



## **Letter to the Gazette Editor-November 17, 2020**

### **Now is NOT the time to increase taxes in Plaquemines Parish.**

Voters are being asked to support a 9.25 millage increase on the December 5<sup>th</sup> run-off ballot. That represents a 54% tax increase of the Parish Government's share of millages collected that will not solve or end projected department deficits.

In a letter to the Parish Administration and Council Members on July 1, 2020\*, the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry (PABI) acknowledged our Parish government has experienced a decade of declining oil revenues as a result of the declining cost per barrel of oil and declining oil production. Although oil revenues continue to plummet, certain Parish departments, such as Maintenance of Public Buildings, Ferry Operations, Recreation, Road Maintenance, Mosquito Control and the Ambulance Department, continue to be funded with levels of subsidies from the General Fund. For several years, PABI has advocated to implement *user fees* to align with public services to help offset annual deficits.

Now IS the time for our elected leaders to question the cost of operating subsidized departments and the cost of the public services provided. Then, they should agree on a multi-year plan or roadmap that adjusts services to reduce department costs and implement reasonable user fees for departments to breakeven.

We encourage all residents to educate yourself on the issues and to exercise your right to vote on Saturday, December 5, 2020.