Overview of the Proposition

Voters on the west bank of Jefferson Parish will decide whether to approve a new property tax for the West Jefferson Levee District (Levee District). If approved, the tax will be levied within the district at a rate of 4.75 mills for 10 years. The Levee District expects the tax 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.

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.

Read the full report at www.bgr.org.