



Bexar County Commissioners Court

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Proposed County budget tackles public safety with no tax rate increase

The proposed Bexar County budget for fiscal year 2017-18 represents a 5 percent increase in operating funds and adds jobs in the Sheriff's Office and other departments throughout the County without an increase in the property tax rate, according to a presentation given to Commissioners Court Tuesday.

The proposed budget of \$1.78 billion for all funds includes \$554 million in operating appropriations and \$818 million in capital projects including road maintenance and flood control. While the FY 2017-2018 proposed tax rate is \$.304097, County Manager David Smith recommended Commissioners Court consider publishing the current tax rate of \$.30895.

"This proposed budget provides for improvements across our County offices," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "We will be able to upgrade our computer systems, to build more roads and to enhance public safety."

The County Manager together with staff developed a proposed budget that is balanced with property tax revenue growth of 5%, which was anticipated due to potential legislative changes.

Highlights of the proposed budget include jail population reduction strategies, continuation of the Felony Impact Court, Opioid Synthetic Cannabinoids Task Force, and Information Technology improvements to include implementation of a new County Integrated Justice System. The proposed budget includes several program changes in all funds, including 80 new positions and 13 reclassified positions, for an overall cost of approximately \$6.7 million.

"This proposed budget aims to modernize and update our systems and technology in order to ensure that all county services meet the demands of the growth that comes with a 21st century County," stated Precinct 2 County Commissioner Paul Elizondo.

Constituents are welcome to attend and provide input at the Commissioners Court budget work sessions and meetings on August 31, September 5, September 6, September 11, and September 12th. Public hearings on the proposed tax rate will be included in the August 31st and Sept. 5th sessions; and the final budget will be adopted on Sept. 12th.

The proposed budget is online at www.bexar.org.

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