

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.52000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of Austin County.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.52000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.36024 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.45912 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.37082 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Austin County from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Austin County may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for Austin County exceeds the voter-approval rate for Austin County.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for Austin County, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for Austin County.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Austin County is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 11, 2023 AT 5:30 PM AT One East Main, Second Floor Courtroom.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate and the de minimis rate. If Austin County adopts the proposed tax rate, Austin County is required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the Austin County will be the voter-approval tax rate. The election will be held on November 8, 2023. You may contact the for information about voting locations. The hours of voting on election day are .

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Austin County last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Austin County this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.40831	\$0.52000	increase of 0.11169, or 27.35%
Average homestead taxable value	\$202,637	\$244,419	increase of 41,782, or 20.62%
Tax on average homestead	\$827.39	\$1,270.98	increase of 443.59, or 53.61%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$16,865,088	\$17,584,509	increase of 719,421, or 4.27%

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures

The Austin County spent \$199,600 from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedure, less the amount of any state grants received. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$39,168. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.00017/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Austin County at 979-865-9124 or tswonke@austincad.org, or visit <https://www.austincounty.com> for more information.