layer of government.

# Bill Johannessen Explains Why He Is Voting No on St. George City Charter

**Bill Johannessen**

Candidate, St. George City Council at-Large

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — When I entered the City Council race, I approached the proposed Home Rule Charter for St. George with an open mind.

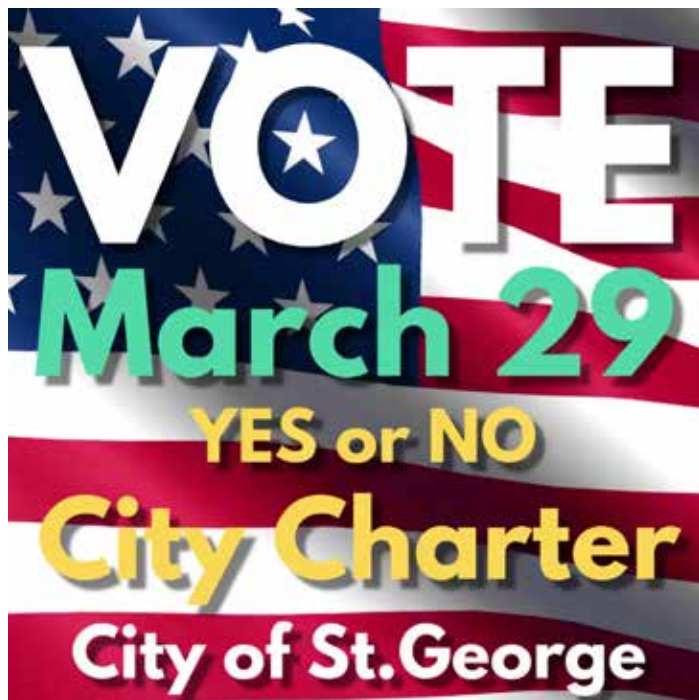
Like many of you, I recalled the early incorporation efforts led by folks like Chris Rials, who pitched a public-private partnership model like Sandy Springs, GA, or our neighbors in the City of Central.

As a conservative, I'm all for smaller, localized, responsive government—closer to the people it serves. Initially, I thought putting the HRC on the ballot made sense.

But after watching the contentious January 14 City Council meeting on the salaries of our elected city officials and studying the final Charter myself, I've come to a clear decision that this HRC isn't the right fit for St. George.

I am grateful for the dedication and hard work the charter commission put in. However, I can't get behind what they have come up with. Here's why.

**A Flawed and Costly Framework.** My first pass at the Charter raised immediate concerns. The proposed salary of \$160,000 for a Mayor with no real executive duties seems excessive for such a limited role.



I support and have a lot of respect for our current and next mayor, Dustin Yates, and believe he has proven himself a capable and dedicated leader for St. George.

However, this Charter doesn't set him up to lead effectively. It strips the mayor of executive authority, leaving us with a figurehead position that costs far more than it delivers. Dustin would make a fine mayor, but only with a Charter that gives the office real executive power to act decisively

for our community.

Then there's the City Manager position. At first, I saw potential in having a professional manager, but the more I thought about it, the more it felt it was an additional expense we don't need.

In a public-private partnership like Central's, the private service provider employs a Project Manager — who handles those duties without adding another layer of bureaucracy. A stand alone City Manager in St. George could cost

**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.

upwards of a quarter million dollars a year — money we don't need to spend when a mayor like Dustin Yates, properly empowered, could oversee the Project Manager directly.

This Charter's framework not only undermines a strong leader like Yates but also piles on unnecessary expenses for the taxpayers, contradicting the fiscal responsibility we want and deserve.

**A Plan That Doesn't Match Us.** HRC supporters argue that imperfections can be fixed later. I wrestled with that — it sounds reasonable. But after consulting trusted voices on both sides, I found a glaring issue: This "Council-Managed" government with a City Manager isn't just untested here — it doesn't exist anywhere in Louisiana!

Of the 34 cities with a Home Rule Charter, every single one has a Mayor with executive authority and a Council with legislative authority. It's a proven balance of leadership and oversight. Contrast that with the 245 municipalities under the Lawrason Act.

Only one—the City of Central — uses a public-private partnership, where a private provider's Project Manager reports to a Mayor with executive authority.

Central's model works because  
**Story continues on Page 15**

## Norman Browning Statement On St. George City Charter

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — As the founder of the St. George movement and incorporator of the City of St. George, I am proud to support the proposed Home Rule Charter.

Since our movement began in 2013, we have committed to establishing a transparent, effective government that truly serves the people. This charter delivers on that promise by embedding our core principles into the very framework of our government and giving a voice to the people of St. George.

Our charter is unique in Louisiana — designed specifically to meet the needs of St. George and its residents. It draws from proven best practices across the U.S., tailored for our city rather than a one-size-fits-all model.

Over the last 11 years, I have spoken with countless residents about the best way to govern our community.

One message has been clear: A government with a city manager, mayor, and city council working in unison is the right path forward.

This charter structures government with a proven business model — with our city manager as CEO, managing day-to-day operations. Our city council as the board of directors, setting policies and ensuring accountability; and our mayor as the chairman of the board, providing strategic leadership and representing our city at all times.

Now we have the opportunity to make that vision a reality.

On March 29, join me in securing St. George's future by voting in favor of the Home Rule Charter.



Norman Browning



### Advertising Opportunities

Your Ad Can Be  
**HOT OFF THE PRESS**  
In the April 2025 Edition of  
St. George Leader



**Watch Your Business Grow With the City of St. George!**  
**Advertise in the ST. GEORGE LEADER**  
Email  
**StGeorgeLeader@outlook.com**  
Or Call **Jolice Provost 225-261-5055** or **Woody Jenkins 225-921-1433**

**St. George Leader**

910 North Foster Drive • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Revolution Square**  
9500 Blackwater • Baton Rouge

March 20-23, 2025

**Vietnam Veterans Wall**  
24 Hours a Day - Free

Saturday, April 5, 2025

**Health Freedom Day**  
Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Peter McCullough**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Free

July 2-6, 2025

**Revolution: America's National Youth Conference**  
FREE

For information on the above, go to **LTCBR.LA**

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

**Continued from Page 14**  
it's lean and efficient, built on a solid foundation. This Charter, if passed, costs us more and gives us less.

**A Better Way Forward.** I'm not against a Home Rule Charter and hope the city can pass one in the not too distant future. The governing authority may appoint members to a commission to de-

velop a well-crafted charter, or we can use the petition process outlined under the Lawrason Act, where signatures from just 10 percent of registered voters can bring it to a vote.

That's democracy — letting the people decide when the plan is right. But this Charter, with its inflated salaries, unnecessary City Manager, and unproven structure,

isn't the answer. It piles on costs and complexity when a public-private partnership under the Lawrason Act could deliver the same results for less.

As a conservative, I stand for government that's practical, accountable, and fiscally responsible. This HRC doesn't check those boxes.

It's not about blocking progress

— it's about avoiding a costly mistake. St. George deserves a government that's efficient and proven, not a quarter-million-dollar gamble with no precedent.

On March 29, I will be voting NO on the Home Rule Charter.

We must do this right, not just get it done.

*Bill Johannessen is a candidate for an at-Large City Council seat.*



# JOHANNESSEN for ST. GEORGE

**We Must Do This Right!**

## Bill Johannessen

Member At-Large St. George City Council

- 9-Year Veteran - LA Army National Guard
- Proponent of Smaller, Localized, Efficient & Fiscally Responsible Government
- Focused on Workforce & Business Development.
- Currently Manage Contracts Worth Millions Across the State. Creating Jobs for Disabled & Handicapped Louisiana Workers.
- Active in Community, Promoting Families & Businesses
- **Against Home Rule Charter as Written.**
- **We Must Get it Right, Not Just Get it Done.**



[JohannessenForStGeorge.my.canva.site](http://JohannessenForStGeorge.my.canva.site)

[friendsofbilljohannessen@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbilljohannessen@gmail.com)

225-954-6951

Photo by Woody Jenkins of St. George Leader

# How Candidates Stand on Salaries/Charter

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE**  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
**ELECTION**  
Saturday, March 29, 2025

**Salary Ordinance**

**Proposed City Charter**

<b>Mayor - Jim Morgan</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
<b>Mayor - Dustin Yates</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>FOR</b>
<b>Council at Large - David Dellucci</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>FOR</b>
<b>Council at Large - Scott Emonet</b>	<b>"Adopt budget first"</b>	<b>"Maybe not"</b>
<b>Council at Large - Bill Johannessen</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
<b>Council at Large - Jim Talbot</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
<b>Council at Large - Shaunn Wyche</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>FOR</b>
<b>Council District 4 - Patty Cook</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>FOR</b>
<b>Council District 4 - David Madaffari</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
<b>Council District 4 - Shannon Powell</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
<b>Council District 4 - Justin Turner</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>

# Coach Sid, Council, Library Agree on Plan

**BATON ROUGE** — A compromise has been reached on the Library tax controversy. Mayor-President Sid Edwards, the Metro Council, and the Library Board have agreed on the proposed library millage rededication. The result is Thrive! Baton Rouge, a plan that secures long-term, dedicated funding for libraries while allowing the City-Parish to invest in essential services and financial stability for the future.

### 1. Dedicated Library Funding

- Parish libraries will maintain a dedicated millage rate of 8.3 mills, resulting in a \$48.14M annual budget.
- A one-time rededication of \$52.4 million from the existing library fund balance will be used to pay down debt, freeing up \$9.4 million in recurring revenue.



**COMPROMISE** — Mayor-President Sid Edwards, the Metro Council, and the Library Board announced a compromise allowing \$52 million in parish debt to be paid off.

• The library system will retain one year of operating revenue.

• 2.8 mills will be rededicated to "Parishwide General Purposes."

### 2. Mosquito Abatement

• A portion of Mosquito Abatement's secondary millage will be renewed at .35 mills. The remaining .65 mills will be renewed and rededicated to "Parishwide General Purposes".

• It will continue operations with its primary millage of 1.41 mills, amounting to \$8.17 million a year.

• A one-time rededication of \$13.25 million from its fund balance will go to budget stabilization.

• It will retain one year of operating revenue in its fund balance.

### 3. Parish General Alimony Millage

• The Parish General Alimony Millage will be renewed at 4 mills, securing a stable general fund.

### 4. Council on Aging

• The Council on Aging will renew and rededicate .25 mill.

**New General Fund Revenue: \$36.89 Million (No Tax Increases)**

The Thrive! Baton Rouge plan provides significant financial benefits without increasing voter-approved millage rates.

### A Plan for the Future

Thrive! Baton Rouge represents a sustainable path forward, addressing both immediate needs and long-term financial stability. By maintaining dedicated funding for critical services, this initiative ensures a stronger and more resilient Baton Rouge, the Mayor's office said.

"This is about making smart, sustainable investments in our future," Coach Sid said. "Thrive! Baton Rouge sets us on a path to long-term fiscal health and protects our essential services. This is how we build a Baton Rouge that works."

Metro Councilwoman Jenn Racca said, "I want to thank everyone who showed up to the table committed to finding this long-term solution for fiscal stability without additional millages, particularly my Metro Council colleagues, Mayor-President Edwards, and his team. I couldn't be prouder to serve alongside this group of servant leaders."

For inquiries, contact Falon Brown at (225) 406-3470.

**THE WALL THAT HEALS**  
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLIC & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER  
A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

**THURSDAY - SUNDAY | MARCH 20-23 | 2025**

REVOLUTION SQUARE @ LIFE TABERNACLE CHURCH  
9323 HOOPER ROAD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70818  
CORNER OF HOOPER AND BLACKWATER

**FREE EVENT | OPEN 24 HRS**  
**JOIN US!**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL & GROUP TOURS AVAILABLE  
MOTORCYCLE ESCORT | TUES., 3/18  
EVENT CLOSES 2PM 3/23

ABOUT THE WALL THAT HEALS -  
The Wall That Heals, is a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. This exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

PRESENTED BY - LifeTabernacleChurch  
thewallthathealsbr.org

TO LEARN MORE, VOLUNTEER, DONATE AND SPONSOR THIS EVENT SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:  
SCAN ME: [QR CODE]