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BUREAU OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH

938 Lafayette St., Suite 200
New Orleans, LA 70113
Phone 504-525-4152
www.bgr.org

BGR Media Release

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Contact: Molly Kramer, *Communications & Development Manager*
(504) 525-4152, ext. 108

On the October Ballot: French Quarter Tax Proposition, State Infrastructure Bank

The Bureau of Governmental Research today releases *On the Ballot: October 24, 2015*. The report explains, analyzes and takes positions on a proposed quarter-cent sales tax for public safety in New Orleans' French Quarter and a constitutional amendment allowing the state to invest in an infrastructure bank. Find the report at www.bgr.org.

French Quarter: Sales Tax for Public Safety

Voters in the French Quarter will decide whether to approve a five-year, 0.2495% sales tax to support supplemental public safety services for the neighborhood. The sales tax would generate an estimated \$2 million in 2016. It would expire at the end of 2020.

BGR Position: FOR. The French Quarter is the heart of the city's tourist economy. Creating a sales tax to fund additional security in the Quarter will improve safety for residents and tourists alike, while appropriately allocating the cost burden.

Constitutional Amendment: Investing in an Infrastructure Bank

During its 2015 session, the Louisiana Legislature created a state-run Infrastructure Bank. The proposed constitutional amendment would eliminate a potential constitutional obstacle to state investments in the bank.

BGR Position: FOR. While the present prospects for funding the Infrastructure Bank are uncertain, passage of the amendment would allow the state to invest in the bank. The amendment would open the possibility of a new source of financial support for local transportation projects.

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BGR is a private, nonprofit, independent research organization. Since its founding in 1932, it has been dedicated to informed public policy-making and the effective use of public resources in the Greater New Orleans area. For more information call 504-525-4152 or visit BGR's website, www.bgr.org.