

To the citizens of the City and Parish of Lafayette:

We each had the honor and privilege of serving the people Lafayette for 12 years--Dud as Mayor of Lafayette and Joey as Lafayette Mayor-President. In this time, we had the unique opportunity to learn about the different needs and priorities of the city and parish. We write this letter to ask you for a "yes" vote on the December 8 charter amendment. While "consolidation" has shown some minor benefits, it has not accomplished the efficiencies hoped for. A major weakness of this system of government is that the City of Lafayette lost its autonomy. City of Lafayette taxpayers pay into a system they don't fully control; elected City-Parish Council members who do not live in the City of Lafayette or pay City of Lafayette taxes get to make decisions about how to spend those taxes--even to the extent that they can put new tax measures on the ballot. Control of LUS is similar--representatives who don't live in the city, or pay a bill to LUS can decide to raise rates or enter into a management contract.

The underlying issue is accountability. How can taxpayers in the city hold elected officials accountable for these decisions--like taxes or LUS--if they cannot vote for or against those officials? This taxation/representation link is at the heart of American democracy. As former mayors of the City of Lafayette, we unite in the idea that a Lafayette City Council is the fairest, most efficient way to provide representation to City of Lafayette taxpayers. The City of Lafayette needs to be able to control its own destiny. That is not too much to ask. Non-citizens should NOT be able to vote on how we govern ourselves!

Likewise, we are all parish residents, no matter what city you live in. And our parish has issues that "consolidation" has not fixed. As parish residents, we deserve our own parish council; a group who will *focus* their time only working on parish needs like drainage and roads.

Please join us in voting yes on December 8 for the charter amendment. And we encourage all elected officials in the parish to join us in support.

Dud Lastrapes
Lafayette Mayor
1980-1992



Joey Durel
Lafayette Mayor-President
2004-2016

