



## **Bexar County Commissioners Court**

San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

210.335.2555

210.335.2926/fax

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 11, 2018**

**Contact:** Monica Ramos

210.335.2742/o

210.289.5751/m

### **County budget adopts FY 2018-2019 budget with focus on infrastructure with no tax rate increase**

Today, County Commissioners Court passed a \$1.71 billion budget for all funds includes \$575 million in operating appropriations and \$708 million in Capital projects including road maintenance and flood control and \$277 million for contingencies and reserves, most of which carry forward funding for multi-year capital projects.

“The adopted budget continues to secure the County’s financial future,” stated Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff. “It provides infrastructure, capital projects, public safety and other much needed services to residents, while providing tax relief and maintaining our AAA rating.”

“Working with County staff, we have been able to adopt a budget that maintains existing law enforcements positions and strengthens their presence in our community,” stated Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff. “Ensuring that the public safety needs of our community are met continues to be one of our highest priorities.”

The Court approved a lower rate from \$0.304097 to \$.301097, which supports the newly approved budget. As the upcoming Texas Legislative Session may present challenges to local governments, the newly adopted budget has planned for potential limits on the County’s property tax revenue and its ability to finance Capital Improvement and Road projects.

“Bexar County continues to lead in creating business growth through new construction,” stated Precinct 3 Commissioner Kevin Wolff. “This new construction is expected to generate almost \$4 billion in additional revenue, therefore allowing us to reduce the tax rate again this year for residents.”

With infrastructure and capital projects being an important component, highlights of the approved budget include road and bridge funding reallocation, capital improvement projects, flood control projects, jail population reduction and employee compensation and benefits.

Although the County’s Flood Control Program is almost complete, a \$2.5 million expansion and upgrade of the County’s High Water Life Saving Technology (HALT) Program was approved. Additional sites will be added, traffic arms will upgraded, new hardware installed and software will be upgraded.

--more--

“Recent heavy rains have demonstrated the County’s need to continue to improve our existing HALT system,” stated Precinct 2 Commissioner Paul Elizondo. “The \$2.5 million dollar upgrade, will allow for software and hardware updates, additional locations to be added and improved safety for residents. The overwhelming success of this program has prevented many needless tragedies and accidents.”

The approved budget also includes funding to increase the Livable Wage from \$14.25 to \$15.00 per hour for all employees not already earning \$15.

“We are extremely proud to now offer a livable wage of \$15 per hour,” stated Commissioner Elizondo. “This added benefit, not only takes care of our existing employees and their families, but also helps to keep us competitive in attracting potential new hires. Other employees not covered by this, can look forward to receiving a two percent COLA increase in their pay.”

Public safety improvements and upgrades include two new Sheriff’s Patrol Substations on the West and East sides of Bexar County. With the opening of these two new stations, there will be an expanded law enforcement presence, decreased emergency response times and savings in vehicle and fuel costs.

“At the end of the year, the Sheriff’s Office will have two brand new substations located on the East and West sides,” stated Precinct 1 Commissioner Sergio “Chico” Rodriguez. “Working closely with the Sheriff, we have also authorized a staff psychologist, new detective positions and new SWAT team. Not only will this result in improved response times to the communities, but closer ties to community members as well.”

The full adopted budget and change order memo is available online at [www.bexar.org](http://www.bexar.org).

###