

**CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana**

**Annual Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended
December 31, 2009**

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 3/10/10

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

Annual Financial Statements
With Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2009
With Supplemental Information Schedules

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CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Contents, December 31, 2009

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Independent Auditor's Report

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

I have audited the basic financial statements of the Claiborne Parish Assessor, a component unit of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, as of December 31, 2009, and for the year then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Claiborne Parish Assessor as of December 31, 2009, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

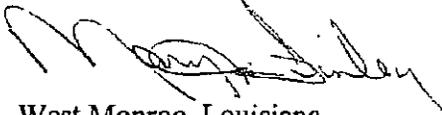
Management's discussion and analysis, and supplementary information on pages 6 through 9 and 29 through 30, respectively are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. I have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information and reviewing the source of selected information. However, I did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

My audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental information schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the Claiborne Parish Assessor. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in my opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR

Homer, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report,
December 31, 2009

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued a report dated February 8, 2010, on the Claiborne Parish Assessor's compliance with laws and regulations, and my consideration of the agency's internal control over financial reporting. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of my audit.



West Monroe, Louisiana
February 8, 2010

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
PART I**

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2009

As management of the Claiborne Parish Assessor, I offer readers of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Claiborne Parish Assessor for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. Please read it in conjunction with the basic financial statements and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This Management Discussion and Analysis document introduces the Assessor's basic financial statements. The annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The *Statement of Net Assets* and the *Statement of Activities (Government-wide Financial Statements)* provide information about the financial activities as a whole and illustrate a longer-term view of the Assessor's finances. The *Balance Sheet* and *Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Fund (Fund Financial Statements)* tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. *Fund Financial Statements* also report the operations in more detail than the *Government-Wide Financial Statements* by providing information about the most significant funds. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Our auditor has provided assurance in her independent auditor's report that the Basic Financial Statements are fairly stated. The auditor, regarding the Required Supplemental Information and the Supplemental Information is providing varying degrees of assurance. A user of this report should read the independent auditor's report carefully to ascertain the level of assurance being provided for each of the other parts in the Financial Section.

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net assets* presents information on all of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as *net assets*. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Claiborne Parish Assessor is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net assets changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (for example, earned, but unused, sick leave).

Fund financial statements. A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Claiborne Parish Assessor, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Claiborne Parish Assessor are governmental funds.

Governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

The Claiborne Parish Assessor adopts an annual appropriated budget for the general fund. A budgetary comparison statement is provided for the major fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Notes to the financial statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Other Information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required supplementary information* concerning the Claiborne Parish Assessor's performance.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net assets may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At the close of the most recent fiscal year, assets of the Claiborne Parish Assessor exceeded liabilities by \$998,928. Approximately 1% of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's net assets reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These assets are not available for future spending.

The balance in unrestricted net assets is affected by two factors: 1) resources expended, over time, by the Claiborne Parish Assessor to acquire capital assets from sources other than internally generated funds (i.e., debt), and 2) required depreciation on assets.

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$534,022	\$309,154
Investment		62,786
Receivables	502,450	424,429
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	7,551	28,636
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,044,023</u>	<u>\$825,005</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$2,069	\$2,036
Net OPEB obligation	43,026	
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	7,551	28,636
Unrestricted	<u>991,377</u>	<u>794,333</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>\$998,928</u>	<u>\$822,969</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Taxation:		
Personal services	\$342,851	\$361,858
Operating services	26,686	26,981
Materials and supplies	8,817	9,572
Travel	15,370	18,740
Depreciation expense	17,979	9,468
Total Program Expenses	<u>411,703</u>	<u>426,619</u>
Program revenues - Fees, charges, and commissions for services	6,634	9,480
Net Program Expenses	<u>(405,069)</u>	<u>(417,139)</u>
General revenues:		
Taxes - ad valorem	551,038	451,544
Intergovernmental - state funds - state revenue sharing	26,613	25,247
Interest earned	11,567	14,747
Other	120	1,790
Total General Revenues	<u>589,338</u>	<u>493,328</u>
Change in Net Assets	184,269	76,189
Net Assets - Beginning of year	<u>814,659</u>	<u>738,470</u>
Net Assets - End of year	<u>\$998,928</u>	<u>\$814,659</u>

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

As noted earlier, the Claiborne Parish Assessor uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The focus of the governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of expendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the financing requirements. In particular, unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of December 31, 2009, the general fund's governmental fund balances of \$1,034,403 showed an increase of \$240,070 over December 31, 2008.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The differences between expenditures in the original budget and the final budget were due to a small increase in operating services and capital outlay. There were no differences between revenues in the original budget and the final budget.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital assets. The Claiborne Parish Assessor's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2009, amounts to \$7,551 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment includes furniture and equipment. There were additions of \$5,204 and deletions of \$4,887 for the year.

Long-term debt. The Claiborne Parish Assessor has no debt outstanding.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Claiborne Parish Assessor, 508 East Main Street, Homer, LA 71040.

February 8, 2010

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, LouisianaSTATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
December 31, 2009**ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$534,022
Receivables	502,450
Capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	<u>7,551</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,044,023</u>

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$2,069
Net OPEB obligation	<u>43,026</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	45,095

NET ASSETS

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	7,551
Unrestricted	<u>991,377</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>\$998,928</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
December 31, 2009

Taxation:	
Personal services	\$342,851
Operating services	26,686
Materials and supplies	8,817
Travel	15,370
Depreciation expense	17,979
Total Program Expenses	<u>411,703</u>
Program revenues - Fees, charges, and commissions for services	<u>6,634</u>
Net Program Expenses	(405,069)
General revenues:	
Taxes - ad valorem	551,038
Intergovernmental - state funds - state revenue sharing	26,613
Interest earned	11,567
Other	120
Total General Revenues	<u>589,338</u>
Change in Net Assets	184,269
Net Assets - Beginning of year	<u>814,659</u>
Net Assets - End of year	<u>\$998,928</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Balance Sheet, December 31, 2009

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$534,022
Receivables - ad valorem taxes	<u>502,450</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,036,472</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities - Accounts payable	<u>\$2,069</u>
Fund Equity - fund balances - unreserved - undesignated	<u>1,034,403</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	<u>\$1,036,472</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

Reconciliation of Governmental Funds
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

Total Fund Balances at December 31, 2009 - Governmental Funds (Statement C)		<u>\$1,034,403</u>
Cost of capital assets at December 31, 2009	\$98,707	
Less: Accumulated depreciation as of December 31, 2009	<u>(91,156)</u>	7,551
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		<u>(43,026)</u>
Net Assets at December 31, 2009 (Statement A)		<u>\$998,928</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances

For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

REVENUES

Taxes - ad valorem	\$551,038
Intergovernmental revenues - state grants - state revenue sharing	26,613
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	6,634
Use of money and property - interest earnings	11,567
Other revenue	120
Total revenues	<u>595,972</u>

EXPENDITURES

Current:

General government - taxation:

Personal services	299,825
Operating services	26,686
Materials and supplies	8,817
Travel and other charges	15,370
Capital outlay	5,204
Total expenditures	<u>355,902</u>

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	240,070
FUND BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>794,333</u>
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$1,034,403</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

Reconciliation of Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes
in Fund Balances to the Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

Total net change in fund balances - governmental funds (Statement D) \$240,070

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceed depreciation for the period. (12,775)

Payments of long-term debt, including contributions to OPEB obligation, are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, those amounts are a reduction of long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Assets and are not reflected in the Statement of Activities. (43,026)

Change in net assets of governmental activities (Statement B) \$184,269

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a term of four years, beginning January 1 following the year in which elected. The assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish, subject to ad valorem taxation, prepares tax rolls, and submits the rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission and other governmental bodies as prescribed by law. The assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as necessary for the efficient operation of his office and to provide assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the assessor is officially and pecuniarily responsible for the actions of the deputies.

At December 31, 2009, there are 33,278 real, movable, and public service assessment listings totaling \$148,495,146. The total taxable valuation increased by \$22,650,670.

The accompanying financial statements of the Claiborne Parish Assessor have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements-and Management's Discussion and Analysis -for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Claiborne Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organizations for which primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

within the reporting entity is financial responsibility. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and:
 - a. The ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.
2. Organizations for which the police jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the police jury.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because the police jury maintains and operates the parish courthouse in which the assessor's office is located and provides partial funding for equipment, furniture and supplies of the assessor's office, the assessor was determined to be a component unit of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the assessor and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the Claiborne Parish financial reporting entity.

B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

The assessor's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the assessor as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the assessor's major fund). Both government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. All activities of the assessor are classified as governmental.

The Statement of Net Assets (Statement A) and the Statement of Activities (Statement B) display information about the reporting government as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the assessor.

In the Statement of Net Assets, governmental activities are presented on a consolidated basis and are presented on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term obligations. Net assets are reported in three parts; invested in capital assets, net of any related debt; restricted net assets; and unrestricted net assets. The assessor first uses restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.

Program Revenues - Program revenues included in the Statement of Activities (Statement B) are derived directly from parties outside the assessor's taxpayers or citizenry. Program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the assessor's general revenues.

Allocation of Indirect Expenses - The assessor reports all direct expenses by function in the Statement of Activities (Statement B). Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a function. Indirect expenses of other functions are not allocated to those functions but are reported separately in the Statement of Activities. Depreciation expense, which can be specifically identified by function, is included in the direct expenses of each function.

C. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial transactions of the assessor are reported in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

Fund financial statements report detailed information about the assessor. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column.

A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. Funds are classified into three categories; governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate "fund types". Governmental funds are used to account for a government's general activities, where the focus of attention is on the providing of services to the public as opposed to proprietary funds where the focus of attention is on recovering the cost of providing services to the public or other agencies through service charges or user fees. The assessor's current operations require the use of only governmental funds. The governmental fund type used by the assessor is described as follows:

Governmental Fund Type

General Fund - The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the assessor and is used to account for the operations of the assessor's

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

office. The various fees and charges due to the assessor's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

D. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurement made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

1. Accrual:

The governmental type activities in the government-wide financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

2. Modified Accrual:

The governmental fund financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The assessor considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues

Ad valorem taxes are recorded in the year the taxes are assessed. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due when the tax roll is filed with the recorder of

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

mortgages and become delinquent on December 31. Ad valorem taxes are generally collected in November and December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Compensation from taxing bodies is recorded in the year the ad valorem taxes are assessed. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due on November 15 of each year, and become delinquent on December 31. The compensation is generally collected in December of the current year and January of the ensuing year.

Fees for preparing tax rolls are recorded in the year prepared.

Interest income on demand deposits is recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

Based on the above criteria, ad valorem taxes, compensation from taxing bodies, and fees for preparing tax rolls have been treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

E. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Under state law, the assessor may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 2009, the assessor has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$534,022.

Demand deposits	\$372,882
Time deposits	<u>161,140</u>
Total	<u>\$534,022</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits, or the resulting bank balances, must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Cash (bank balances) at December 31, 2009, are secured as follows:

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Bank balances	<u>\$547,863</u>
Federal deposit insurance	\$426,564
Pledged securities (uncollateralized)	<u>550,156</u>
Total	<u>\$976,720</u>

F. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The assessor maintains a threshold level of \$500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements but not in the fund financial statements. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes by the assessor, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Furniture and fixtures	5 - 10 years
Vehicles	5 - 15 years
Equipment	5 - 20 years

G. ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE

Employees of the assessor's office receive from 10 to 15 days of noncumulative vacation leave each year, depending on length of service. Sick leave is granted at the discretion of the assessor. At December 31, 2009, there are no accumulated and vested benefits relating to vacation and sick leave.

The cost of leave privileges, computed in accordance with GASB Codification Section C60, is recognized as a current-year expenditure in the General Fund when leave is actually taken.

H. RISK MANAGEMENT

The assessor is exposed to various risk of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and injuries to employees. To handle such risk of loss, the assessor maintains commercial insurance policies covering his automobile, professional liability and surety bond coverage. No claims were paid on any of the policies during the past three years which

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

exceeded the policies' coverage amounts. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage during the year ended December 31, 2009.

2. PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish and their 2009 assessed valuation (amounts expressed in thousands):

	2009 Assessed Valuation	Per cent of Total Assessed Valuation
Gulf Crossing Pipeline	\$14,280	9.62%
XTO Energy	5,936	4.00%
Marathon Oil Company	5,826	3.92%
Texas Gas Transmission	5,486	3.69%
Midcontinent Express	5,068	3.41%
Centerpoint Energy Gas	4,391	2.96%
Covalence Specialty COA	3,647	2.46%
Hunt Oil Company	2,924	1.97%
James M. Hayes	2,617	1.76%
Claiborne Electric Co-op, Inc.	2,323	1.56%
Total	<u><u>\$52,498</u></u>	<u><u>35.35%</u></u>

3. CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of changes in office furnishings and equipment follows:

Balance, January 1, 2009	\$98,390
Additions	5,204
Deletions	<u>(4,887)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2009	98,707
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(91,156)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u><u>\$7,551</u></u>

4. PENSION PLAN

Substantially all employees of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's office are members of the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System (system), a multiple-employer (cost-sharing), public employee retirement system (PERS), controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR

Homer, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

All full-time employees who were employed on or after July 26, 1950 and are not drawing retirement benefits from any other public retirement system in Louisiana are required to participate in the system. Employees who retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of credited service or at or after age 50 with at least 30 years of credited service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of credited service rendered on or before June 30, 1999, and 3.33 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of credited service rendered on or after July 1, 1999, not to exceed 100 per cent of their final-average salary. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The system also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The System issues an annual publicly available report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Assessors' Retirement System, 3060 Valley Creek Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898, or by calling (225) 928-8886.

Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 8.00 per cent of their annual covered salary and the Claiborne Parish Assessor is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 13.5 per cent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the system include one-fourth of one per cent (one per cent for Orleans Parish) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish, plus revenue sharing funds appropriated by the legislature. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Claiborne Parish Assessor are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The Claiborne Parish Assessor's contributions to the system for the years ending December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, were \$31,785, \$30,263, and \$26,060, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

5. POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Plan Description. The Claiborne Parish Tax Assessor contributes to a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan ("the Retiree Health Plan"). The plan provides lifetime healthcare and life insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the assessor's group health insurance plan, which covers both active and retired members. Benefit provisions are established by the Claiborne Parish Tax Assessor. The Retiree Health Plan does not issue a publicly available financial report.

Effective with the Year ending December 31, 2009, the Claiborne Parish Tax Assessor implemented Government Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Post employment Benefits Other than Pensions* (GASB 45). The statement has been implemented prospectively. Using this method, the beginning other post employment benefit (OPEB) liability is set at zero and the actuarially determined OPEB liability relative to past service (prior to January 1, 2009) will be amortized and recognized as an expense over thirty years.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR

Homer, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Funding Policy. The Claiborne Parish Tax Assessor contributes 100% of the cost of current year premiums for eligible retired employees and their surviving spouses. For the year ended December 31, 2009, the Claiborne Parish Tax Assessor contributed \$19,779 to the plan.

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation. The assessor's annual OPEB cost (expense) is calculated based on the annual required contribution (ARC) of the employer. The Claiborne Parish Tax Assessor has elected to calculate the ARC and related information using the alternative measurement method permitted by GASB 45 for employers in plans with fewer than 100 total plan members. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal costs each year and to amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years. The following table shows the components of the assessor's annual OPEB costs for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and changes in the assessor's net OPEB obligation to the retiree health plan.

Annual required contribution	\$62,805
Interest on net OPEB obligation	None
Adjustment to annual required contribution	None
Annual OPEB cost (expense)	<u>62,805</u>
Contributions made	<u>19,779</u>
Increase in net OPEB obligation	82,584
Net OPEB obligation at beginning of year	<u>None</u>
Net OPEB obligation at end of year	<u><u>\$82,584</u></u>

The assessor's annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and the net OPEB obligation for the year 2009 was \$62,805, 32%, and \$43,026, respectively.

Funded Status and Funding Progress. As of December 31, 2009, the actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$491,459, all of which was unfunded. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$172,570, and ratio of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability to the covered payroll was 419.73%.

The projection of future benefits for an ongoing plan involves estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multi-trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR

Homer, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Methods and Assumptions. Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations. The following simplifying assumptions were made:

Retirement age for active employees - Based on the historical retirement age for the covered group, active members were assumed to retire at age 70.

Marital status - Marital status of members at the calculation date were assumed to continue throughout retirement

Mortality - Life expectancies were based on mortality tables from the National Center for Health Statistics. The 2003 United States Life Tables for Males and for Females, revised March, 2007, were used.

Turnover - Non-group-specific age-based turnover data from GASB Statement 45 were used as the basis for assigning active members a probability of remaining employed until the assumed retirement age and for developing an expected future working lifetime assumption for purposes of allocating to periods the present value of total benefits to be paid.

Healthcare cost trend rate - The expected rate of increase in healthcare insurance premiums was based on projections of the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A rate of 5.5% initially, increased to an ultimate rate of 6.1% after ten years, was used.

Health insurance premiums - 2008 age-adjusted health insurance premiums for retirees were used as the basis for calculation of the present value of total benefits to be paid..

Inflation rate - A long-term inflation assumption of 3.9% was based on projected changes in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) in the 2009 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds for an intermediate growth scenario.

Payroll growth rate - The expected long-term payroll growth rate was assumed to equal the rate of inflation.

Based on the historical and expected returns of the assessor's short-term investments, a discount rate 2.00% was used. In addition, a simplified version of the entry age actuarial cost method was used. The unfunded actuarial liability is being amortized as a level percentage of projected payroll on an open basis. The remaining amortization period at December 31, 2008, is thirty years.

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

6. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

The Claiborne Parish Assessor is not involved in any litigation at December 31, 2009, nor is he aware of any unasserted claims.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PART II

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
GENERAL FUND
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTUAL (BUDGETARY BASIS)	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES				
Taxes - ad valorem	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$551,038	\$201,038
Intergovernmental-state funds- state revenue sharing	23,000	23,000	26,613	3,613
Fees, charges, and commissions for services	6,500	6,500	6,634	134
Use of money and property - interest earnings	12,000	12,000	11,567	(433)
Other			120	120
Total revenues	<u>391,500</u>	<u>391,500</u>	<u>595,972</u>	<u>204,472</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government - taxation:				
Personal services and related benefits	370,000	370,000	299,825	70,175
Operating services	29,000	34,000	26,686	7,314
Materials and supplies	15,000	15,000	8,817	6,183
Travel and other charges	20,000	20,000	15,370	4,630
Capital outlay		3,000	5,204	(2,204)
Total expenditures	<u>434,000</u>	<u>442,000</u>	<u>355,902</u>	<u>86,098</u>
EXCESS (Deficiency) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(42,500)	(50,500)	240,070	290,570
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>42,500</u>	<u>50,500</u>	<u>794,333</u>	<u>743,833</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>NONE</u>	<u>NONE</u>	<u>\$1,034,403</u>	<u>\$1,034,403</u>

See accompanying note to budgetary comparison schedule.

Claiborne Parish Assessor
Homer, Louisiana

NOTE TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

The proposed budget for the General Fund, prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is then legally adopted by the assessor and amended during the year, as necessary. The budget is established and controlled by the assessor at the object level of expenditure. Appropriations lapse at year-end and must be reappropriated for the following year to be expended. All changes in the budget must be approved by the assessor.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statement include the original adopted budget amounts. There was one budget amendment for the year ended December 31, 2009.

**Claiborne Parish Tax Assessor
Employee Health Care Plan
December 31, 2009**

Schedule of Funding Progress

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL)	Funded Ratio	Covered Payroll	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
December 31, 2008	\$0	\$491,459	\$491,459	0.00%	\$172,570	284.79%

Note:

Generally accepted governmental accounting principles (GASB Codification Po50.131-132) require that the schedule present information from the last three actuarial valuations. Because the requirements of GASB 45 were implemented starting with the year ended December 31, 2009, only one year is available. Additional information will be added after each of the next two valuations. Subsequent to that, information will be presented for the latest three valuations.

**REPORTS REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS
PART III**

**Independent Auditor's Report Required
by *Government Auditing Standards***

The following independent auditor's report on compliance and internal control over financial reporting is presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

MARY JO FINLEY, CPA, INC.

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

116 Professional Drive - West Monroe, LA 71291

Phone (318) 329-8880 - Fax (318) 329-8883

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial
Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed
in Accordance *Government Auditing Standards***

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

I have audited the basic financial statements of the Claiborne Parish Assessor, a component unit of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009 and have issued my report thereon dated February 8, 2010. I conducted my audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit, I considered Claiborne Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the basic financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the Claiborne Parish Assessor's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the Claiborne Parish Assessor's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the Claiborne Parish Assessor's internal control.

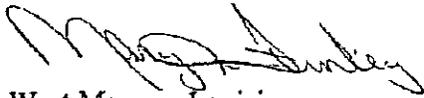
CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance
And Internal Control Over Financial Reporting, etc.
December 31, 2009

My consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that I consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Claiborne Parish Assessor's basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Claiborne Parish Assessor, management, and the Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. Although the intended use of these reports may be limited, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.



West Monroe, Louisiana
February 8, 2010

CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana

Schedule of Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

A. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

1. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the annual financial statements of the Claiborne Parish Assessor.
2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the Claiborne Parish Assessor were disclosed during the audit.
3. No significant deficiencies relating to the audit of the financial statements are reported in the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control.

B. FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT

None

**CLAIBORNE PARISH ASSESSOR
Homer, Louisiana**

**Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009**

There were no findings reported in the audit report for the year ended December 31, 2008.