



FAVORITE LOCAL GROCERY STORE

1. Rouse's

shop.rouses.com

Rouses is one of the largest independent grocers in the United States, with nearly 40 stores in two states and 5,400 team members. It has consistently been voted “Best Supermarket,” and “One of the Best Places to Work.”

For years, Anthony J. Rouse worked by his father J.P.'s side at City Produce Company, learning the produce business from the ground up. As Thibodaux and the neighboring town of Houma swelled with the oil boom, Anthony saw an opportunity to take what his father had done one step further. In 1960, Anthony and his cousin, Ciro DiMarco, opened their first grocery store with four employees and one motto: buy the best in Louisiana and bring the best to Louisiana. Along with the fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables that his father's company supplied, the 7,000-square-foot Houma market stocked Louisiana seafood, dry goods and fresh meat.

Anthony's sons, Donald and Tommy Rouse, joined the family business in the late 1970s. In the early 1980s, Donald and Tommy became managing partners, and the company continued to expand across South Louisiana and into Jefferson Parish, eventually becoming the largest independent grocer in Louisiana.

In 2003, Rouses expanded into Covington, Mandeville and Slidell, and the managing partners were joined by a third generation.

In 2007, two years after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the New Orleans area, Rouses acquired A&P's Southern Division, giving the company its first stores along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in New Orleans itself. Rouses doubled in size overnight. In 2009, Rouses further expanded, acquiring two Choice Supermarkets in Mississippi, and opening its first of two stores in the Lafayette area.

Under the direction of managing partner Donny Rouse, Donald's son, the company opened four new stores in 2011, including a brand new store in Diamondhead and the first full-service grocery store in downtown New Orleans in nearly 50 years.

“We were committed to the Gulf Coast rebuilding process, and that included Mississippi,” Donny Rouse said. “Whether they had family living on the Coast, or grew up vacationing on the Coast, for a lot of people in Louisiana, including me, Mississippi was and is truly a part of the fabric of their lives. Now our customers in Mississippi tell us how much they enjoy the fresh Louisiana products we sell in our stores, and our Louisiana customers tell us how much they like what we bring in from Mississippi.”

2. Winn Dixie

www.winndixie.com

3. Broome's Grocery

1801 Government St., Ocean Springs
228-875-8123; shopatbroomes.com