



Bexar County Public Information Office
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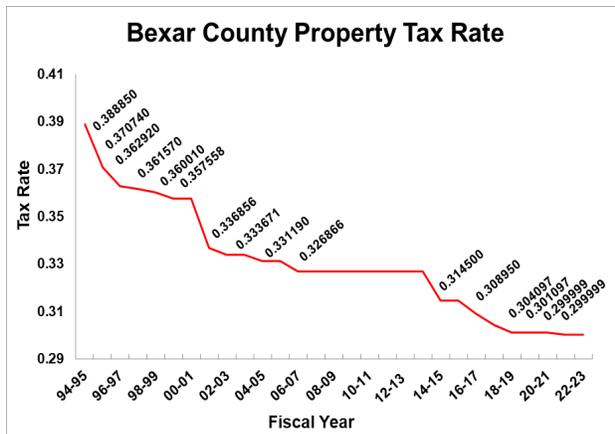
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**Bexar County Proposes Balanced Budget, Steady Tax Rate
And Relief to Homeowners**

County Manager David Smith has presented the proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023 recommending once again to maintain the current tax rate of \$0.299999. If approved, this would be the 28th consecutive year in which Bexar County either lowers or maintains its tax rate for property owners. This proposed budget brings relief to homeowners while providing for enhanced services and the ability to meet all contractual requirements.

Relief to Homeowners



Based on certified appraised property values reported by the Bexar Appraisal District (BCAD), values increased by 7.1 percent, or \$13.6 billion. Property values on existing properties increased by \$6.3 billion, and new construction generated \$7.3 billion in additional value.

In March of this year, the BCAD notified taxing entities of the significant increase in appraisal values in Bexar County. To address this

situation, Commissioners Court directed staff to develop and present a plan to provide property tax relief to homeowners in Bexar County. On June 7, 2022, Commissioners Court approved a 20 percent homestead exemption, which results in average, direct savings to homeowners of \$96 annually.

This action taken by Commissioners Court helped pave the way for homeowner property tax relief and the ability to propose a balanced budget with a reduction in funding. By adopting the recommended tax rate, along with the existing Senior Citizen Tax Freeze and Homestead Exemptions, the County will save taxpayers \$207 million in FY 2022- 2023 and \$2 billion cumulatively since 1995.

Budget Overview

The FY 2022-23 proposed budget for the General Fund totals \$562.3 million, representing an increase of \$32 million or 6 percent compared to last year's operating. The proposed budget totals \$2.86 billion for all funds, including

- \$720 million in Operating Appropriations,
- \$716 million in Capital Projects,
- \$149 million for Debt Service,
- \$319 million for American Rescue Plan Act funds,
- \$49 million in contingencies
- \$208 million in Carry-Forward Balance,
- \$550 million in Ending Balance for Capital Projects
- \$102 million in Venue Fund Reserves,
- \$51 million in Debt Service Reserves

Notable program change highlights include:

- Funding in the amount \$1,529,307 for 17 new positions in the District Attorney's office, the majority of which will work to improve the case intake process.
- Six additions, six deletions and eleven reclassifications are proposed at a cost of \$697,000 in the Bexar County Information Technology Department (BCIT) for continued implementation of the BCIT Strategic Plan.
- Five additional positions at a cost of \$628,705 in the Medical Examiner's Office are proposed to address an increase in workload and to maintain accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME).

Annual Capital Improvement Program

The county currently has several major capital improvement projects underway. These projects include a satellite facility in Precinct 4, a new facility for Agri-Life Extension Services, a new Workforce Training Center, a new criminal investigations laboratory, jail improvements/upgrades, and new enterprise systems. Work on these projects will continue through FY 2022-23.

These and other new capital projects in FY 2022-23 would receive \$71.5 million in proposed funds. This includes \$17.4 million in funding for new facilities and improvements to existing County facilities. Technology projects would receive \$13 million, including a new human resource information system and \$9.6 million is proposed for repair and improvement projects at the Adult Detention Center Campus.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Bexar County continues to maximize federal funding resources to help mitigate the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

In March 2021, Congress enacted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund long-term strategies to address the public health and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bexar County received a direct allocation of \$389 million. ARPA funds may be used to pay for the public health response to COVID-19, water and sewer infrastructure projects, negative economic impacts, premium pay for essential workers, broadband infrastructure projects and public sector revenue loss. Over the past year, Commissioners Court has solicited feedback from the community regarding how ARPA dollars should be spent. To date, \$123.5 million has been allocated and another \$184.4 million has been earmarked for specific issues within the priority areas, leaving a balance of \$84.3 million.

A few of the larger initiatives approved include

- \$25.2 million to improve Broadband Infrastructure across the County,
- \$80.3 million to boost mental health access and care,
- \$69.5 million to improve overall public health ,
- \$25,7 million in affordable housing,
- and \$20 million for domestic violence initiatives.

County Manager David Smith concluded, “We are grateful for the cooperation from all elected officials, appointed officials, department heads and county staff to help develop the FY 2022-2023 proposed budget. This proposed budget provides the foundation for how Bexar County will navigate through the anticipated challenges during FY 2022-2023 and continue to bring about our economic recovery. ”

The FY 2022-23 is scheduled to be adopted on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Be advised that these dates and times may change. Please visit www.bexar.org for the latest information.

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