



KNOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT: A GUIDE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN LAFAYETTE PARISH Part 2: Layers of Local Government



Local government is made of several layers, each independent or semi-independent from the other.

People who live in Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Lafayette, Scott, or Youngsville are governed by several layers of local government:

- multi-parish parish city special district

People who live in the unincorporated areas of Lafayette Parish are also governed by several layers of units of local government:

- multi-parish parish ward special district

What Are the Units of Local Government at the Multi-Parish Layer?

These units of local government are elected or appointed from more than one parish to serve multiple parishes:

- Judicial, Public Safety: 15th Judicial Court, District Attorney, 15th Judicial Dist., 3rd Circuit, La. Court of Appeal, Acadiana Criminalities Laboratory Commission
Environmental Protection/Water: Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District
Economic Development: Acadiana Regional Dev District

What Are the Units of Local Government at the Parish Layer?

1. General-service Parishwide Unit of Local Government:

- Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government: - Lafayette City-Parish President - Lafayette City-Parish Council

2. Special-service Parishwide Units of Local Government:

- Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court Lafayette Parish Tax Assessor Registrar of Voters Lafayette Parish School Board Lafayette Parish Sheriff Lafayette Parish Coroner

3. Parishwide Boards and Commissions

Commissions and boards are also special-purpose independent or semi-independent units of local government. They are appointed in several different ways. Some are empowered to ask for taxes and borrow money with the permission of Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government as the primary government. Others may have some legal authority. There are other boards and commissions, as well, in advisory capacity only.

- Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District Lafayette Economic Development Authority Lafayette Regional Airport Commission Lafayette Parish Public Library Board of Control Lafayette Parish Communication District Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission

Within Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government:

- Lafayette Public Utilities Authority (LPUA)
- Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority (LPTFA)
- Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission
- Lafayette Science Museum Commission
- Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Civil Service Commission
- City-Parish Recreation Advisory Commission
- Lafayette Animal Control Center Advisory Bd.
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Frem Boustany Aud. & Convention Center
- Metropolitan Planning Organization

What Are the Units of Government at the Ward Layer of the unincorporated areas?

- Justices of the Peace
- Constables
- City Marshall (any portion of former Justice of Peace wards annexed by City of Lafayette)

What are the Units of Government at the Municipal (City) Layer?

<u>Broussard</u>	<u>Carencro</u>	<u>Duson</u>	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Youngsville</u>
Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor
City Council	City Council	Board of Aldermen	City Council	Board of Aldermen

City of Lafayette, within Lafayette Consolidated Government

- Voters of the City of Lafayette elect these officials and pay for these services:
- City Court Judges
- City Marshall, who also serves annexed areas formerly in Justice of Peace wards

What are the Units of Government at the Special District Layer?

Lafayette Consolidated Government

- Downtown Development Authority (City of Lafayette)
- I-10 Corridor District at Mile 101 (City of Lafayette's TIF (Tax Increment Financing))
- I-10 Corridor District at Mile 103 (City of Lafayette's TIF (Tax Increment Financing))
- Lafayette Parish Waterworks, District North (unincorporated area)
- Lafayette Parish Waterworks, District South (unincorporated area)

City of Broussard

- Ambassador Caffery Extension District (no additional local tax levied at this time)

City of Carencro

- I-49 Economic Development District

City of Scott

- Apollo Economic Development District
- Destination Pointe Economic Development District

What are the Other Units of Government? Cajundome Commission (City of Lafayette & ULL)

*There are also many state and federal government agencies operating in and contributing to Lafayette Parish. They are not included in the scope of this summary of the levels and units of local government.

Additional resource pages and detailed information on the specific units of local government in Lafayette Parish, are under construction at a dedicated website. The League of Women Voters of Lafayette has produced a companion piece entitled: "Guide to Officials Elected by Lafayette Parish Voters," found at <http://www.lwv-lafayette.org/voterinfo/OfficialsPublication/index.html> for online browsing or printing as pdf document