

PROJECTS COMPLETED

CANALS & DITCHES RE-EXCAVATED

- Coulee Canal from Choctaw to La. 1
- Coulee Canal from Choctaw to Sugar Mill
- Port Allen Canal from La. 1 to 14th St.
- Ton Ton Canal
- Morley Canal
- Westover Ditch to Richard Canal
- South River Road levee ditches
- Concrete ditches under the I-10 bridge
- Oily, Live Oak and Galick Ditches

CULVERT CLEAN-OUTS:

- Coulee Canal under La. 1
- Andre Lane
- Airline Park
- Lynndale Subdivision
- Babytown
- Bueche Extension
- Colonial Dr.
- Randall Gay

REPAIRED WASHOUTS:

- Poydras Bayou
- Stumpy Bayou
- Ton Ton Canal
- Coulee Canal

UPCOMING PROJECTS

CANALS & DITCHES RE-EXCAVATED

- North Intracoastal Canal from I-10 to Kearney Canal
- St. John, Creola & N. Silverston Ditches
- Big Stumpy
- Cline Lateral from Section Rd. to Flynn Rd.

CULVERT CLEAN-OUTS:

- Various locations under La. 1
- Riverside
- Emily Drive
- 4 Box culverts connecting the La. 415 Canal to the Parish Canal in Woodlands Court & American Way

Drainage tax RENEWAL on Nov. 15 ballot



The election ballot before West Baton Rouge voters on November 15 includes Proposition 1, which is a RENEWAL of the 10-year 7.2 mill property tax for parish-wide drainage. This millage generates nearly \$6 million to support critical drainage projects, improvements and maintenance that protect West Baton Rouge families and businesses across the parish.

The millage is the only funding source for the Drainage Department, which is responsible for:

- 🚧 **Maintaining more than 700 miles of waterways**
- 🚧 **Strengthening infrastructure to safeguard businesses, schools and critical facilities, and**
- 🚧 **Proactively addressing problem areas to mitigate flooding.**

These projects are designed to safeguard our quality of life, protect local investment and stimulate our economy at a low cost to taxpayers.

“By voting to renew, you’re helping to protect the momentum we’ve built and ensure much-needed improvements become a reality for our community,” said Parish President Jason Manola.

VOTING INFORMATION

EARLY VOTING:

Nov. 1 - 8 (except Sunday, Nov. 2)
8:30 am - 6 pm

At two locations:

- Registrar of Voters office -
Courthouse Annex Building,
883 7th St., Suite A, Port Allen
- Waterworks District Office,
158 East St. Francis St., Brusly

ELECTION DAY:

Saturday, Nov. 15

7 am - 8 pm at your voting precinct



Shown in the photos are a variety of drainage projects throughout the parish.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WBR PARISH COUNCIL - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, www.wbrcouncil.org

WBR PARISH SCHOOL BOARD - Committee meetings - 2nd Tuesday of month, 5 p.m. School Board meetings - 3rd Wednesday of month, 5 p.m., School Board office 225-343-8309, www.wbrschools.net

WBR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION - Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month, 5:30 p.m., Council meeting room, Parish Council Building.

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets 1st Tuesday of month. 5 p.m., Council meeting room in Parish Council Building.

TOWN OF ADDIS - Meets 2nd Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, www.addisla.org

CITY OF PORT ALLEN - Committee meetings - 1st Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Council meetings - 2nd Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Port Allen City Hall 225-346-5670, www.portallen.org

TOWN OF BRUSLY - Committee meetings on 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Council meetings on 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Brusly Town Hall - 225-749-2909, www.bruslyla.com

PRSR STD
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PERMIT NO. 88



NIGHTMARE ON COURT STREET

Trunk or Treat

5PM-8PM | SUNDAY, OCT 26, 2025

375 COURT STREET, PORT ALLEN, LA 70767

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE CALL MAYOR PATTAN AT 225-259-1242 OR CITY HALL AT 225-346-5670

THRILLING MUSIC, HAUNTED VIBES, FOOD, TREATS AND FUN!!



COMING EVENTS

Oct. 26 - Nightmare on Court Street Trunk or Treat

Dec. 4 - Christmas Tree Lighting
6 - 8 pm, Port Allen Depot

Dec. 11 - Senior Citizen Holiday Gala
6:30 - 8:30 pm, Port Allen Community Center



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The City of Port Allen will be closed for these holidays:

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day	Dec. 24-26 - Christmas
Nov. 26 - Close at noon	Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve
Nov. 27-28 - Thanksgiving	Jan. 1 - New Year's Day



CITY OF PORT ALLEN

Meetings:
City Hall, 3rd Floor,
5:30 pm
second Wednesday
of each month

Meetings aired live
on Facebook:
facebook.com/cityofportallen

WBR LIBRARY

Library tax renewal on November 15 ballot

Voters are reminded that the Library will again ask for renewal of its 4.1 mill property tax to fund operations in the November 15 election. On March 29, 2025, voters rejected the RENEWAL of a 4.1 mill tax to fund the WBR Parish Library.

This tax is the only funding for the library. It funds all library operations, including the Bookmobile, Storytimes, public computers, books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, and daily services to the public. Without this revenue, the West Baton Rouge Library will be forced to close.

Director Tamie Martin noted that copies of the Library budgets, audits, and Board meeting minutes are available on the Library website, www.wbrpl.com. Martin can be reached at tmartin@wbrplibrary.us or 225-342-7920 ext. 222.

A home with an appraised value of \$150,000 with the homestead exemption pays only \$30 per year to support the Library. She compared that amount to the cost of a single book or one month of streaming platforms.



Spice Club

Get your spice on at our library!

Want to learn about each month's featured spice and receive online resources to expand your recipe collection?

Here's How:

- Visit our website to register monthly
- You will receive your take-home kit via email 1-2 days before pickup dates begin. (No email, no problem! We can provide a copy of the kit for you.)
- Visit your local library on the dates given to pick up your spices from the circulation desk (All spices must be picked up on one of the dates given.)

**SPICE PICKUP:
OCTOBER 23RD-24TH**



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225-342-7920
www.wbrpl.com

Court Street sidewalk project to be completed in 2026

The Court Street Sidewalk project is expected to be complete by the end of 2026. The first phase, which is expected to begin in the Spring of 2026, will extend from Paul Wong's (across from the old Wal-Mart location) to South 12th Street in Port Allen.

Phase 2 of the project will pick up at the end of Phase 1 (S. 12th Street), cross the railroad tracks and LA 1 and connect to the existing sidewalk that runs along Court Street to the Mississippi River levee and Water Heritage Trail. Phase 2 will also connect to the Court Street sidewalk heading south down Rizzutto Brothers Road to the West Baton Rouge Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The project construction is being handled by the La. Department of Transportation and Development. The state is funding 80 percent of the cost, with the parish funding the other 20 percent.

Biddy Basketball registration

Registration for the winter Biddy Basketball League is underway and ends November 27. It is open to boys and girls age 4-12. Cost is \$40. To register go to: <https://www.wbrcouncil.org/489/Biddy-Basketball>, or go by the WBR Recreation Department office in the Port Allen Community Center.

Flu vaccines offered at Health Center

The West Baton Rouge Health Center is offering free flu shots, but appointments are required. Call 225-215-5201.

Garden Club marks Breast Cancer Month



The West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club's "Beauty of Life" pink garden dedication was held Oct. 1 at the WBR Ag Center for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Parish leaders, along with club members and their families who had or are now experiencing cancer, were among the attendees. The WBR Garden & Civic Club is involved in many community gardening and civic projects in the parish. For more information visit www.wbrgardenclub.weebly.com. Pictured at left during the dedication are Parish President Jason Manola and WBR Garden Club member Elisa Tubbs.

Hazardous Materials Collection

Saturday, Oct. 25 8 am - Noon

Alexander Park, Brusly

Sponsored by Keep WBR Beautiful, Dow Chemical, & Keep Iberville Beautiful

\$6.5 million in water system upgrades are underway, to continue through 2026

Engineering on a \$3 million water improvement project is underway with construction expected to begin in 2026. It includes upgrading water lines on Hwy. 983 (Bueche Road) from 6-inch to 8-inch lines, and installing approximately 3,500 ft. of new 24-inch water line under Intracoastal Road. The parish was awarded a \$1.9 million grant for the just over \$3 million project.

WATER WELL PROGRESS: The second water well being installed at the Multipurpose Arena is about 65 percent complete. This \$3.5 million project is being funded by \$2 million in ARPA funds and \$1.5 million in parish funds. The second well will serve as a back-up and will also be used to meet capacity needs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this message is to inform the public that West Baton Rouge Parish has buried gas pipelines throughout the gas service area that provide safe reliable energy to its customers. West Baton Rouge Parish maintains these pipelines to a high standard and they are considered reliable. A Damage Control Program (line markers) and an Emergency Plan for responding to an emergency situation has been established and the Town works closely with Fire and Emergency Response Personnel. Prior to any excavation in and around any gas facilities contact either of the numbers below.

One-Call System 1 (800) 272-3020 or 811

**Help Us Keep You Safe
How to Recognize a Natural Gas Leak**

Natural gas leaks may be detected by one of the following indications on or near our pipelines right-of-way:

1. A gaseous or hydrocarbon odor. (smell of rotten eggs)
2. A blowing or hissing sound.
3. Dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
4. Continuous bubbling in one spot in wet or flooded area.
5. Dead vegetation (grass, shrubs or trees.)
6. Abnormally dry or hardened soil.
7. Fire apparently coming from the ground or burning above the ground.

CAUTION: Gas that has accumulated in a confined space is subject to **EXPLOSION**.

Please stay away from immediate area of any suspected gas leak and contact the West Baton Rouge Parish Gas Maintenance Department! Never turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of a gas smell.

NOTE: West Baton Rouge Parish does not maintain buried piping between the gas meter and the house or business. The customer is responsible for maintaining and repairing this section of gas piping from leakage. These buried gas lines should be checked periodically for leakage.

If you need additional information, suspect a natural gas leak or in case of an emergency concerning a West Baton Rouge Parish System gas main or service line, immediately call:

**West Baton Rouge Parish
1 (225) 336-2406 or
1 (225) 490-8599 (24 Hour Number)**

CHARGE into Fire Safety™

Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

- BUY only listed products.
- CHARGE devices safely.
- RECYCLE batteries responsibly.



STORMWATER: Where It Flows, Everything GOES

When it rains, snows, or sleet, water hits hard surfaces and takes anything on that surface with it, through drains, pipes, and ditches to local rivers, lakes, and streams.



Deputy Armstrong gets Crime Stoppers Award of Excellence

Deputy Jasen Armstrong, of the Uniform Patrol Division, was recognized by Capital Region Crime Stoppers at its 9th Annual Law Enforcement Awards Luncheon on Oct. 2. He received the Award of Excellence. This honor reflects Deputy Armstrong's dedication, hard work, and outstanding service to the citizens of West Baton Rouge Parish.

Sheriff Jeff Bergeron commends Deputy Armstrong on this achievement and thanks Capital Region Crime Stoppers for its continued partnership in supporting local law enforcement.



Sheriff Jeff Bergeron and Deputy Jasen Armstrong

Sheriff Jeff Bergeron
West Baton Rouge Parish

S.A.L.T.

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

Senior Health Expo

Wednesday, November 5, 2025
9 AM - 1 PM

Vendors • Guest Speaker • Entertainment by Jason 'Elvis' Duplessis • Lunch • Door Prizes

Addis Community Center
7520 LA Hwy. 1
Addis, LA 70710

TRICK OR TREAT

Friday, Oct. 31
5:30 - 7:30 pm

HALLOWEEN

TOWN OF ADDIS

Addis changes to Magistrate Court system

The City of Addis has changed its justice system, converting from a Mayor's Court to the newly created Magistrate Court. Under the new system, retired town attorney Dana Larpenter was appointed by the Town Council to serve as Magistrate.



Dana Larpenter

Larpenter recently retired after 48 years as attorney for Addis. Mayor David Toups thanked Larpenter, saying, "We are deeply grateful for his professionalism, legal expertise, and commitment to the Town of Addis throughout his tenure."



Karen White

The idea for a Magistrate Court had been floated for years, but has gained traction as lawmakers have ramped up criticism of mayor's courts. The move also aligns with guidance for small towns by the Louisiana Judicial College.

The town welcomes Karen White as the new Town Attorney. Ms. White, formerly of the Louisiana Municipal

Association, brings extensive experience in municipal law and governance. She will also serve as the Town Prosecutor, representing the Town in municipal court matters.

Please join us in congratulating Dana on his new role and in welcoming Karen to the Town of Addis. We look forward to the continued excellence both will bring to our municipal operations.



Crews will soon begin work on the town's 2025 road improvement project.

Town to begin road project

The town will begin its 2025 road improvement project in late November, with 14 roads scheduled to get improvements. The following streets are included: Union Drive, Bayou Plantation Drive, Clarkland Blvd. West, Clarkland Blvd. East, Belle Vue Drive, Little Hope Drive, Old Hwy. 1, West Frontage Road, Bird Heights Avenue, Myhand Street, Peter Messina Road, Molaison Street, Mary Street, and George Bookish Drive.

The project went out for bid in September, and the Town Council is expected to vote on accepting the low bidder at its November meeting. Improvements to the roads will vary from simple pothole repairs to reconstructions for the roads with extensive wear and deterioration.

Meeting change

Due to the Veterans Day holiday, the November meeting of the Mayor and Town Council has been rescheduled to Monday, November 10 at 6 pm.

ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD

NOV 07 RYAN FORET & FORET TRADITION 5:30
RAILROAD PARK
4343 HARRIS STREET

Town's \$5.7 million sewer project now 90% complete

The \$5.7 million project to improve and update the town's sewer system is now 90% complete. A project underway for almost two years, it provides the town with much needed sewer system capacity increases and repairs, along with a much more efficient operation.

The project includes an additional 5,000 feet force main line laid from the Live Oak lift station to facilitate pumping wastewater to the Brusly Wastewater Treatment Facility. The additional 10" line doubled its pumping capacity to the treatment facility, which will get the wastewater to the treatment facility quickly, significantly reducing the chance of a sewer system overload. That project is now complete.

Also included was replacing the old pumps with new above ground pumps at the South LaBauve and Bourgeois Street lift stations. The old pumps were problem-prone and required hoisting the pumps from raw sewerage to do repairs. The new pumps are more maintenance free and sanitary. That project is now complete.

The project also includes treatment facility improvements. The old duckweed system has been replaced with a new modular cover system to help with heat retention, odor control, algae elimination, TSS removal, maintenance, and wildlife mitigation. That project is complete.

In addition, two LEMNA polishing reactors are being installed to remove ammonia and polish BOD, two things the town must sample and report every week. Improvements completed at the treatment facility have already tremendously improved the town's weekly samplings required by La. Dept. of Environmental Quality.

The projects are funded with \$4.3 million grants, plus approximately \$850,000 in federal ARPA funds, and \$450,000 in town funds. The project will be completed by the end of 2025.

Town of Brusly CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Friday, December 5
5:30 pm
St. James Park
1000 E Main St.

Holiday Jump houses,
face painting,
live music,
SANTA and more!



WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

West BR tourist info. center to undergo big transformation

The tourist information section of the WBR Convention & Visitors Bureau will undergo a massive transformation in the coming months, thanks to a grant from the state, said Director Kathy Gautreau. Besides renovation of the main center with new floors, painting and a new design, it will be modernized to meet the needs of today's tourists, including digital interactive displays. In addition, the restrooms facilities will be renovated. The facility will be closed to the public Oct. 22 thru Nov. 3, but will be open during most of the renovation. It is expected to be complete by June, 2026.



WWW.WESTBATONROUGE.NET



Victim Assistance Coordinators assure DA communication with crime victims

Those arrested for crimes face a hard road, but the crime victims and witnesses often face many hardships too - pain, sadness, anger, financial difficulties, and confusion on how the court system works.

District Attorney Tony Clayton has appointed Victim Assistance Coordinators in each parish of the 18th Judicial District (Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee) specifically to help crime victims and witnesses through this difficult time. Their job is to explain the court process to victims and witnesses, keep them informed of court hearings and trial dates, and answer their questions on their case.

"We meet some of the best people at the worst time of their lives," said Director and Pointe Coupee Coordinator Lisa Jarreau. "People don't understand the workings of the justice system because they've never had to deal with it. We make a real difference because we provide empathy and understanding, and help them through this process."

In many cases, the coordinators build relationships with the victims and witnesses because it takes some time for major crimes, like murder or rape, to go to trial. Investigation, hearings and case preparation, along with inevitable delays, all take time. "It's a 24-7 job - victims and witnesses call us at night and on weekends, but it's very interesting and fulfilling," she added.

"DA Clayton made it clear to us that our program is a priority in his office - we are the most valuable resource to these victims and witnesses at a time when they are very vulnerable," noted Coordinator Vincel Simpson. "We make sure their voices are heard."

"Sometimes it can be a heavy burden but our job is to listen to them and make sure we are answering their questions and are assisting them in every way we can," Simpson said. "And every victim and witness is different. We have to meet them where they are because so much about the judicial system is unfamiliar to them. We often serve as mentors and teachers, and hopefully, give hope for healing through this process."



Victim Assistance Coordinators Vincel Simpson, Lisa Jarreau and Lori White.

Iberville Coordinator Lori White noted, "We serve as liaisons between the victims and the District Attorney's Office, someone they can easily reach out to with their questions and concerns. We schedule meetings with the victims and the Assistant District Attorney handling the case when needed, and attend court hearings and trial to keep them informed."

"Some cases, like murders, child abuse, and domestic violence cases, can be very difficult and emotional, but we walk our victims through the process," White said. "We also try to assist them with victim reparations whenever it applies."

White noted that they also discuss possible pleas with victims. While the District Attorney's Office has the final say in plea offers, DA Clayton wants to make sure the victims have a voice before any plea agreement is made. The coordinators also explain the victim's right to present a victim impact statement during sentencing, giving them an opportunity to tell the court how the offense has impacted their lives.

"It's an honor to help them through this and to be the expression of kindness at such a hard time," added Simpson.

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

NEW EXHIBIT

WEAVING NATURE
LOUISIANA'S NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETRY
OCT 26 - DEC 28, 2025

Historical Happy Hour

Friday
NOV 14, 2025
6 - 8 PM

Featuring
CAPITAL CITY CAJUNS
at the West Baton Rouge Museum

FREE

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
at the
West Baton Rouge Museum

COMING SOON

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:
BLACK CEMETERIES
OF WEST BATON ROUGE**

**OPENS
JAN 10, 2026**

PINE NEEDLE BASKET WEAVING FOR BEGINNERS

NOV 2, 2025
1 - 4:30 PM

LED BY **ELISABETH PIERITE**
Member of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and Cultural specialist for the Language & Culture Revitalization program

SPACES ARE LIMITED
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
225.336.2422

FREE

Saturday
NOV 15, 2025
12 PM

FRANCO-CANADIAN CHILDREN'S ARTISTS
MME DIVA & MICAH!

offered in conjunction with
MY FRENCH BOOK FEST

GRATUIT

**FRIDAY
DEC 12, 2025**
6:00 - 8:00 PM

hot cider
papa noël
gingerbread
arts & crafts
elf scavenger hunt
holiday musical performances

Examining the historic lost burial grounds of enslaved Black people across the parish, as well as Black cemeteries in danger of meeting the same fate.

"This project is about giving voice to the voiceless,"
—Debbie Martin,
genealogist and cemetery mapper



Recapping 2025: Values, rates and exemptions

West Baton Rouge Parish will see a \$11.4 million reduction in year to year assessed property values for 2025. "The decrease is due largely to a \$15.4 million reduction in inventory values reported by commercial and industrial property owners," said Assessor Chris Guerin in the WBR Parish Assessor's Office annual property assessment report.

The total assessed value of real estate increased from \$303.7 million in 2024 to \$308 million in 2025. The total value of business personal property (inventories, business furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment) decreased from \$496.3 million in 2024 to \$481.4 million in 2025. Also, the value of public service property (pipelines, rail, telecommunications, utilities and watercraft) valued by the Louisiana Tax Commission decreased from \$50.3 million in 2024 to \$49.5 million in 2025.

Guerin noted 81.5% of all property taxes paid in West Baton Rouge Parish are paid by business and industry. Additionally, the parish has approximately \$1.67 billion in industrial property exemptions that will be phased onto the assessment rolls by 2030. "These are exemptions the Louisiana Economic Development Office granted to new manufacturing businesses and existing manufacturing business expansions," Guerin said.

Property owners can expect to see the parish-wide property tax rate for 2025 increase from 96.86 mills to 98.84 mills. The rate increase is a result of the Assessor's Office increasing its rate from 0 mills to 1.50 mills, the School Board increasing its rates from 50.13 to 51.03 mills and the Parish Council reducing its rates from 26.74 to 26.32 mills.

Assessor Guerin also wants to remind residents of West Baton Rouge Parish that it is not too late to apply for a homestead exemption, special assessment level value freeze (age 65 and older or 100% disabled), or additional homestead exemptions for veterans with at least a 50% service-connected disability and qualifying 1st responders. Applications may be submitted online, mailed, or faxed in or completed in person in the Assessor's Office.

As always, the Assessor's Office website is available 24/7 for access to valuable parcel information including ownership data, assessed values and legal descriptions, as well as aerial photography and digital maps of West Baton Rouge Parish. You can visit the site at www.wbrassessor.org.

2025 Property Tax Breakdown

TAXING DISTRICT	MILLAGE	TAXES
Assessor's Office	1.50	\$ 1,172,088.00
Atchafalaya Levee Dist.	3.89	\$ 3,029,859.00
WBR Parish Council		
Communications/E-911	2.00	\$ 1,562,783.00
Community Center	2.00	\$ 1,562,783.00
Council on Aging	1.50	\$ 1,172,088.00
Drainage	6.20	\$ 4,844,630.00
General Fund	3.52	\$ 2,750,500.00
Health Unit	1.00	\$ 781,392.00
Library	4.10	\$ 3,203,707.00
Museum	2.00	\$ 1,562,783.00
Recreation	4.00	\$ 3,125,568.00
	26.74	\$20,566,234.00
WBR School Board		
Constitutional	4.39	\$ 3,430,311.00
General fund	15.00	\$11,720,879.00
Bonds & interest	9.90	\$ 7,735,780.00
Salaries I	10.87	\$ 8,493,730.00
Salaries II	10.87	\$ 8,493,730.00
	51.03	\$39,874,430.00
WBR Sheriff's Office	16.10	\$12,580,416.00
Total	98.84	\$77,223,027.00

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



UNITING LOUISIANA'S PORTS FOR GLOBAL GROWTH

STRATEGIC COLLABORATION DRIVES MARITIME GROWTH: Louisiana's five Lower Mississippi River deepwater ports have joined forces to develop their first-ever unified marketing strategy. Partnering with Polaris Analytics & Consulting, this forward-looking initiative is designed to attract new international trade opportunities, draw foreign investment, and strengthen Louisiana's position as a premier global gateway for commerce.

A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Supported by Governor Landry and the Louisiana Ports and Waterways Investment Commission, the plan builds on the March 2025 *Cargo Market Analysis and Strategy for the Lower Mississippi River Ports* report. It will evaluate each port's unique strengths, identify competitive advantages, and create a unified value proposition. This will be paired with a comprehensive marketing roadmap to present the ports to the world as a single, coordinated force for growth.

"This collaborative marketing strategy amongst Louisiana's deepwater ports on the Mississippi River will harness the collective strength of these vital maritime hubs, amplifying their reach and appeal," said Jay Hardman, Executive Director of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. "By uniting resources, our ports can attract broader trade opportunities, enhance visibility, and position ourselves as a unified, efficient gateway for global commerce."



WWW.PORTGBR.COM

TEACHER PAY



Explaining the ballot proposals

Voters will be asked whether to RENEW two property tax millages that fund teacher and staff pay and benefits in the Nov. 15 election.

THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX! This is a renewal.



Early Voting is November 1-8 at these locations:

Registrar of Voters Office
Courthouse Annex Building
883 7th St., Suite A, Port Allen

New Early Voting Site:
Waterworks District Office
158 East St. Francis St., Brusly

Election Day is November 15
7 am - 8 pm at your precinct

PLEASE VOTE!

ABOUT WBR TEACHER PAY:

WBR teacher pay is in line with other districts, but is \$6,200 below Iberville, which is a competitor for teacher recruitment (chart at right).

Half of WBR's 428 teachers LIVE in WBR. Many others travel over the bridge daily to work in WBR schools, which is an added burden and plays a role in their decision to teach in WBR.

Starting Teacher Salaries:

Iberville	\$62,506
WBR	\$56,274
W. Feliciana	\$54,272
Ascension	\$54,033
Zachary	\$54,022
Central	\$52,750
EBR	\$52,000
Pointe Coupee	\$50,442



Aerial view of the new Brusly High School turf field.

Turf fields completed, other improvements underway

Improvements are well underway at numerous West Baton Rouge schools under the School Board's \$32 million school improvement project. This project is being funded by a bond issue - taxpayers have not been asked for any additional taxes for these improvements. Following is a breakdown:

Brusly Upper Elementary - windows and doors replaced. Other improvements coming soon.

Brusly Middle School - roof replaced on main classroom building and gym.

Lukeville Elementary - a new cafeteria and gym are presently being designed and is expected to go out for bid in Spring 2026.

Port Allen Elementary - gym and kitchen roof and floors replaced; both facilities re-painted.

Port Allen High - new turf field completed, along with track improvements and new lighting.

Brusly High School - new turf field completed, along with track improvements and new lighting.

Cohn Elementary/Intermediate - site work and foundation work underway for elementary building.



Aerial view of the new Port Allen High School turf field.

ABOUT WBR SCHOOLS TAXES:

The election ballot includes 2 WBR Schools millage RENEWALS - each being 12 mills for salaries and benefits. Together they produce \$19.08 million, which goes directly to teacher and staff pay. The rest is covered by the School Board General fund. The tax RENEWAL is for a 10 year period.

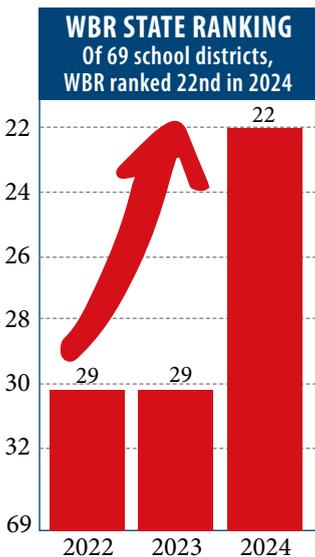
The WBR School Board has voted to roll back millages despite increasing costs. WBR millage totals are middle-of-the-pack among school districts in this region.

2024 School District Millage Rates:

Zachary Community Schools	67.20 mills
Ascension	61.59 mills
Central Community Schools	60.08 mills
Iberville	57.83 mills
West Baton Rouge	51.03 mills
East Baton Rouge	43.45 mills
West Feliciana	41.71 mills

(From the La. Legislative Auditor's website)

WBR SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE PROGRESS:



• WBR moved up 7 spots on district performance scores in 2024 and had the most growth of all 69 school districts statewide (see chart at left). WBR now ranks 22nd of 69 school districts in the state.

WBR student gains on LEAP testing:

- One of only 25 districts showing growth in Mastery+ across all tested subjects
- Percent of students scoring Mastery+ increased for 3rd consecutive year
- Students in grades 3-8 showed major gains in math
- Grades K-3 grew from 57% to 68% proficient in literacy

(from La. Dept. of Education)

WILL MY TAXES GO UP IF THESE TAXES PASS?

NO! These are tax RENEWALS - not new taxes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THESE TAXES DO NOT PASS?

Because these millages fund a very substantial portion of teacher and staff pay and benefits, the WBR School Board would have to make significant cuts if the millages are not renewed. These cuts would reduce programs, eliminate jobs, reduce pay for other jobs, and require larger class sizes.

WBR Schools:
In Your Pocket



Download the West Baton Rouge Schools app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.