

Crucial Dates and Resources for the November 18 General Election: Early Voting begins November 3

BATON ROUGE, La. – With the November 18 general election in Louisiana rapidly approaching, it's vital for residents to stay informed about critical deadlines and available resources. The Louisiana Secretary of State's Office has provided critical information to ensure that every voice is heard in this crucial electoral event.

Early Voting Period: Early voting for the general election commences on Friday, November 3, and runs through Saturday, November 11. It's essential to note that early voting will not be available on Sunday, November 5, and Friday, November 10. During this period, polling stations will operate between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

Access Your Sample Ballot: Ensuring you're well-prepared in the voting booth. To review your sample ballot in advance, you have two convenient options.

Firstly, you can visit [GeauxVote.com](#), where accessing your sample ballot is straightforward. Alternatively,

See **EARLY VOTING**, on page 6

READ ONLINE





■ Mayor Broome Announces Police Chief Candidate Review Committee

■ Baton Rouge Area Leads Peer Metros in Impressive Year-over-Year Job Growth

■ Walgreens Employees Stage Walkouts Protesting Working Conditions

■ Police Chief Murphy Paul: A Visionary Leader Driving Police Reform in Baton Rouge

WEATHER

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|  | MON. 06/23 Partly Cloudy High 87°. |
|  | TUE. 10/24 Sunny High 86°. |
|  | WED. 10/25 Partly Cloudy High 86°. |
|  | THU. 10/26 Partly Cloudy High 86°. |

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Louisiana Gubernatorial Election Results: Jeff Landry Wins Outright



Louisiana Gov.-elect Jeff Landry greets supporters Oct. 14, 2023, at The Ballroom in Broussard after claiming an outright win in the primary election. (Travis Gauthier for Louisiana Illuminator)

"This election was always about the people in this state," Landry said. "And we're gonna start putting smiles on the faces of the people of this state."

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry won the state's gubernatorial election outright on Saturday, defeating a field of 14 candidates, including Democrat Shawn Wilson. Landry received 52% of the vote, while Wilson received 26%.

Landry's victory is a significant one, as he is the first non-incumbent to win the governorship without a runoff since Bobby Jindal in 2007. It is also the first time a Republican has won the governorship since 2015.

In his victory speech, Landry called for unity and said he was ready to start putting smiles on the faces of the people of Louisiana. He also pledged to focus on the issues of education, infrastructure, and economic development.

"I have said from the beginning that our state is blessed with the most hardworking, courageous, fun-loving, wonderful people in the world," Landry said. "We care about our values, we're strong in faith.

We care about our friends, our family and our community."

Landry also said that Louisiana is ready to become "one team that rejects the past and embraces the future."

"This election was always about the people in this state," Landry said. "And we're gonna start putting smiles on the faces of the people of this state."

However, Landry's

See **LANDRY**, on page 4

A Hollow Victory and Unanswered Questions: Louisiana's Concerning Low Voter Turnout

Election Results Raise Doubts as 65% of Eligible Voters Stayed Home, Leaving Winners to Wonder

In the recent election that took place in Louisiana, a persistent concern emerged as the voter turnout highlighted the state's ongoing issue of low civic engagement. With only 35% of the eligible population casting their votes, the election results have shown both a significant victory and left many unanswered questions, particularly for the winners.

Mavis Chambers, a concerned Louisiana voter, shared her experience, saying, "I was able to walk in and walk out of the poll where I vote with no waiting. There were no one standing on the street corner to hand me a flyer." She added, "It certainly didn't feel like an election day, and we can't blame it on a football game when early voting is available; there are more people that live in Louisiana than all the people that

See **ONLY 35%**, on page 3

Sean Wilson Inspires Hope, Resilience in Concession Speech, Pledges Continued Service to Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS, La - In a show of resilience and gratitude, Democratic candidate Sean Wilson delivered his concession speech last night after Jeff Landry won the Louisiana gubernatorial race. Wilson, the second-place candidate, expressed his appreciation for the support received throughout the campaign, acknowledging his team's impact on Louisiana.

Addressing a gathered crowd in New Orleans, Wilson thanked his supporters for their dedication and emphasized the importance of making a difference in the state. He highlighted key issues such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and support for the less fortunate as pivotal points in his campaign. "We made a difference in the state of Louisiana," Wilson affirmed, reflecting on the impact of their efforts.

Wilson conveyed his commitment to holding the newly elected governor accountable for his promises, particularly regarding Medicaid expansion and fair compen-



Surrounded by his family, Democrat Shawn Wilson addresses supporters Oct. 14, 2023, at the Westin Hotel in New Orleans after conceding defeat to Republican Gov.-elect Jeff Landry. (Jonathan Peterson for Louisiana Illuminator)

sation for teachers. He urged Louisianians to engage with their government actively, ensuring it meets the expectations and needs of the people.

"It's important for the

state of Louisiana to show up for those people every day," Wilson stressed, underscoring the significance of citizen involvement.

Reflecting on his decision

to run for office, Wilson shared his love for Louisiana and his vision for the state's future. He emphasized the need to trust and empower residents to make decisions that positively im-

pact their lives. He praised the resilience and strength of the people of Louisiana, expressing optimism for the state's future.

"Let's hold our government to do just that. Let's ensure that our governors, legislators, and senators show up to do what we expect them to do," Wilson urged, inspiring continued civic engagement.

Closing his speech, Wilson thanked his family, friends, and supporters, vowing to continue his public service in various capacities.

"Don't give up on Louisiana. Don't give up on this great state because we've got a lot more ahead of us," he passionately declared.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you. I love you for what you've done for me and my family, and I trust you. We will love you back," he expressed, appreciating his unwavering support.

While not achieving the

See **WILSON** on page 4

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LOCAL & STATE

Library Board Invites Public To Groundbreaking For South Branch Library On October 24

To start construction of the new South Branch Library, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control will host a formal groundbreaking event. The public is invited to this special “gold shovel event” at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 24 at 2210 Glasgow Avenue.

Beyond remarks to be made by Library Board President Jason Jacob, Library Board Member Kathy Wascom, and East Baton Rouge Parish Interim Library Co-Directors, Patricia Husband and Mary Stein, will be special VIP guests, including East Baton Rouge City-Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome, East Baton Rouge Metro Councilwoman Jennifer Racca (District 12), Representatives from Rouzan TND, representatives of GFP Architecture and Interior Design, Ratcliff Construction, and



Library Board members: Candace Temple (vice president), Martha Stickle (treasurer), Nicole Allmon-Learson, Donald Luther, and Delores Watts.

Construction of the new branch will take an estimated 14 months. A total of \$11.632 million is budgeted for the project. The East Baton Rouge Parish City-Parish is the owner; the Library is the user. During construction, City-Parish Architectural Services and Library staff will work with the architect and the general contractor to oversee the project. Funds for this pay-as-you-go project were amassed over time as part of the Library’s 10-year Dedicated Property Tax.

“We are very pleased construction of the new South Branch Library has gotten off to a solid start,” said Interim Library Co-Director Patricia Husband. “The investment in this project will provide world-class resources and amenities for patrons. Modern libraries

are designed to be flexible, energy efficient, and function within the community as a site for discussions, research, planning, learning, and enjoying books and other amenities. This is just another step in a long process to bring such nationally enviable resources and world-class libraries to every neighborhood we serve.”

The new Library will include:

- 18,800 square feet total
- Dedicated spaces for children, teens and adults, including collections and rooms for special programming
- Books, AV materials and periodicals for all ages
- 31 public computers for all ages, laptop bar, 10 laptops for free computer classes, a number of online public library catalogs, plus free Wi-Fi
- Interactive Learning Table and 2 AWE Early Literacy Workstations for young children

- Self-checkout kiosks as well as full-service checkout
- One large public Meeting Room that can be divided into 3 separate spaces
- 1 Conference Room
- 5 collaborative Work/Study rooms
- Quiet Study room
- Courtyard accessibility from each space
- Covered drop off and easy access for pedestrians, bikers, or vehicles
- Ample parking spaces available in dedicated library parking lot

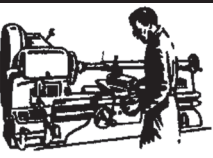
- Bike Repair Station
- Green Space Designed around a magnificent heritage live oak tree, this cozy and inviting Library will offer the public a carefully selected collection of popular browsing materials for all ages and interests, including new books, audio books, music, DVDs, Blu-rays, magazines, and newspapers. Book transfers and reservation pickups will also be available.

Technology also is a strong feature of the new South Branch, with robust WiFi, 31 computers with free

access to the Internet (including the EBRPL Digital Library) as well as Microsoft Office 2016, and two special AWE Early Literacy Workstations for preschoolers. In addition, the Library offers free public printing of up to 20 black-and-white pages per day, mobile printing through the PrinterOn App, blackand-white and color copiers and fax-on-demand.

For more information about the South Branch Construction Project, visit <http://ebrpl.libguides.com/south-branch>.

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us
General Information 225-775-2002
Email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

The office is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and located at 4910 Monticello Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70814

Correction Policy
The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-2002

ONLY 35% from page 1

attended the football game that Saturday.” Chambers pointed out the apparent lack of engagement in the electoral process and emphasized the importance of exercising the right to vote. “But if you attended any game and didn’t vote, same on you,” she added. “We forfeited the election by failing to vote.”

James Williams also expressed his frustration,

stating, “I have never experienced anything like this in all my days. There is no need to complain about anything if you didn’t vote, and I do mean anything.” He underscored the significance of voting, especially considering the numerous issues facing the state and the Black community. “I hope you are praying, people, because God is the only help we are going to get,” Williams added, emphasizing the role of civic participation in shaping the future.

In the gubernatorial

race, Jeff Landry, a Republican candidate, secured victory with 52% of the vote, amounting to 547,827 votes. On the Democratic side, Shawn Wilson garnered 26% support, totaling 275,525 votes. This outcome reflects a clear win for Landry but is marred by the low overall voter participation.

The race for Lieutenant Governor saw William Nungesser, a Republican, triumphing with 66% of


See **RACE**, on page 6

COMMUNITY UPDATE!


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-Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

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ELECTION RESULTS

- **Governor:**
WINNER: Jeff Landry (R)
Shawn Wilson (D)
- **Lieutenant Governor:**
WINNER: William “Billy” Nungesser (R)
Willie Jones (D)
- **Attorney General:**
RUNOFF: Liz Murrill (R) vs
Lindsey Cheek (D)
- **Treasurer:**
RUNOFF: John Fleming (R) vs
Dustin Granger (D)
- **State Senator, District 13:**
WINNER: Valerie Hodges (R)
Buddy Mincey Jr. (R)
- **State Senator, District 6:**
RUNOFF: Ronnie Morris (R) vs
Jodi Rollins (R)
- **State Senator, District 8:**
WINNER: Preston Castille (D)
Dolores Deedee Cormier-Zenon (D)
- **Sheriff, East
Baton Rouge Parish:**
WINNER: Sid Gautreaux (R)
- **Clerk of Court,
East Baton Rouge Parish:**
WINNER: Doug Welborn (R)
- **BESE, District 6:**
RUNOFF: Ronnie Morris (R) vs
Jodi Rollins (R)
- **BESE, District 8:**
WINNER: Preston Castille (D)
- **Sheriff, Livingston Parish:**
WINNER: Jason Ard (R)

- **Parish President,
Livingston Parish:**
WINNER: Randy Delatte (R)
- **Sheriff, Ascension Parish:**
WINNER: Bobby Webre (R)
- **Parish President,
Ascension Parish:**
WINNER: Clint Cointment (R)
- **Judge, 23rd Judicial Court:**
RUNOFF: Allen Davis (D) vs
Vicky Jones (R)
- **Sheriff, West
Baton Rouge Parish:**
RUNOFF: Jeff Bergeron (NOPTY) vs
Leo Fontenot (D)
- **Parish President,
West Baton Rouge Parish:**
WINNER: Jason Manola (NOPTY)
- **City Marshal, Port Allen:**
WINNER: Sonny J. Massey (R)
- **Parish President,
Iberville Parish:**
WINNER: Chris Daigle (D)
- **Sheriff, East Feliciana Parish:**
WINNER: Jeff Travis (D)
- **Parish President,
West Feliciana Parish:**
WINNER: Kenneth Havard (R)
- **Sheriff, Assumption Parish:**
WINNER: Leland J. Falcon (D)
- **Sheriff, St. Helena Parish:**
WINNER: Clay Chutz (D)
- **Sheriff, Tangipahoa Parish:**
RUNOFF: Chris Gideon (R) vs
Gerald D. Sticker (R)

- **Amendment 1:**
PASSED: Prohibits the use of private funds in the
administration of elections.
- **Amendment 2:**
PASSED: Provides that the freedom of worship
is a fundamental right worthy of the highest
protection.
- **Amendment 3:**
PASSED: Dedicates certain payments to be
applied to the state retirement system
unfunded accrued liability.
- **Amendment 4:**
PASSED: Restricts ad valorem tax exemptions
for certain nonprofit organizations.
- **Louisiana Senate District 6:**
WINNER: Rick Edmonds (R)
- **State Representative,
18th District:**
RUNOFF: Tammi Fabre (R) vs
Jeremy S. LaCombe (R)
- **State Representative,
62nd District:**
WINNER: Roy Daryl Adams (D)
- **State Representative,
63rd District:**
RUNOFF: Barbara West Carpenter (D)
vs Chauna Banks (D)
- **State Representative,
64th District:**
RUNOFF: Kellie Alford (R) vs
Kellee Hennessy Dickerson (R)
- **State Representative,
65th District:**
RUNOFF: Brandon Ivey (R) vs
Lauren Ventrella (R)
- **State Representative,
66th District:**
RUNOFF: Emily Chenevert (R) vs
Richie Edmonds (R)

SHOWDOWN
from page 1

victory was also marred by low voter turnout. Only 35% of registered voters cast ballots in the election. This is

down from 46% in the 2019 gubernatorial primary and 62% in the 2016 general election.

Landry will be inaugurated as the 57th governor of Louisiana on January 8, 2024.

WILSON
from page 1

desired outcome, Sean Wilson’s spirit and determination remained undaunted, embodying the resilience that characterizes Louisiana’s people.

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RELIGION

Thankful Prayers For Good Health

By Creflo Dollar

Maturing as believers involves continually learning about the power of prayer. There are plenty of things to pray about in our lives, and talking directly to God allows Him to intervene on our behalf. With this in mind, correctly dividing His Word in this area reveals the difference between Old-Testament and New-Testament prayer. When we get sick, instead of earnestly praying for healing in the future, we can joyfully thank God for the healing that's here right now.

During His ministry, much of what Jesus did for the people who came to Him involved healing, either of body or mind. The restoration of their health was independent of anything they did through their own efforts—they simply believed in Him. The faith they had, untainted by religious thinking, was what positioned them for healing. When sickness shows up and we go to God for healing, this is the kind of trust that's necessary in our prayer lives. "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24, NKJV).

Under the law, the focus was on doing, not believing. Sin, which had given birth to sickness and disease, was



still an issue, and it separated God from man. The people therefore had to plead and implore God for anything good when they prayed. "Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt... Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:9, 11, NLT). Strict obedience to all the rules and regulations was necessary or else the curse of

sickness would result.

By contrast, now that Jesus has gone to the cross to make healing available to us, no begging is required—only thankfulness. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done" (Philippians 4:6, NLT). Healing is one of Jesus' finished works. It's a gift, not something we have

to work for. Religion tells us we must do certain things to deserve it; however, this is no longer true.

After we've received our healing, we mustn't forget to thank the one responsible. When Jesus healed the ten lepers, only one thanked Him. "And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan... And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole" (Luke 17:13-16, 19). Thankfulness is a key component in New-Testament prayer. It causes us to focus on all the good God has done for us and reminds us to count our blessings.

God's will is for us to enjoy the blessing of perfect health. We can have full confidence in this because no one can curse what God has already blessed (Numbers 23:8). Faith in this leads us into a thankful, grateful mindset that empowers our prayers. No matter what the doctor says, nothing can change the truth of God's Word.

THE WAY I SEE IT!

In the Shadows of Choices: Navigating the Moral Quandary of Voting for the Lesser Evil Through the Wisdom of Scripture

By: **Ivory D. Payne**
Greater New Birth Full Gospel
Assistant Pastor



Pastor Ivory D. Payne

In the complex world of politics, one often finds themselves facing a daunting choice between two options, both with their own shortcomings. This predicament, often described as "voting for the lesser evil," raises moral questions that resonate through the annals of time. As we grapple with this dilemma, it's essential to draw wisdom from Scripture to shed light on the path of righteousness.

"No matter how you slice it, evil is evil, and sin is sin there is no degree. No big evil or little evil, no little sin or little sin. The price is still the same. Death! Sela!"

This powerful statement brings us face to face with the stark reality that, in the eyes of faith, evil and sin are absolute terms, unyielding to degrees or distinctions. It echoes the biblical truth that the consequence of sin, no matter how seemingly minor, is spiritual separation from God. In Romans 6:23, we are reminded, "For the wages of sin is death," emphasizing the weight of every transgression.

In Matthew 6:24, it is written: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other." This verse speaks to the idea

that compromising one's values, even for a seemingly lesser evil, can lead to inner conflict and moral

compromise.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23)

Proverbs 14:12 warns us, "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death." This serves as a stark reminder that what may seem like the lesser evil today can have far-reaching consequences in the future. The bill always come due!

In a world where choices are seldom clear-cut, the wisdom found in Scripture can guide us through the intricacies of decision-making, helping us navigate the turbulent waters of politics with integrity and a clear conscience. As we contemplate our moral obligations and wrestle with the concept of the lesser evil, let us remember that the path of righteousness, guided by faith and moral principles, can help us make choices that align with our deepest values and beliefs.

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West Zachary Development Project Gears Up After a Decade of Planning

ZACHARY, Louisiana - In a long-anticipated move set to transform the landscape of West Zachary along Highway 64, a new wave of businesses is poised to enter the scene. Leading the charge is Americana Development, the driving force behind Zachary's urban rejuvenation. According to Zachary District 3 councilwoman Ambre Devirgilio, this ambitious project has been in the making since 2011.

Americana Development has its sights firmly set on a sprawling 28-acre tract of land on the southern side of Highway 64. However, their vision extends northward, encompassing an extensive layout featuring a 40,000-square-foot grocery store, upscale apartments, and dining establishments. The identities of the businesses involved remain closely guarded secrets.

Devirgilio revealed, "A restaurant purchase agreement is in the works, along with several other retail spaces." This revelation signifies a significant leap forward in the project's development.

Zachary has, for a considerable period, directed its

developmental focus towards the eastern part of the city. Councilwoman Devirgilio notes, "Now it's time for the western side, and my district, to truly experience explosive commercial growth. We're ready for it."

Developers have already invested approximately \$200 million, marking an impressive financial commitment. Nevertheless, there is still much work to be undertaken as the project progresses.

Devirgilio anticipates that the coming six months will witness substantial progress from the developers, stating, "There are essential traffic studies that need to be conducted, and it must navigate through the numerous council, planning, and zoning procedures."

The proposed development project promises to usher in a new era for West Zachary, representing a significant step towards revitalizing the area and fostering economic growth. With the backing of Americana Development and the vision of local leaders like Councilwoman Ambre Devirgilio, the project's success holds immense promise.

BUSINESS

Exxon Mobil Seeks Tax Break for Baton Rouge 'Innovation Suite' Project Amidst Debate



Exxon Refinery: A Key Player in Baton Rouge's Economy - Amidst Tax Debate for 'Innovation Suite' Project

Community Divided Over Tax Incentives as Exxon's Visionary Project Faces School Board Scrutiny

BATON ROUGE - In its quest to establish new facilities in Baton Rouge, Exxon Mobil is seeking an additional tax break for its ambitious project, the \$250 million "Innovation Suite." This visionary endeavor aims to house a cutting-edge microchip factory and an advanced recycling plant.

"The benefits of the proposed Exxon Innovation Suite are numerous. It opens

up new business opportunities and allows us to expand into sectors we previously didn't have access to. This development is poised to be transformative for our local economy," expressed Joshua Combs of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC).

Despite having nearly 30 tax-exempt properties in the parish, Exxon continues to maintain its position as the largest taxpayer in the region, contributing approximately 8 percent of all property taxes.

Approval from the Metro Council, school board, and sheriff is required to secure eligibility for the City-Parish's industrial tax exemption program.

Thursday marks the pivotal moment when the request faces the school board for consideration. One advocacy group, Together Baton Rouge, urges the school board to reject the proposal.

Together, Baton Rouge representative Edgar Cage questioned the beneficiaries of this exemption, especially from an educational perspective. He remarked, "Who's benefiting from this exemption, especially from the school board perspective? It's not the students who endure long bus rides on un-air-conditioned buses. It's not the teachers who receive salaries well below the Southern average pay scale. It's not the parents

who have to take time off work to ensure their children's safe transportation to school or, in many cases, provide essential resources for their child's classroom education."

If the proposal gains approval, the East Baton Rouge Parish School System will lose approximately \$4 million in property taxes. Exxon asserts that the school system will experience long-term benefits, estimating that it will receive around \$3 million over the next two decades, equivalent to approximately \$150,000 per year.

EARLY VOTING from page 1

consider downloading the Geaux Vote app onto your smartphone for those who

prefer mobile convenience. This app places your sample ballot at your fingertips, making it easy to study and make informed choices when you vote.

Empower yourself with knowledge and be ready to

have your say by exploring your sample ballot through these accessible platforms. In a democracy, informed voting is vital in ensuring that your voice is heard and understood.

The November 18 general election represents a

significant opportunity for Louisianans to shape the future of their state. Don't miss your chance to make a difference - register, prepare, and vote on election day. Your voice counts, and your vote is your voice.

ONLY 35% from page 3

the vote, amassing 678,531 votes. His Democratic opponent, Willie Jones, received 20% of the vote, totaling 211,988 votes.

Similarly, in the Attorney General race, Liz Murrill, a Republican, secured victory with 45% of the vote (463,103 votes), while her Democratic counterpart, Lindsey Cheek, trailed behind with 23% (239,652 votes).

John Fleming, a Republican candidate, emerged victorious in the Treasurer race with 44% of the vote (442,668 votes), while Dustin Granger, a Demo-

crat, received 32% support, amounting to 321,423 votes.

The Secretary of State race ended in a tie, with both Nancy Landry (R) and Gwen Collins-Greenup (D) receiving 19% of the vote, with 197,514 and 196,534 votes, respectively.

Notable races in various districts across Louisiana also witnessed varying levels of support, but one common theme remains the low voter turnout, which raises concerns about political engagement in the state. Preston Castille, a Democrat, secured an impressive 70% of the vote in the BESE Board District 7 race, reflecting a high level of support in that particular district.

However, across several city council and parish council races, voter participation remained low. In some cases, candidates were elected with less than 50% of the district's support, highlighting the potential for increased civic engagement in these areas.

In the State Senate and House races, candidates like Mark Abraham, Daryl Deshotel, and Beau Beaulieu enjoyed significant victories, with strong support from their constituents. However, these wins are tempered by the fact that a large portion of the eligible electorate chose not to participate.

The recent election results in Louisiana have

once again underscored the need for increased efforts to engage the public and boost voter participation. The sentiments expressed by Mavis Chambers and James Williams highlight the concern that many citizens may not feel engaged or motivated to participate in the democratic process, leaving winners to wonder about the representation of the broader population and the unexpressed views of the majority who did not participate. The story of this election serves as a wake-up call to address the challenges of low voter turnout and its implications for the future of the state.

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Supreme Court Opts Not to Intervene in Louisiana Redistricting Issue

BATON ROUGE, La. - In a surprising move, the U.S. Supreme Court has decided not to involve itself in Louisiana's ongoing redistricting debate, raising questions about the ramifications of this decision in the wake of a recent mandate requiring Alabama to redraw its congressional map due to voting rights concerns.

Former President of the Baton Rouge NAACP chapter, Eugene Collins, expressed his disappointment, stating, "This decision isn't entirely unexpected, as the system has, once again, shifted the goalposts after considerable efforts were made to secure a fair court ruling."



The backdrop to this decision originates from the 2020 census, which revealed that Louisiana's black population had increased to one-third of the state's total population, while it retained six congressional districts, with only one being a black majority. The state legislature, despite numerous attempts, failed to create a new map that would accurately represent this demographic shift. Now, SCOTUS has declared that, for the time being, it will not be intervening, leaving numerous uncertainties about the future.

"This decision has introduced a significant amount of uncertainty into what was anticipated to be the

creation of another district favoring the minority," Collins added.

The unforeseen shake-up in the political landscape has left Louisiana Democrats in a state of limbo. They had hoped for the establishment of a second black-majority district in preparation for the 2024 elections. However, with SCOTUS stepping aside, the future remains uncertain.

With less than nine months remaining until the 2024 election qualifying process begins, the political landscape in Louisiana remains in a state of flux.

Leaders Publications, The Baton Rouge Weekly Press Announce the Creation of "Louisiana Men of Prestige and Power" Coffee-Style Publication

BATON ROUGE, La. —Leaders Publications and The Baton Rouge Weekly Press are thrilled to announce the forthcoming release of their second coffee-style publication, "Louisiana Men of Prestige and Power." This groundbreaking publication is set to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and legacies of African-American men in Baton Rouge and its neighboring cities. The inaugural edition is scheduled for release on February 11, 2024.

A notable feature of this initiative is the overwhelming response from the community. Over 500 African-American men from diverse backgrounds have been nominated and have eagerly

submitted their information to be included in this historical publication. This enthusiastic participation underscores the community's commitment to unity and the celebration of excellence.

"Louisiana Men of Prestige and Power" is designed to spotlight the remarkable achievements of African-American men in various fields, including art, business, education, entertainment, government, law, media, medicine, and sports. In addition to honoring contemporary figures, this publication will feature historical profiles of the trailblazers in Louisiana's Black history.

"When you are included in our coffee-table-style books, you become

part of a vast community of honorees who influence communities, demonstrate professional excellence, and inspire future generations," said Ivory D. Payne, CEO and Publisher of Leaders Publications.

The community is excited as they await the unveiling reception, which is scheduled for February 23, 2024, at the EBR Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. This event promises to be a memorable experience, featuring live entertainment, dynamic speakers, and gourmet food and beverages.

One question that remains on everyone's minds is: Who will grace the "Louisiana Men of Prestige and

Power" cover? The answer to this exciting question is forthcoming as anticipation continues to build.

To submit nominations and be part of this historic publication, visit www.leaderspublications.com. Submission is free to all, and advertising and sponsorship opportunities are also available for those who wish to demonstrate their support for African-American excellence.

For further information, please contact:

Ivory D. Payne
CEO / Publisher
Leaders Publications
Email: info@leaderspublications.com

Phone: (225) 775.2002

Key Deadlines:

- Deadline to submit: November 15, 2023

- Advertising and Sponsorships Due January 15, 2024

"Join us in celebrating African American excellence, both past and present. Submit an up-to-date 180–200-word bio and a high-resolution professional photo (300 dpi) to become a part of this exceptional resource guide," urges Ivory D. Payne.

The Baton Rouge community awaits the grand unveiling of "Louisiana Men of Prestige and Power."

Note: This is not an awards program.

LEADERS PUBLICATIONS PRESENTS

1

MEN OF
PRESTIGE
POWER

EXPOSE CHILDREN TO POSITIVE ROLE MODELS
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ELECT

#56

CHANUA
BANKS

‘SHE’S NO SHRINKING MAGNOLIA’

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



EQUITABLE FUNDING: Advocating for fair and balanced funding across critical areas like child welfare, environmental safety, infrastructure, juvenile justice, and education.

Councilwoman Chauna Banks has been leading efforts to transform East Baton Rouge for the past 10+ years as an elected public servant. She now wants to take her abilities to the state house to advocate for all of District 63 and Louisiana. **VOTE FOR CHAUNA BANKS #56**



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Prioritizing initiatives that create economic opportunities within her diverse, intergenerational constituency.



COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION: Striving to secure increased state funding for community development and revitalization, particularly in distressed areas, to foster growth and prosperity in District 63.

Demonstrated Track Record of Achieving Results

As a proud Baton Rouge native, I completed my education journey at Southern University Laboratory High School, where I laid the foundation for my academic pursuits. I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Southern University and later pursued a Master’s degree in Education, Leadership, and Counseling from Southern University Graduate School.

Throughout my career, I’ve dedicated myself to serving the East Baton Rouge School District as a committed employee, contributing to the education and development of our local youth.

Currently, I am honored to be in my third term as a Metropolitan Councilmember, representing the vibrant Council District 2. This experience has allowed me to gain profound insights into the diverse challenges facing communities along the northern corridor of East Baton Rouge Parish. My approach to governance has always been hands-on, engaging with residents, business leaders, public and private institutions, community organizations, and fellow elected officials. Together, we’ve worked to

challenge the existing norms and bring about positive change.

My overarching goal is to enhance the quality of life for all my constituents, regardless of their race, socioeconomic status, gender, or background. A significant portion of District 63 falls within my council district, enabling me to start making a difference from day one.

My deep-seated commitment to empowering underserved communities informs my vision for District 63. I advocate for equitable funding in critical areas such as child welfare, environmental safety, infrastructure, juvenile justice, and education. Creating economic opportunities for my diverse constituent base remains a top priority, considering the generational diversity within our district.

Furthermore, I strongly believe that increased state funding should be allocated to support community development and revitalization efforts in distressed neighborhoods. This approach will bring about positive change and improve the lives of all residents in District 63.

‘SHE’S NO SHRINKING MAGNOLIA’