

## To the Residents of Natchitoches Parish,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. As many of you know, International Paper has recently closed its operations in our parish. This will have a serious impact on our local economy and the revenue our Parish depends on to provide public services. Due to the pretrial inmate contract between the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff and Lasalle Corrections, the parish costs of pretrial inmate housing is doubling. This loss of income with the additional cost of inmate housing means we must make careful decisions to continue providing all the government services you rely on, without putting a heavier financial burden on taxpayers. After careful review, one of the steps we are taking is to bring parish trash collection and disposal services in-house. This means the Parish will handle these services directly beginning July 1 , 2025, instead of paying an outside company.

I want to make something very clear: **there will be no loss of services to you. Trash disposal will still happen on schedule, and YOUR DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.** The only difference is **who is managing the service behind the scenes**—and this change will save **OUR PARISH DOLLARS.** The saving generated by this change will directly increase the amount of money we can spend on **OUR PARISH ROADS.** By handling trash services ourselves, we will reduce overall costs and keep those savings in the Parish budget. My plan not only provides savings by reducing the cost of our solid waste disposal; it also provides an opportunity to generate additional revenue. It's a smart financial move that helps protect important services like road repair, public safety, and other essential government services. We have already taken important steps to make sure this transition goes smoothly. Equipment is being purchased; employees are being trained. We are working hard to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for our residents. Our goal is to keep your service reliable and consistent, while also being more cost-effective for the Parish. We know change can bring questions or concerns, and we want to be open and honest with you throughout this process. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to reach out to me directly at 318-554-8909 or attend upcoming Parish Council meetings.

I deeply value the trust you place in me to manage our shared resources wisely. By acting now, we're making sure that Natchitoches Parish remains strong and ready to face future challenges together.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Sincerely,



John Salter  
Parish President