



**Bureau of Governmental Research, New Orleans, LA**  
**President & CEO**  
**Samuel Zemurray Chair in Research Leadership**  
*Leadership Profile*

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**The Organization.** The Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR) is a private, nonprofit, independent research organization dedicated to informed public policy making and the effective use of public resources for the improvement of government in the New Orleans metropolitan area. Since its founding in 1932, BGR has served as a constructive, nonpartisan voice in the local policy landscape, providing in depth research and reporting on important public policy issues. BGR has published more than 1,500 policy reports to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of local government. BGR's reports educate citizens and policy makers alike, and lay the groundwork for reform initiatives to align government's performance with better practices. BGR activates its research with communication strategies and in-person and virtual events to inform and engage the public and the media. More information, including a report library, can be found at [www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org).

**A Foundation for Success.** Today BGR is positioned well as a bold, dynamic, relevant and impactful organization. Its next President & CEO will step into a thriving organization with an annual operating budget of \$1.1 million, a professional staff of seven, and governing board of 31. BGR's research team is highly skilled and firmly committed to its mission, and has a track record of producing highly influential, award-winning reports. A strategic vision is in place to guide the Board and staff in prioritizing and achieving organizational goals. BGR's membership is growing and engaged, and donors and foundations annually sustain core operations with generous support. Three separate endowments provide BGR with financial independence and sustainability. This includes the *Samuel Zemurray Chair in Research Leadership*, established in 2018 by the Zemurray Foundation to endow the position of President & CEO.

**The Next Leader.** BGR seeks a leader who can harness its current momentum to uphold and extend its legacy of organizational excellence. The next President & CEO must be a visionary leader, an analytical thinker, a skilled researcher, an astute observer of local public policy, an effective communicator, and a persuasive fundraiser. With the next phase of leadership, BGR will reach for new opportunities for organizational achievement, while safeguarding the existing foundation for success.

**The Opportunity.** The President & CEO will have the opportunity to generate transformative change in local government, working across a broad spectrum of competencies to advance the organization's mission-driven public policy work. Key areas of responsibility include:

*Organizational Leadership.* Lead BGR with visionary ideas, prudent execution and dynamic presence and readily accept role as organizational spokesperson and public figure. Ensure BGR's credibility, independence and community standing while inspiring confidence and trust in the organization's work.

Research, Analysis and Reports. Oversee and guide overall research strategy and priorities, from inception through publication. Work closely with the research team, providing leadership to ensure relevant research topics, accurate and sufficient research and analysis, impactful policy recommendations, and effective report presentation.

Membership. Execute a successful strategy to sustain and grow existing membership base across all levels. Oversee membership outreach and value-added campaigns for members, including the production of a dynamic program of events.

Fundraising. Lead efforts to annually raise revenue required by the budget, including cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding donors and granting organizations. Build a solid foundation for increased philanthropic support.

Communications and Community Engagement. Ensure effective communication strategies for all BGR output, including reports and events. Establish strategies to broaden BGR's reach and visibility, including increasing media opportunities, social media presence, and community engagement. Work with other organizations, committees and commissions to achieve common goals while ensuring BGR's independence.

Marketing and Public Relations. Create and execute a comprehensive marketing strategy about BGR's brand, mission and report library in order to raise its regional profile.

Administration: Manage internal operations consistent with best practices for nonprofits. Review management and operating systems to achieve new efficiencies. Lead, manage and mentor staff. Prepare an annual budget and manage quarterly budget updates. Manage all committee processes.

Board Governance. Work closely with the Board of Directors to ensure that BGR's strategic, operational, and financial direction remain strong and in alignment with the organization's mission, strategic vision and goals. Maintain all processes for Board committees with clear and efficient communications. Consult with Board committees at all appropriate intervals to allow for maximum benefit of Board expertise and experience to improve BGR's work.

**The Candidate.** The most competitive contenders for the role will embody a solid combination of the following traits and experiences:

- Bachelor's degree in public policy or administration, political or social sciences, finance, communications, journalism or a related field.
- An advanced degree (JD, PhD, MPA, MBA, MA) is favored.
- No less than five years of professional experience, including substantial leadership and management experience and work for a board of directors.
- A commitment to, and alignment with, BGR's mission.
- Focus on and commitment to safeguarding BGR from conflicts emanating from bias and partisanship and upholding the standard of excellence in research and reporting upon which BGR's success is built.
- Clear, logical and independent thinker who relies on facts, evidence and data.

- Outstanding writer and editor, with the ability to write concisely and directly.
- Credible, captivating and persuasive public speaker, with experience in-person and virtually.
- Experience serving as a spokesperson, especially in media interviews, is a plus.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and ability to work across diverse constituencies.
- Ability to foster collaborations and bring individuals and groups together in partnership around shared outcomes.
- Working knowledge of regional and local public policy issues, municipal structures and government processes, municipal budgeting and tax practices, and local fiscal issues.
- Knowledge of successful and creative communication and marketing strategies to grow organizational reach and visibility, including use of social media, podcast and other forms of media.
- Demonstrated experience in nonprofit fundraising and stewardship of donors, and the ability to advance established fundraising processes, particularly in the context of major gifts.
- Demonstrated ability to manage high pressured, complex issues and situations to successful outcomes, including on public platforms.
- Commitment to a culture of teamwork, accountability, high performance and continuous improvement.
- Reputationally independent of partisan ideology and able to uphold BGR's nonpartisanship on and off the clock.

## Salary

- Annual salary range is \$175,000-\$225,000, depending on qualifications and experience.
- A competitive benefits package is provided.

The candidate search is being conducted by The Jones Group of New Orleans. To apply or to nominate a candidate, please email cover letter, resume, and three references to [admin@thejonesgroupnola.com](mailto:admin@thejonesgroupnola.com). Applicant screenings are expected to begin on November 1, 2021. No calls, please.

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*Bureau of Governmental Research is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.*

October 6, 2021