



Frank Flynn, Chairman
- At Large

Monday, October 30, 2006

Ann Ardoin, Vice Chairman
- At Large

PRESS RELEASE:

Thomas Guilbeau, Secretary
- At Large

**LAFAYETTE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTES
NO ON SALES TAX INCREASE**

Ken Bouillion, Treasurer
- District 7

At its most recent meeting, the Lafayette Parish Democratic Executive Committee voted to oppose the 1 percent sales tax increase on the November 7, 2006 ballot because City-Parish Government has already experienced an increase in its sales and property tax collections to record levels in every year since the Durel Administration took office, and future collections are also expected to reach record levels. Not only has this administration collected a record amount of taxes but it has spent a record amount of taxpayer money, and the 2006-2007 budget already includes a record amount of money to be spent on roads, bridges, and other infrastructure.

Alfred Boustany, II
- At Large

Jeff Moss
- At Large

Gobb Williams
- District 1

Phyllis Angelle-Roy
- District 2

According to the City-Parish Web site, the City's sales tax collection is experiencing an unprecedented growth with a 23 percent increase for the current fiscal year through June, 2006. The parish's sales tax growth experienced a 25 percent increase for the same period. The 2006-2007 projected budget anticipates an additional 7 percent increase over those amounts.

Rep. Wilfred Pierre
- District 4

Stephen Handwerk
- District 5

Blaise Sonnier
- District 6

Glenn Armentor
- District 8

The high rates of sales and property taxes, along with the increase in homeowner's insurance due to the recent hurricanes, have made Lafayette an expensive place to live. We believe increasing taxes will only make the problem worse. Without doubt the one percent sales tax proposal is a burdensome tax which disproportionately burdens the elderly citizens on a fixed income, and the working middle class with a significant reduction by one percent (1%) of their household budget. The Lafayette Parish Democratic Executive Committee strongly urges Lafayette voters to reject the call for a tax increase.

Anthony Fazio
- District 9

Ruth Yeager
Dana Armentor
Richard Warren
Cherie Hebert
Lester Gauthier

If the voters approve this new tax, Lafayette taxpayers will incur an additional long-term debt of almost one-half billion dollars, which effectively mortgages our future and eliminates our ability to have that bonding capacity for needs that only local government can fund. A substantial portion of these new long term bonds are being dedicated to pay for improvements to State highways. The reason given



for this is that supposedly construction will be done faster. However there is no provision for Lafayette to get those dollars reimbursed, or the dedicated State dollars rededicated to projects in Lafayette, so we are increasing our local tax burden and giving the State those dollars to spend wherever the State wants. Because the Lafayette Democratic Executive Committee Lafayette believes in fiscal responsibility first, we oppose this new debt and urge voters to vote NO on the proposed sales tax increase.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas E. Guilbeau,
Secretary, on behalf of Lafayette Democratic Executive Committee
ThomasGuilbeau.msn.com
(337) 232-7240

You may also see more information on this at www.LafayetteDemocrats.org

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