



Voter Guide

May 4, 2019 Election

A nonpartisan service of the League of Women Voters- Lafayette

The LWV-Lafayette is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. As a nonpartisan organization, the League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. It publishes and distributes factual information for citizens to use when preparing to cast an informed vote.

For more information, please visit our site at <http://www.lwv-lafayette.org/>

1) Sign Up To Vote

- To vote in the May 4, 2019 election, you must register to vote by the following deadlines:
- To register in person or by mail, you must sign up by **Wed., April 3**. You can register at the following locations:
 - Registrar of Voters
 - Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles
 - Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services
 - WIC offices
 - Food stamp offices
 - Medicaid offices
 - Offices serving persons with disabilities
 - Armed Forces recruitment offices
- You can download a form online to print and mail form:
<https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/RegisterToVote/Pages/default.aspx>
- To register online to vote here:
<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/VoterRegistration>. You must sign up by **Sat., April 13**.

2) Get Ready to Vote

- Need to find your polling place, check your registration, or see your ballot?
Louisiana Voter Portal:
<https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>

3) VOTE!

- *Early voting:* You can vote early at the Lafayette Parish Registrar of Voters, located at 1010 Lafayette Street.
 - **Dates:** Sat. Apr. 20-Sat. Apr. 27, except Sunday
 - 8:30 AM – 6 PM
- *An absentee ballot* may be collected in person or by mail.
 - The deadline to request an absentee by mail ballot through Secretary of State online voter portal or at the Parish Registrar of Voters is **Tues. Apr. 30, by 4:30 PM**.
 - The deadline for the Parish Registrar of Voters to receive your mail ballot is **Fri. May 3 at 4:30 PM**.
- *Election Day* is **Sat., May 4**. Polls will be open from 7 AM – 8 PM. All voters in line by 8 PM are eligible to vote.
- *What to bring:* Be prepared to show a photo identification card with your photo and signature when voting. If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free Louisiana special identification card by presenting your voter registration information card to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) or you may vote by affidavit after correctly answering identifying information before voting.

4) Turn the Page to Learn What's on the Ballot

- Parishwide Law Enforcement District Mills Renewal
- Parishwide Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District Mills Renewal

PW Law Enforcement Dist. - 8.76 Mills Renewal - Sheriff - 10 Yrs.

Shall the Law Enforcement District of the Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy an eight and seventy-six hundredths (8.76) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation in said District for a period of ten years, beginning with the year 2020 and ending with the year 2029 (an estimated \$20,026,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year) for the purpose of providing funds for the District, said tax to be in addition to the tax now authorized by R.S. 13:5903(A) to be levied for the said purpose?

YES ()

NO ()

Summary

Currently, the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office collects a property tax that goes into that office's general fund. The money is used to cover operations, equipment, and personnel. The tax makes up approximately one-third of the revenue in the sheriff's budget.

If approved, the tax renewal is expected to generate about \$20 million a year for 10 years starting in 2020. This renewal of 8.76 mills would mean that the owner of a home worth \$200,000 with a homestead exemption would continue to pay \$109.50 per year to fund the Sheriff's Office.

Supporters Say:

- This millage makes up one third of the sheriff's operating budget including salaries for officers and staff. A failure to renew this millage would result in substantial shortfalls in the budget.
- The millage has been renewed several times in the past.

Opponents Say:

- This millage would have been more appropriately placed on the ballot in the October or November elections because there is typically low turnout in May elections.

PW Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water Dist. - 1.5 Mills Renewal - BOC - 10 Yrs.

Shall the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District of the State of Louisiana (the "District"), levy a one and one-half (1.5) mills tax on all the property subject to taxation within said District (an estimated \$5,600,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2021 and ending with the year 2030, for the purpose of constructing, establishing, extending, maintaining, operating and protecting a fresh water supply and abating pollution in Bayou Teche and the Vermilion River within the said District, title to which public works shall be in the public?

YES ()

NO ()

Summary

The Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District was established in 1969 to oversee the supply of fresh water in the Teche and Vermilion rivers and to prevent salt water intrusion. Voters in Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin, and Vermilion Parishes approved a 1.5 mills property tax in 1970 to fund these efforts, including building and maintaining the pumping station at Krost Springs. This property tax goes up for renewal every ten years and has been renewed four times previously.

If approved, the tax renewal is expected to generate about \$5.6 million a year for 10 years starting in 2020. This renewal of 1.5 mills would mean that the owner of a home worth \$200,000 with a homestead exemption would continue to pay \$18.75 per year to fund the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District.

Supporters Say:

- This project has aided in maintaining waterways, preventing pollution, and preventing stagnation.
- This project aids area farmers who utilize fresh water supplies in maintaining crops.
- This project is overseen by the parishes and is not eligible for federal funds. This tax is its only source of funding to maintain the project.

Opponents Say:

- This millage would have been more appropriately placed on the ballot in the October or November elections because there is typically low turnout in May elections.