



#### Officers

Hardy B. Fowler  
Chairman

Ludovico Feoli  
Vice Chairman

J. Storey Charbonnet  
Secretary

Norma Grace  
Treasurer

Nathalie G. Simon  
Assistant Secretary

Todd McDonald  
Assistant Treasurer

**Past Chairman**  
Mark A. Mayer

**President & CEO**  
Amy L. Glovinsky

**Board Members**  
Christine Albert  
Anne P. Baños  
Toya Barnes-Teamer  
Susan G. Brennan  
Kelly R. Brown  
Charmaine Caccioppi  
Andrea Chen  
Maureen Clary  
Jaimmé A. Collins  
Leah N. Engelhardt  
Louis M. Freeman, Jr.  
Alex Gershanik  
Hunter G. Hill  
H. Merritt Lane, III  
Andrew R. Lee  
Martin Mayer  
Jennifer Medbery  
Jennifer M. Neil  
Melissa Sawyer  
Slade Simons  
Blake J. Stanfill  
Steven W. Usdin  
Larry Washington  
Dennis Woltering

#### Honorary Board

Harry J. Blumenthal, Jr.  
Edgar L. Chase III  
J. Kelly Duncan  
Louis M. Freeman  
Richard W. Freeman, Jr.  
Ronald J. French  
David Guidry  
Hans B. Jonassen  
Diana M. Lewis  
Anne M. Milling  
R. King Milling  
Lynes R. Sloss  
Sterling Scott Willis

#### BUREAU OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH

1055 St. Charles Ave, Suite 200  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone 504-525-4152  
[www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org)

## BGR Media Release

*For Immediate Release – March 29, 2018*

**Contact:** Amy L. Glovinsky, *President & CEO*  
(504) 525-4152, ext. 107

### **BGR Examines Proposed Tax for West Jefferson Levee District**

Today BGR releases *On the Ballot: West Jefferson Levee District Property Tax, April 28, 2018*. On April 28, voters on the west bank of Jefferson Parish will decide whether to approve a new property tax for the West Jefferson Levee District. If approved, the tax will be levied within the district at a rate of 4.75 mills for 10 years. The tax is expected to generate \$4.75 million annually. Tax revenue would be dedicated to maintaining and improving the levees, pump stations and other flood protection projects located within the district. This will be the Levee District's second attempt at a new tax to cover the increased costs of raising and armoring levees and maintaining pump stations. If voters reject the proposition, the Levee District's millage rate will remain unchanged at 5.03 mills. The report and a one-page summary are available on BGR's website, [www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org).

#### **BGR Position:**

**FOR.** Completion of the federally-built Hurricane Protection System for Jefferson's west bank means the West Jefferson Levee District will incur substantial new maintenance responsibilities for levees and pump stations in the next decade. Its existing revenue sources are inadequate to bear those costs. The new tax will fund the necessary maintenance to keep West Jefferson protected and control flood insurance rates. The tax

is appropriately scaled to future costs. The district has a clear spending plan and appropriate accountability for taxpayer funds, including a shortened timeframe for levying the tax, proposition language that closely aligns with the district's needs, and regular state and federal oversight of the system.

\* \* \* \*

*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 525-4152 or visit BGR's website, [www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org).*