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# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Iberia Chamber Announces Support for Levee Tax**

The Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce is lending its support for the proposed millage for the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane and Conservation District.

Experts have calculated that 20% or roughly \$105 million of the cost for the levee system will need to come from local sources. These experts also believe that the timeline for this project will take roughly 15 years to complete. These estimations present a unique challenge, but the Chamber is committed to protecting the residents and businesses of Iberia Parish and feel that supporting this millage will increase safety and reduce losses.

The Chamber acknowledges the significant multi-year planning that has taken place for this proposed plan, with numerous agencies and organizations lending their support, knowledge and time to create a plan that includes a process that prescribes current best practices as development of the plan goes forward. The proposed plan is divided into 40 separate projects, with noticeable improvements becoming evident in just under 6 years. Some of the proposed smaller projects include pumping stations, navigation gates and various drainage structures.

The projected cost of the levee system includes construction, operation, and fifty years of maintenance. Without the levee, the chamber anticipates that Iberia Parish would experience a greater loss of residents and businesses, the basis of the parish's economy. Without this population and business base, it projects that out of necessity a heavier tax burden will be forced upon the individual residents and businesses that remain in the Parish without the benefit of levee protection.

The Chamber encourages its membership and the wider public to vote in favor of the millage proposition. Early voting is open November 3-10, with Election Day taking place on Saturday November 18.

The Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce has been advocating for industry, promoting small business and helping design practices and policies for business in Iberia Parish since 1939. Lead by a 21 member volunteer board of directors, GICC strives to continue to improve the business environment for our 400+ membership, as well as making strides to invest in the Iberia Parish community as a whole.

For more information, please call Janet Faulk-Gonzales at 337-364-1836 or email [janet@iberiachamber.org](mailto:janet@iberiachamber.org).

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