

Brandt retiring as head of PAR

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BATON ROUGE — A well known government watchdog group in Baton Rouge is about to begin the search for a new leader

Jim Brandt has announced his [retirement](#) as president of the Public Affairs Research Council after 11 years in that post. Brandt will step down as head of PAR — a private, nonpartisan research group — at the end of the year.

In a news release Thursday, PAR said a transition committee has been set up to find the group's next president. James Richardson, a professor of economics at LSU and a former PAR board chairman, will chair the transition committee.

"The challenges [Louisiana](#) face are diverse and complex, and PAR continues to play an important role in defining and disseminating solution-focused research," Brandt said in the news release. "I am honored to have been part of it."

Brandt was appointed president of PAR in May 1999. During that time, he led development of a \$3 million permanent endowment [fund](#) for research. He also served as president of the Board of Trustees for the national Governmental Research Association. He is the second-longest-serving president of the 60-year-old organization.

Before joining PAR, Brandt served for 12 years as president and CEO of the Bureau of Governmental Research in [New Orleans](#).