

January 6, 2026

## **Mayor's Address: "In the Mix in '26 – Zachary Moving Forward Together"**

As we step into 2026, I am proud to say that Zachary is truly "In the Mix in '26." Our city continues to move forward with momentum, vision, and a commitment to making our community a place where everyone can thrive. From 2024 to 2025, we saw a 6.7% increase in sales tax—a clear sign that our local economy is strong, businesses are growing, and Zachary is increasingly recognized as a vibrant place to live, work, and invest.

Economic development remains a top priority for my administration. We are advancing strategic annexation efforts along Highway 61, the Mississippi River, and the diversion canal. Expanding to the river opens long-term opportunities, including a potential future port, barge-related commerce, riverboat access, and partnerships with natural gas providers. With emerging technologies like artificial intelligence shaping our growth, positioning Zachary along key transportation and infrastructure corridors has never been more important.

Retail recruitment is delivering results. In partnership with Retail Strategies, we engaged more than 50 retailers in 2025 and welcomed businesses such as Aldi, 7 Brew, and Planet Fitness. We are actively pursuing additional grocery options and supporting planned renovations at Rouses Market.

Healthcare expansion represents another major milestone. Lane Regional Medical Center has completed a \$90 million, four-story patient tower and will soon begin Phase II, adding additional operating rooms. This strengthens healthcare access, attracts top medical professionals, and supports our growing economy.

Downtown Zachary is evolving. An updated Downtown Plan, set to launch in 2026, along with a new Master Plan, retail incentives, and innovative tools for entrepreneurs, reflects the teamwork, vision, and commitment that are building a stronger Zachary for generations to come.

Zachary is also a welcoming community for seniors, offering low-maintenance housing, easy access to healthcare, recreational opportunities, and a tight-knit, friendly atmosphere—truly a place where residents of all ages can enjoy life to the fullest.

As we move "In the Mix in '26," let's continue shaping a future filled with opportunity, growth, and community pride. Together, we are making Zachary stronger than ever.

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### **MAYOR: DAVID MCDAVID**

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