



Bexar County Commissioners Court

San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

210.335.2555

210.335.2926/fax

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Contact: Monica Ramos
210.335.2742/o
210.289.5751/m

Bexar County passes FY 2017-2018 budget with a tax rate reduction, new Military Services program, and additional funding for public safety

Bexar County Commissioners Court passed the budget for fiscal year 2017-18 on Tuesday and adopted a lower tax rate of \$.304097, almost a half a cent lower than last year, saving tax payers over a \$6.6 million. The County is able to add jobs in the Sheriff's Office and other departments throughout the County, while keeping the overall increase to the fiscal year 2017-18 budget within the 5 percent goal the Commissioners Court set back in June 2017.

"The Bexar County FY 2018 budget will cut the property tax rate while enhancing public safety, improving road infrastructure, and upgrading our computer systems," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "This is the seventh time the Commissioners Court has reduced the property tax rate since 2001, and we will continue to provide tax relief without sacrificing services."

Highlights of the approved budget include jail population reduction strategies, 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 94 new positions and 32 reclassified positions, for an overall cost of approximately \$7.5 million.

The budget also includes an increase to the County's livable wage from \$13.75 per hour to \$14.25 per hour.

"With this new budget, we'll be able to improve the safety and quality of life for our Highland Oaks residents by providing roads in Southern Bexar County. Furthermore, we'll also be able to improve the quality of life with assistance in raising the living wage. I believe this budget will help our community," stated Precinct 1 Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez.

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Approximately \$46 million was also approved for road projects that include construction in the Highland Oaks subdivision, a contribution to Toyota, and the letting of the State Highway 211 project. Other capital programs include \$2.5 million for AT&T Center Parking Drainage & Stabilization, \$823,111 for Menger Creek Phase II, \$475,000 for the Menger Creek Redevelopment Plan & Urban Farm Master Plan and \$700,000 for additional improvements to Confluence Park.

“Helping our community is one of the main drivers of this budget,” stated Precinct 2 County Commissioner Paul Elizondo. “We’ve been able to provide more resources for public safety and our veterans. With the addition of positions in the Sheriff’s office as well as resources for new programs such as the County’s Military Transition Center, we’re able to do more for our veterans and community without raising taxes”.

The County’s Military Transition Center (BCMTC) will provide one year transitioning and acclimation services to not only veterans but also to a members of the military preparing to exit the armed forces, a key population that is most under served

“I wanted to thank the staff and this Court for the opportunity to make a big impact with our Veterans services organizations. For the last year and a half, we have been working with the JBSA Command, folks in Washington and our local delegation to help transition our military to civilian life,” stated Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin Wolff. “We are very happy to be able to expand and increase the efficiency and accessibility to these services”.

The Court also voted to continue funding the two Felony Impact Courts. First created in April 2017, the Felony Jail Impact Court and the Part-time Felony Plea Court hears cases of defendants in jail who request either a trial or plea bargain. Since its creation, the Courts have adjudicated 412 cases and 132 inmates have been released.

The full adopted budget and change order memo is available online at www.bexar.org.

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