



Office of the Mayor-President

City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge

222 St. Louis Street
Post Office Box 1471
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

225 389-3100
Fax 225 389-5203

SHARON WESTON BROOME
Mayor-President

R. Kyle Ardoin
Secretary of State
8585 Archives Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

September 8, 2020

Dear Secretary of State Ardoin:

As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has completely altered our way of life. We are forced to re-think how we operate as a society under this “new reality.” With that in mind, I believe that an emergency election plan should take into account the seriousness of this pandemic.

As of today, East Baton Rouge Parish has 14,253 active COVID-19 cases, and 25 patients on ventilators and 109 hospitalizations for LDH Region 2. This pandemic has only worsened since you developed your previous plan. While we are seeing signs of improvement, in no way are we out of harm’s way. As Mayor-President, it’s my responsibility to ensure that the residents of East Baton Rouge can go about their normal lives as soon as possible and as safely as possible.

Voting is the bedrock of our democracy, and it is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to cast his or her vote in a safe environment. Unfortunately, I am concerned that the plan you have submitted to date does not make this possible. Residents, many considered to be high-risk for infection of COVID-19, would be forced to risk their health to cast their vote in this pivotal election.

To that end, I am asking for your support and approval to use the Baton Rouge River Center as an additional polling location for East Baton Rouge Parish. Doing so will allow for adequate social distancing that may not be available at other locations. Upon your approval, my administration will work closely with your office to ensure that all staffing and security needs are met.

On behalf of the residents of this parish who wish to safely cast their vote in this election, I would appreciate your support of this proposal. Should you have any questions or interest in discussing this further, my administration and I stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,



Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor-President
City of Baton Rouge / Parish of East Baton Rouge