

**KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:  
AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNITS OF GOVERNMENT  
IN LAFAYETTE PARISH**



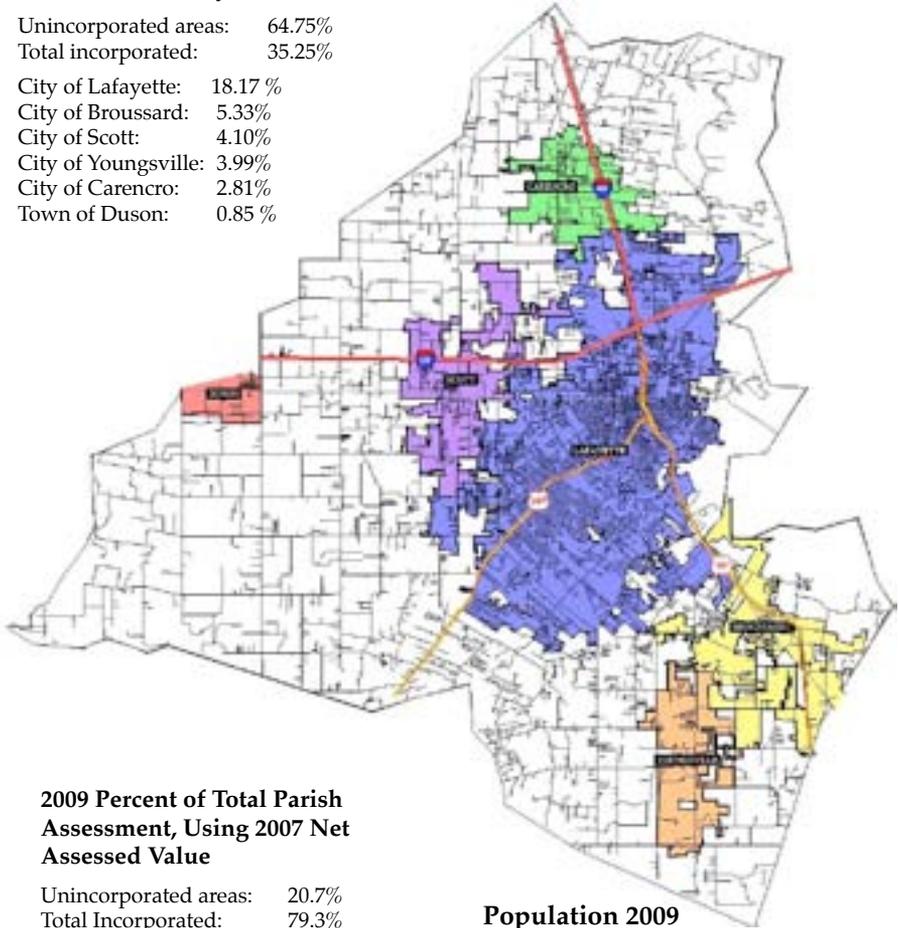
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF LAFAYETTE®**

**February, 2011**

# Lafayette's Municipalities

## Land Area in Lafayette Parish

Unincorporated areas:	64.75%
Total incorporated:	35.25%
City of Lafayette:	18.17 %
City of Broussard:	5.33%
City of Scott:	4.10%
City of Youngsville:	3.99%
City of Carencro:	2.81%
Town of Duson:	0.85 %



## 2009 Percent of Total Parish Assessment, Using 2007 Net Assessed Value

Unincorporated areas:	20.7%
Total Incorporated:	79.3%
City of Lafayette:	62.5%
City of Broussard:	9.0%
City of Scott:	3.2%
City of Youngsville:	2.7%
Town of Duson:	0.1%

## Population 2009

Lafayette:	111,451
Broussard:	7,527
Carencro:	6,494
Duson:	1,812
Scott:	8,651
Youngsville:	6,385
Unincorporated areas:	67,621

Map from website of Lafayette Economic Development Authority (<http://www.lafayette.org/site26.php>), accessed on 2/6/10. The percentages of total property taxes are from "Lafayette Parish Government, 2009 Property Tax Breakdown of LCG Taxes Only," LCG. Land area: compiled spring, 2010 by Planning & Zoning Division, Traffic & Transportation, LCG. Population: LEDA website's 2009 CLARITAS demographic report.

## **Purposes of This Overview**

- is intended as a foundation for understanding the structure of local government for voters, future voters, and residents of Lafayette Parish
- underlines the need and opportunities for participation in democratic government.
- fills a need for a one-stop overview of the many units of local government in Lafayette Parish:
- can serve as a basis for future research and public discussion.
- can be used with the League of Women Voters of Lafayette's publication, a comprehensive "Guide to Officials Elected By Lafayette Parish Voters" which is periodically updated. It is the only place where all of the elected officials and the means to contact them are listed in one accessible publication.

The Guide to elected officials covers the officials for which Lafayette citizens vote—from the federal Congress, to state legislature and judges to local mayors, councils, and justices of the peace.

<http://lwvlafayette.org/voterinfo/OfficialsPublication/index.html>

# Part 1: Basic Structure

# 1

## *Historic Structure of Local Government*

Historically, the parish unit of government in Louisiana served the needs of its spread-out, rural farming people. County (parish) governments across the United States have followed the historic English shire structure and its officials:

- a court
- a sheriff for tax collection and protection, public works, and poor relief
- justices of the peace
- a coroner
- constable(s)

## *Parish and City Governments Are Classified as Political Subdivisions of the State*

Parish and city or town governments are classified political subdivisions of the state of Louisiana--through the Constitution and the State Legislature who create them, control them to some degree, and define their powers.

## The Louisiana Constitution mandates **each multi-parish district** elect and partially support:

- a district attorney
- judges for the district court
- judges for the circuit appellate court

## The Louisiana Constitution mandates **each parish**:

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) elect for itself        | (2) appoint a Registrar of Voters  |
| • an Assessor               |                                    |
| • a Clerk of Court          |                                    |
| • a Coroner                 | (3) build & maintain a court house |
| • a School Board            | and jail and feed & clothe inmates |
| • a Sheriff                 |                                    |
| • a parish legislative body |                                    |

The Louisiana Legislature's Lawrason Act of 1898 established a uniform type of government for the governance of the municipalities of Louisiana. The Lawrason Act is currently in

place for Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Scott, and Youngsville, and most of other Louisiana municipalities.

Home rule for Lafayette Parish was permitted by an act of the Louisiana Legislature and the approval of the voters of the state of Louisiana.

The Louisiana Legislature created these local units of government and granted them the authority to levy local property tax: The Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District, the Lafayette Economic Development Authority, the Bayou Vermilion District, and the Downtown Development Authority. They are all supported by local property taxes.

*The parish government is considered the primary, or general service, part of local government.*

Lafayette parish government may take any of several forms, such as police jury, commission, or president-council, consolidated with city government or not consolidated. Whatever form the voters choose, the primary parish government still must meet the requirements of the state.

*The parish government does not control or manage the special-service units of parish government.*

- Lafayette's primary, or general service parish government, Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, is separate from the School Board, Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Assessor, Coroner, and other special-service units of parish government.
- Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Scott, and Youngsville also have completely independent governments from the parish government.
- Some of the special purpose units of government, including some boards and commissions, can ask the voters for taxes and borrow money, either by themselves or through the general-purpose parish government, Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government.

*With the addition of each unit of local government, executive power is spread out.*

- No one unit of local government has had or has today total charge of the parish.
- There is no top to bottom organizational chart for the various units of local government in Lafayette Parish.

- The units of local government are independent or semi-independent of each other in their governing.
- The organizational chart of the major units of local government is a very long, straight line of equal or almost equal players, each with its own goals and separate or semi-separate funding.
- Voluntary intergovernmental agreements have helped to build joint effort and capacity to handle issues and needs in common.

### *Power of the Voters in Local Government*

The state of Louisiana delegates the powers and costs of local government to the voters.

The Constitution of the State of Louisiana gives the people the right to govern by their will to

- protect the rights of each person
- secure justice for all
- preserve peace
- promote the happiness and general welfare of the people

Voters and residents in general affect local government in many important ways:

- Voting
- Paying taxes
- Running for public office or campaigning for a candidate
- Attending meetings of local units of government
- Volunteering to be on a board or commission
- Insisting local government follow open meeting laws
- Providing public oversight for public projects and services
- Serving on juries
- Expressing opinions to public officials
- Writing letters to the newspapers
- Offering political forums through civic groups

## Part 2: Layers of Local Government

*Local government is made of several layers, each independent or semi-independent from the other.*

People who live in Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Lafayette, Scott, or Youngsville are governed by several layers of local government:  
multi-parish    parish    ward\*    city    special district\*

\*Exceptions: Residents of the city of Lafayette city do not have wards. Duson has no special district inside borders.

People who live in the unincorporated areas of Lafayette Parish are also governed by several layers of units of local government:  
multi-parish    parish    ward    special district

### *What Are the Units of Local Government at the Multi-Parish Layer?*

These units of local government are elected or appointed from more than one parish to serve multiple parishes:

#### Judicial, Public Safety

- 15th Judicial Court
- District Attorney, 15th Judicial District
- 3rd Circuit, La. Court of Appeal
- Acadiana Criminalities Laboratory Commission

#### Environmental Protection/Water

- Board of Commissioners, Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District

#### Economic Development

- Acadiana Regional Development District

### *What Are the Units of Local Government in the Parish Layer?*

#### 1. General-service Parishwide Unit of Local Government:

Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government:

- Lafayette City-Parish President
- Lafayette City-Parish Council

#### 2. Special-service Parish-wide Units of Local Government:

Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court	Registrar of Voters
Lafayette Parish Assessor	Lafayette Parish Sheriff

3. Parishwide Boards and Commissions

Commissions and boards are also special-purpose independent or semi-independent units of local government. They are appointed in several different ways. Some are empowered to ask for taxes and borrow money with the permission of Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government as the primary government. Others may have some legal authority.

- Bayou Vermilion District
- Lafayette Economic Development Authority
- Lafayette Parish Public Library Board of Control
- Lafayette Regional Airport Commission
- Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission

*Within Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government:*

- Lafayette Public Utilities Authority (LPUA)
- Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority (LPTFA)
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Lafayette Preservation Commission
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Civil Service Board
- Lafayette Science Museum Commission

Advisory Boards and Commissions:

These function in an advisory capacity for a particular service or services, rather than being the governing unit themselves:

- City-Parish Recreation Advisory Commission
- Frem Boustany Auditorium and Convention Center
- Lafayette Animal Control Center Advisory Board

***What Are the Units of Government at the Ward Layer of the unincorporated areas?***

- Justices of the Peace
- Constables

***What are the Units of Government at the Municipal (City) Layer?***

<u>Broussard</u>	<u>Carencro</u>	<u>Duson</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Youngsville</u>
Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor
Council	Council	Aldermen	Council	Council

City of Lafayette, within Lafayette Consolidated Government

Voters of the City of Lafayette elect these officials and pay for these services:

- City Court Judges
- City Marshall, who also serves annexed areas formerly in Justice of Peace wards

***What are the Units of Government at the Special District Layer?***

Lafayette Parish Waterworks, District North

Lafayette Parish Waterworks, District South

Economic Development Districts:

- Ambassador Caffery Extension District (City of Broussard--no additional local tax levied at this time)  
Apollo Road (City of Scott)
- Destination Pointe (City of Scott)
- I-49 Corridor (City of Carencro)
- I-10 at Mile Marker 101 (City of Lafayette)
- I-10 at Mile Marker 103 (City of Lafayette)

***What are the Other Units of Government?***

Cajundome Commission (Lafayette Consolidated Government & the University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

\*There are also many state and federal government agencies operating in and contributing to Lafayette Parish. They are not included in the scope of this summary.

## Part 3: Funding Local Government

Most local units of government receive some federal and/or state funds. Federal and/or state dollars contribute to funding local governments of Lafayette Parish. Federal and state budgets depend on many considerations year to year. The budgets of many of the units of government in Lafayette Parish change annually according to their level of federal and state funding. Some of the federal funding is in the form of short-term grants.

*Local property and sales taxes and user fees largely pay for the rest of local government services.*

### Property Taxes

- Property tax paid on value of land, buildings, and business equipment.
- Value for property tax is set by the Lafayette Parish Assessor.
- Elections are called by any of the representative bodies: Lafayette Consolidated Government, the five municipal councils, and the School Board.
- Voters vote for or against the amount of property tax rate, called *millage rate*.
- Property taxes are collected annually by Lafayette Parish Sheriff as the ex-officio Tax Collector.

Most parish property taxes are restricted (“dedicated”) by the voters to very specific purposes. For example, monies for parish roads and bridges cannot be spent on public libraries. The School Board taxes dedicated to teacher salaries cannot be used to pay for new school buildings.

### Where Do Parish Property Taxes Go?

Over 60% of parish property taxes collected by the Sheriff are not for the use of Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government. They are forwarded to these other units of government:

Bayou-Vermilion District  
Lafayette Parish School Board  
Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office

Lafayette Parish Assessor  
Lafayette Regional Airport Commission  
Downtown Development Authority (City of Lafayette only)  
Lafayette Economic Development Authority  
Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District Board of Commissioners  
(multi-parish tax)

Part of the remaining property taxes left for Lafayette Consolidated Government pays:

- transfer of tax revenues to the costs of Lafayette Parish Public Library System
- mosquito abatement costs
- debt service
- road and bridge maintenance
- drainage maintenance

The rest goes to Lafayette Consolidated Government's General Fund. From this share, LCG pays some other state-regulated costs of:

- 15<sup>th</sup> District Judicial Court judges, District Attorney, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters
- Coroner, Justices of the Peace, Constables, Criminal Jurors
- Homeland Security & Emergency Preparation
- building and maintaining the parish correctional center and providing daily care of the inmates
- juvenile detention center
- Lafayette Parish Health Unit
- repayment for bond issues for capital improvements
- parks and recreation costs for the parish portions of Lafayette Consolidated Government

Only 2.5% of the parish property taxes are not dedicated or committed to the parish's responsibilities. This 2.5% is the amount of the General Fund of Lafayette Consolidated Government that can be spent on other priorities for Lafayette Parish.

### **Where Do City Property Taxes Go?**

City property taxes are collected by the Sheriff's Office annually for five of the six municipalities of Lafayette Parish. Their

revenues are for use only within their city limits. Property taxes must be passed by a majority of the city's voters. Broussard residents do not pay city property tax.

Municipal property taxes are also mostly dedicated to specific purposes depending on the municipality. These include:

- Streets & roads
- Police and fire protection
- Parks & Recreation
- General Funds
- Water services

## Sales Tax

Sales taxes are charged for consumer goods at the point of purchase of tangible personal property and certain taxable services as a percentage of the amount of purchase. Each sales tax levy (percentage) must first be approved by a majority of the registered voters in that jurisdiction to be enacted. Sales taxes in Lafayette Parish are usually restricted (dedicated) to specific uses by the voters.

### Where Do Sales Taxes Go?

- Lafayette Consolidated Government sales taxes are dedicated 2/3s to street improvements, building construction, and drainage, and 1/3 to the General Fund.
- The School Board's sales taxes are dedicated to teacher salaries, school operating expenses, materials of instruction, educational programs, and capital improvements if any is left over.
- The smaller municipalities' sales taxes are dedicated variously to streets and roads; sewers and sewage disposal; drainage; debt on general obligation bonds; sidewalks and bridges; public buildings; fire & police stations, their equipment, and salaries; capital improvements; recreational facilities and programs; street lighting.

All local sales taxes are collected by the Sales Tax Collection Office of the Lafayette Parish School Board. They are divided and redistributed as shown in Table 1:

**Table 1: Cents Paid on a Dollar in Lafayette Sales Tax Districts**

Where Bought	State (cents)	City / Town	Eco. Dev Dist.	LCG	Sheriff	School Board	Total Sales
Lafayette	4	2	-	-	-	2	8
Lafayette, B-2	4	2	1	-	-	2	9
Lafayette, C-3	4	2	1	-	-	2	9
Unincorporated	4	-	-	1	1	2	8
Broussard	4	2	-	-	-	2	8
Carencro	4	2	-	-	-	2	8
Carencro, G-7	4	2	1	-	-	2	9
Duson	4	2	-	-	-	2	8
Scott	4	2	-	-	-	2	8
Scott, K-11	4	2	1	-	-	2	9
Scott, L-12	4	2	1	-	-	2	9
Youngsville	4	2 ½	-	-	-	2	8 ½

**Codes for Economic Development Districts, adopted from Sales Tax Office, Lafayette Parish School Board:**

Lafayette B-2: I-10 @ Mile Marker 101 (area around Acadian Hills Golf Club on the NW side of the I- 10 clover leaf at the Evangeline Thruway)

Lafayette C-3: I-10 @ Mile Marker 103 (area south of I-10 at Louisiana Avenue)

Carencro G-7: I-49 Corridor (businesses along and near I-49 from the northern-most corporate limits along I-49 and on the north side of Gloria Switch Road intersection)

Scott K-11: Apollo (area south of I-10 at Highway 93 along the frontage road and south down Apollo Road to Dulles Dr.)

Scott L-12: Destination Pointe (Undeveloped area in the northwest corner of the I-10 clover leaf at Louisiana Highway 93.

Economic Development Districts, referred to as EDDs are located within city limits. They are also called Tax Incentive Financing or TIFs. The additional 1 cent sales tax was passed by the city council of those cities. State legislation authorizing economic development districts does not require passage by city voters. The purpose is to bring in revenue for items such as frontage roads to encourage new businesses to locate in the Economic Development District.

**Other Taxes**

At the request of the Lafayette Consolidated Government City-Parish Council, the state legislature authorized Lafayette Consolidated Government to levy a 4% hotel/motel occupancy tax. People staying in a hotel in Lafayette Parish are subject to pay an

occupancy tax of 4%, in addition to 8% sales tax. The occupancy tax revenue generated is allocated to the Cajundome Commission and the Lafayette Parish Convention & Visitors' Center.

## User Fees

User fees include charges for services, fees, penalties, and forfeitures.

User fees make up a larger part of the funding for some units of government than for others. The Lafayette Regional Airport Commission, the Lafayette Utilities System within Lafayette Consolidated Government, and the Office of the Clerk of Court are examples.

### What Are Some Examples of User Fees?

Rental of public facilities	Recording and filing costs
Green fees for golf	Charges to commercial airlines
Utilities (water, sewage, garbage, electricity)	Penalties for violation of ordinances
Permits for construction	Court fines
Registration for athletics, summer programs	Franchises to operate a business
Admission tickets	Marriage Licenses
Leases	Speeding tickets
Copying and recording fees	

## Issuing Bonds to Raise Money

Bonds are issued by a parish unit of government or a municipality for large capital improvement projects, such as building or improving libraries, schools, roads and bridges. Bonds are repaid by either the future income of the unit of government or by an additional property millage approved by the voters or user fees.

The Lafayette Parish Waterworks Districts North and South, Lafayette Parish School Board, Bayou Vermilion District, City of Lafayette, Lafayette Consolidated Government, and the Lafayette Public Power Authority, and each of the five smaller municipalities have all issued bonds to borrow money in recent years. Some of these bonds are paid up (matured) and some are still to be paid.

## **Separate Funds for the City of Lafayette within Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government (LCG)**

City of Lafayette funds can only be used for the City of Lafayette. Parish government funds can be used for both the unincorporated areas and any of the municipalities in Lafayette Parish. However, as parish funding is so limited, it is generally used for the needs of the unincorporated areas and other Constitutional responsibilities.

The net assessed value (after subtracting the homestead exemption) for property taxes within the City of Lafayette is about three times the net assessed value for property taxes within the unincorporated areas and more than three times the net assessed value of the other five municipalities combined. (In 2010, City of Lafayette 61%, unincorporated areas 21%, total of other 5 municipalities 18%).

Lafayette Consolidated Government provides support to the other five municipalities of Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Scott, and Youngsville as requested and approved through their local council and the LCG City-Parish Council. The municipality pays LCG for the assistance on each project.

## **Separate Accounting According to a Formula**

City of Lafayette sales and property taxes are paid into the city of Lafayette's separate funds, along with revenues made by the city of Lafayette's Lafayette Utilities System. There is separate accounting for all revenues and expenses for both the city of Lafayette and the parish of Lafayette.

Work done within the city of Lafayette and work done elsewhere in the parish of Lafayette is recorded hourly for each job. The City of Lafayette pays for the city's share from the city's funds for the staff, facilities, equipment, the work done and services received. The parish of Lafayette's share is paid from the parish of Lafayette's funds.

The city's share and the parish's share are percentages figured in each cost center by an independent study every two years according to an allocation schedule. For example, the City of Lafayette pays 84% of the annual costs the Chief Administrative and Chief Financial Officers while the parish's share is 16%. Sharing the costs for the Office of Emergency Preparation-Civil Defense, however, is a 50-50 split.

## **Single Budget of Lafayette Consolidated Government**

The single budget of LCG separates the use of the funds of the parish from the funds of the City of Lafayette for each operational cost. Throughout the yearly activities of LCG, the cost to the parish and to the city of Lafayette are charged to their fund accounts.

The annual budget of LCG is reviewed, revised, and approved by the City-Parish Council. There is one annual financial report and one annual audit, each approved by the City-Parish Council.

## **Benefit to the City of Lafayette from the ILOT**

The ILOT (in lieu of taxes) payment is the payment made by a city-owned utility to its local government, the City of Lafayette. It is allowed in the United States to compensate for the loss of taxes that would be paid as a franchise fee by a private utility to the local government. In the City of Lafayette's case, the ILOT includes a percentage for electricity, water, television, cable, telephone, and internet.

Because the city of Lafayette owns the Lafayette Utilities System, every year the city of Lafayette is paid an ILOT payment by its Lafayette Utilities System—about 9% of utilities gross receipts at present. The ILOT from the Lafayette Utilities System makes up about 22% of the city of Lafayette's General Fund. The money is a little more than the total yearly costs of the city of Lafayette Fire Department.

## ***How Can Voters Oversee How Local Tax Dollars Are Spent?***

- Be an informed voter for tax referenda
- Get the big picture and the details
- Attend meetings and annual budget hearings of the units of local government
- Review the annual budget of units of government
- Review the required annual Financial Reports completed by professional auditors at the Louisiana Legislative Auditor website, <http://app1.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf> then click "by parish," then click the + sign for Lafayette.
- Review available publications, such as Lafayette Consolidated Government's "Citizen's Guide to the Budget," and Lafayette Parish School Board's "Where Does the Money Go?"

# Defining Lafayette Consolidated Government

# 4

## *The Shape of Lafayette Parish and Its General-Purpose Government*

Louisiana is divided into parishes. Lafayette Parish was created in its current boundaries in 1823 by the state legislature. Each parish elects a general-purpose parish government required by the state constitution.

### *Forms of Lafayette Parish Government*

- Pre 1983 Police Jury—15 members
- 1984 President-Council with a Home Rule Charter—7 members
- New Charter, voted on in 1994, went into effect in 1996:  
Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government—9 members

Home Rule is the right of a parish or of a municipality (incorporated area) to draw up and amend its own charter. Home rule does NOT give parishes or municipalities the right to pass ordinances regarding rules of incorporation, school boards, district attorney, sheriff, assessor, clerk of court, nor coroner.

### *Two Frameworks of Municipal Government in Lafayette Parish*

Incorporation means to become a village, town, or city depending on size of population. Incorporated places are also called municipalities. Generally, the purpose of incorporation is to self-govern--to provide the voters the ability to solve their local problems through their representative government.

The majority of municipalities in Louisiana are governed under the same 1898 law. This law provides a formula for the framework and regulation of the governments of Broussard, Duson, Carencro, Scott and Youngsville. These municipalities in Lafayette Parish have either an elected city council or board of aldermen, and a mayor. The 1884 referendum to change the name "Vermilionville" to "Lafayette" did not change Vermilionville's earlier municipal charter from the state legislature.

- 1884 continuing Municipal Charter, Mayor / Council, 6-7 City Councilmen
- 1914 Charter, 3 member Board of Trustees, with the Mayor as a Trustee
- 1971 Home Rule Charter, Mayor / Council with 5 districts
- 1994 Home Rule Charter, Lafayette City / Parish Consolidated Government, with President-Council form

### ***The Consolidation of the City of Lafayette and Lafayette Parish***

Lafayette Parish joined with the City of Lafayette with voter approval of the 1994 City-Parish Consolidated Government Home Rule Charter. Lafayette Consolidated Government became responsible for governing the City of Lafayette, along with the rest of the parish. The Home Rule Charter does not apply to the other municipalities in Lafayette Parish except for the functions and responsibilities of the general-purpose parish government.

The 1994 Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Home Rule Charter that took effect in 1996 is still in effect. Some ordinances of the City-Parish Council have been added to create departments, to shift duties from one department to another or to adjust salaries from those originally in place in the charter. Its only amendment occurred in 2010 with approval by the parish voters. The amendment to Section 2-02 of the City-Parish Charter dealt with the election of officials based on new Census data following reapportionment of City-Parish Council districts.

The location of the parish seat, or administrative center of the parish government, is the city of Lafayette. These offices of the units of government at the parish level are located within the city of Lafayette:

- Consolidated Government
- Courthouse
- the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court
- Clerk of Court
- Corrections Center
- School Board
- Sheriff
- Coroner
- Registrar of Voters

The city of Lafayette is by far the largest city in the parish and in the entire Acadiana region. It is the home of many of the state and federal government's regional offices, as well as the commercial and health industry hub.

There are three other city-parish consolidations in Louisiana: East Baton Rouge parish/city of Baton Rouge, Orleans Parish/city of New Orleans, Terrebonne parish/city of Houma.

### ***Form of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government***

**All voters—from all of the municipalities and all of the unincorporated areas-- elect and are represented by the City-Parish President and the City-Parish Council.** The Parish President is the executive and the Lafayette City-Parish Council is the law-making or legislative body of government.

#### ***Characteristics of the City-Parish Council:***

- 9 City-Parish Council districts, 1 member per district
- district lines of the Council same as the School Board
- approval of voter districts required from U. S. Department of Justice to guarantee voter representation
- Council elects its own President from among its members at the beginning of each year
- 3 evening meetings per month
- large number of Liaison Teams of Council members and staff of LCG for functioning of LCG
- Council Office and its staff are a part of LCG

#### ***LCG's Governance of the City of Lafayette:***

The City-Parish President and the City-Parish Council represent not only the parish, but the City of Lafayette itself to the wider world. The President appoints the Police Chief and the Fire Chief for the City of Lafayette. The voters of the City of Lafayette elect the City Marshall and the judges of the City Court. The City-Parish Council passes ordinances for the City of Lafayette and is the flow-through agency for federal and state funding to the City of Lafayette. The Lafayette Public Utilities Authority was created in the 1994 Home Rule Charter for the Lafayette Utilities System. This unit of government consists of those City-Parish Council members whose districts include 60% or more of people residing within the

City of Lafayette. The City-Parish districts with 60% or more city residents currently are Districts 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8. (See City-Parish Council Map, inside back cover.)

## **The Departments of LCG**

Under the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government's Home Rule Charter, the City-Parish President may reorganize functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities of parish administration by ordinance, unless the Council disagrees. Several organizational changes have been made. The City-Parish President also appoints and can suspend or remove the Chief Administrative Officer of LCG and all department directors but one. The Director of the Civil Service Department is appointed by the Civil Service Board by authority of the City-Parish Charter.

Each department of LCG has several divisions . Each division has several sections to handle its many functions. Currently the departments include

- Administrative Services
- Civil Service
- Finance & Management
- Fire
- Information Systems and Technology
- Lafayette Utilities System
- Legal
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning, Zoning, & Codes
- Police
- Public Works
- Traffic & Transportation

Emergency Operations and Security, International Trade, Animal Control, Small Business Support Services, and the Juvenile Detention Home are handled through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

(For the funding of Lafayette City-Parish Government, see Section 3: Funding Local Government, p. 7.)

## **About the League of Women Voters of Lafayette**

The League of Women Voters of Lafayette is a non-profit volunteer organization working since 1945 to:

- encourage informed and active participation in government
- increase understanding of public policy issues
- influence public policy through education and advocacy

The League of Women Voters of Lafayette is non-partisan and does not support political candidates. Membership includes men, as well as women.

The League believes efficient and economical government requires

- competent personnel
- clear assignment of responsibilities
- adequate financing
- coordination among levels of government
- effective enforcement
- well-defined channels for citizen input and review

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*Lafayette Commons*. This community portal hosts the webguide for the study of local government.

Those who gave the League's Government Study Committee some initial background in structure and funding of local government at the start of the project:

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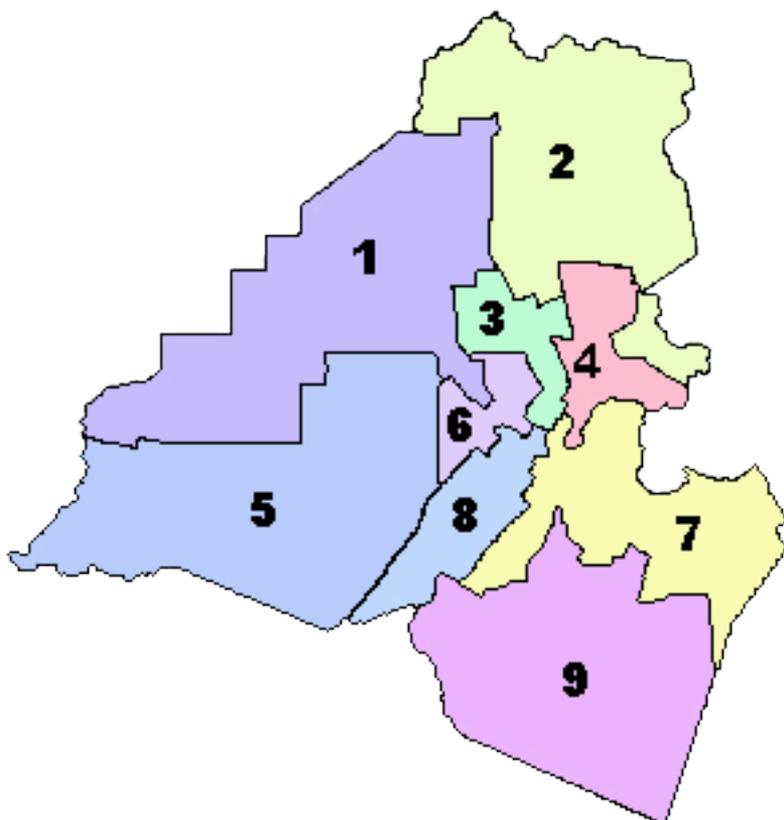
*Keith Sibille*, Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff

*Gail Smith*, Director of Administrative Services Department, Lafayette Consolidated Government

*Dee Stanley*, Chief Administrative Officer, Lafayette Consolidated Government

Scott Richard, Instructional Supervisor, Lafayette Parish School System, for his assistance with resources on local government for civics students.

## City-Parish Council Districts



There are nine members of the city-parish council. City-Parish Council members are elected from their districts for a four year term.

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