

DONALD J. VILLERE
MAYOR

City of Mandeville

"THE HEART OF THE OZONE BELT"



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September 30, 2014

To all residents:

On November 4th, we have an important election coming up in the city. I have learned of a great way to assist voters in this election that I would like to share with you. It's the Geaux Vote App. To receive it free of charge, go to the website of the Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.la.gov>. Then click on the large box that says Geaux Vote. Next, click on "mobile apps" and choose your phone type or technology of choice. Then you will come to a page that will allow you to download the free app and install. Once installed, it will display a personal ballot for you to mark and save for early voting or Election Day. You can actually mark your preference of voting on your phone, save it and bring it with you to the voting booth, allowing more time at home to study the issue and less time in the voting booth by recalling your notes. You can check election results the evening of the election. Geaux Vote is a great support in the voting process.

In Mandeville, we will be voting on five propositions, four are for revisions to our Home Rule Charter; one is for a special sales tax rededication. None are for the purpose of raising taxes.

Regarding charter revisions, they are listed below and I have added comments to explain their purpose.

1. Shall the Mandeville Home Rule Charter be amended in technical respects to track state election laws and the Open Meetings Law, to update the charter in accordance with contemporary local governmental practices and terminology, to provide for publication of important public documents on the Internet, to clarify supermajorities necessary for certain council actions, to eliminate obsolete language, and for similar and related purposes, as more particularly set out in Ordinance No. 14-16?

Amendment Package 1 provides for technical changes that update the charter to provide for technological changes and clarifies language.

2. Shall the Mandeville Home Rule Charter be amended to revise certain council procedures, organization, and governance, to shift responsibility for filling vacancies in the council from the governor to the mayor in the event that the council fails to make a timely appointment, to set time restrictions on when compensation for the council may be modified, to require council members-elect to comply with the Open Meetings Law, all as more particularly set out in Ordinance No. 14-17?

The Amendment changes authorization from the Governor to the Mayor for appointment of a temporary council vacancy if the council does not act within 20 days.

(Please turn the page over)

3. Shall the Mandeville Home Rule Charter be amended to extend term limits from two to three consecutive terms, but to apply the extended limits to all service on the council, regardless of whether that service is in a district or at-large council position, as more particularly set out in Ordinance No. 14-19?

This proposition extends from two to three, the number of consecutive terms a councilman may serve in the same specific office, whether a District Councilman or a Councilman At Large. It requires an absence of one term before re-seeking a position on the City Council.

4. Shall the Mandeville Home Rule Charter be amended to move the human resources director from the unclassified to the classified service, provide for the appointment of the human resources director by the personnel board, reduce the terms of the personnel board members from five (5) to four (4) years, establish qualifications for board appointees consistent with those for the municipal police employees civil service system, and revise related provisions of the charter as needed to comport with these changes, as more particularly set out in Ordinance No. 14-24?

Currently the Director of Human Resources is half in Civil Service and half outside the system. This proposition places the Director of Human Resources as a complete Civil Service position.

The other proposition is to restructure our sales tax to broaden its use. Here is how it reads:

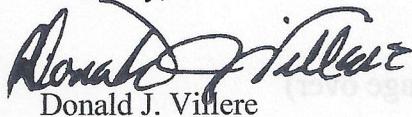
Shall the City of Mandeville (the "City") continue to levy a tax of 1% (the "Tax"), authorized at an election held on May 1, 1999 (an estimated \$4,665,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for an additional period of 10 years from the termination of its current authorization on December 31, 2019 (through December 31, 2029), upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on sales of services in the City, with the net proceeds of the Tax heretofore or hereafter collected (after paying the reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of collecting and administering the Tax), to be rededicated and used: (i) 50% for any lawful corporate purpose of the City and (ii) 50% for constructing, acquiring, extending, improving, equipping, repairing, operating and /or maintaining sewers and sewerage disposal works, waterworks improvements, streets, drains and drainage facilities and flood protection (including the payment of salaries and acquiring of all necessary land, equipment and furnishings), and shall the City be authorized to fund the proceeds of the Tax into bonds for capital improvements?

This proposition removes the restrictions placed 15 years ago on one half of the tax collected from a one cent special sales tax, so as to address current needs. Additionally "flood protection" is added to the purposes which the remaining one half of the tax may be expended.

Remember, registering to vote for this election ends on October 6th; early voting is from October 21st through October 28th and the actual election date is November 4th.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call my office at 985-626-1082.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Villere

Mayor