

NATIONAL AVERAGES CHART

Municipality	Average Monthly Water Bill*	Average Monthly Sewer Bill*
Jefferson Parish (unincorporated)	\$15.01	\$16.00
Baton Rouge	\$17.11	\$39.58
New Orleans	\$39.63	\$48.34
Jackson, MS	\$33.95	\$22.98
Houston, TX	\$39.60	\$51.90
Jefferson County, AL	\$52.35	\$70.22
Atlanta, GA	\$59.21	\$139.46

Based on 8,000 gallons of water usage and 3/4" water meter (typical usage for a family of 4)



**PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO VOTE  
OCTOBER 19, 2013**



Published by the Parish of Jefferson  
1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
Jefferson, LA 70123  
200 Derbigny Street  
Gretna, LA 70053

[www.jeffparish.net](http://www.jeffparish.net)

THIS PUBLICATION IS NOT INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE ANY ELECTOR TO VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THESE PROPOSITIONS. RATHER, THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED TO DISSEMINATE FACTUAL INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A PROPOSITION APPEARING ON AN ELECTION BALLOT.

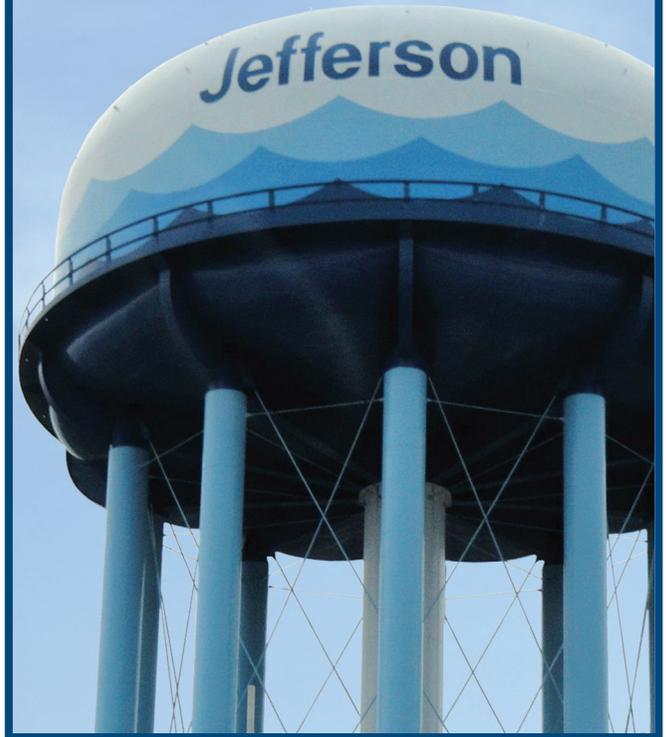
PROGRESSIVE  
**JEFFERSON**

JULY/AUGUST 2013

WHAT'S INSIDE:

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013**  
**JEFFERSON PARISH VOTERS WILL DECIDE AN IMPORTANT MILLAGE ELECTION**

- **CONSOLIDATED WATERWORKS DISTRICT 1**  
3.54 MILLS
- **CONSOLIDATED SEWERAGE DISTRICT 1**  
3.58 MILLS



### What is a millage?

- A millage is a type of property tax
- 1 mill is equal to 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a cent
- Amount due is determined by the assessed value of a property

### What do these millages pay for? (Consolidated Water)

- Automation of east and west bank water treatment plants
- Purchase of pipe, valves, hydrants, and meters
- Modeling of water distribution system
- New/upgraded water lines required in conjunction with Federal and/or State projects which is a local responsibility (example: utility relocation for the Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project)
- This millage is the sole source of funding for our Water Department Capital Budget. This pays for Capital improvement such as:
  - Improvements in water treatment plants and their intakes
  - New distribution lines, and replacement of aging and broken water lines
- Examples of some of the projects the millage has funded:
  - Upgrade of Westbank water treatment plant, as well as the intake structure
  - Construction of new water lines throughout the Parish
  - Repair and upgrade of water line crossings at canals and railroad tracks
  - Plant Chlorination System improvements
  - Plants Electrical System improvements
  - Plant Filter Materials Replacement
  - Plant carbon feed system improvements
  - New water tower in Grand Isle

### What do these millages pay for? (Consolidated Sewerage)

- This millage is approximately 1/3 of the Sewerage Department operating budget. This includes:
  - Emergency repair of broken sewer lines, lift stations, and treatment plants
  - Electricity to operate 6 treatment plants and over 500 lift stations
  - Purchase of chemicals used in odor control and the treatment process

- The millage funds adequate staffing levels to provide:
  - Same day response to back-up or overflow calls for service
  - After hours crews on duty to respond to citizen concerns
  - Systematic inspection of the system for preventive maintenance
  - Repairs to minor leaks in the system that can cause damage to streets, sidewalks, and driveways
- Projects recently completed or underway
  - East bank wastewater treatment plant screening replacement
  - Harvey wastewater treatment plant primary clarifier rehabilitation
  - New Kawanee Hennican lift station
  - Meadowbrook lift station electrical upgrades
  - West Napoleon force main replacement
  - West Napoleon and Soniat Canal and Upland and Balter Lift Station upgrades
  - Midway and Jefferson Highway lift station and force main upgrades
  - Patriot and Avenue G Lift station upgrades
  - Aeration improvements at the Harvey wastewater treatment plant

### How much were these millages in the past?

- In the past, the millage was always established at “up to 5 mills” (not to exceed 5 mills)
- In reality, over the past 20 years, the millage was collected at 5 mills only 4 times
- Most years, the Parish Council “rolled back” the rate to less than 5 mills
- Last year, the millage was set at 3.54 mills for water and 3.58 mills for sewer
  - Approximately \$10.5 million generated for water annually
  - Approximately \$8.8 million generated for sewer annually

### How much will it cost you?

- Consolidated Waterworks District 1- at 3.54 mills, with your \$75,000 homestead exemption, the ANNUAL tax payment would be:
  - \$8.85 a year on a house valued at \$100,000
  - \$44.25 a year on a house valued at \$200,000

- Consolidated Sewerage District 1 – at 3.58 mills, with your \$75,000 homestead exemption, the ANNUAL tax payment would be:
  - \$8.95 a year on a house valued at \$100,000
  - \$44.75 a year on a house valued at \$200,000

### What happens if consolidated waterworks does not pass?

- Jeopardize Capital projects already underway
- Immediate loss of approximately \$8.5 million dollars in Federal and State funding already allocated
- Eliminates future Federal and State funding opportunities
- Cancellation of proposed Capital projects:
  - Plant upgrades and new intakes
  - New water lines
  - Automated metering
- Reduced funding for emergency repair program
  - Longer response times on leaks and repairs
  - Low priority repairs would take weeks, not days
- Inability to replace older equipment
  - Pumps, motors, etc.
  - Higher maintenance costs for older equipment
- Possible water pressure drops which would result in the increased possibility of boil water advisories and/or violations
- Reduced ability to respond to fire department(s) needs
  - Could jeopardize property insurance association of Louisiana (PIAL) rating, resulting in increased insurance rates

### What happens if consolidated sewerage does not pass?

- Reduced level of service
  - Longer response times to back-up complaints
  - After-hours service reduced
- Reduced odor control
- Sewer leaks/overflows prioritized
- Only health and safety concerns addressed
- Loss of approximately \$37.5 million dollars in already approved Federal and State funding
- Future Federal and State funding opportunities jeopardized
- Cancellation of Capital improvement projects
- Deferred maintenance
- Enforcement actions by DEQ and/or EPA resulting in costly fines and possible judicial action against the Parish
  - Compliance orders
  - Consent decree