



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: September 16, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number: Diana Ramirez (512) 854-9694

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Leroy Nellis, Acting County Executive

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

For public hearing @ 6pm

AGENDA LANGUAGE: RECEIVE COMMENTS REGARDING THE TRAVIS COUNTY TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 COUNTY BUDGET.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Please see the attachment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Receive public comment.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: Please see attached copy of the public hearing advertisement as it appeared in the Austin Chronicle on Monday, September 8, 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: Please see the attachment.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Leroy Nellis, Acting County Executive, Planning and Budget Office
Jessica Rio, Budget Director, Planning and Budget Office
County Judge's Office

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials should be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, agenda@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners Court
FROM: Jessica Rio, Budget Director
DATE: September 11, 2014
SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Tax Rate for FY 2015 Budget

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Commissioners Courtroom at 700 Lavaca. In addition, a second public hearing will occur on Friday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom at 700 Lavaca. There is also the opportunity to discuss the proposed tax rate on any Tuesday during regularly scheduled Citizens Communication on the Commissioners Court agenda.

The notice advertising this hearing was published in the *Austin American Statesman* on Monday, September 8th (attached). This information has also been on the Travis County web site and notices have appeared on TCTV.

State law requires that Commissioners Court advertise the impact of the County's proposed tax rate on the average annual taxable homestead. The following table depicts the impact on the annual tax bill in Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015 for a Travis County resident owning an average-valued home with a homestead exemption.

Annual Tax Bill for Average Taxable Homestead			
	FY 2014	FY 2015	Difference
Average Appraised Value of All Homesteads	\$282,909	\$316,409	\$33,500
Taxable Value of Average Homestead	\$222,431	\$240,026	\$17,595
Tax Rate	49.46 cents	45.63 cents	-3.83 cents
Tax Bill	\$1,100.14	\$1,095.24	-\$4.90

The average taxable homestead value increased from last year's certified \$222,431 to \$240,026 in this year's certification information. At the Travis County proposed tax rate of 45.63 cents per \$100 valuation, property owners of an average homestead will see a decrease in the Travis County portion of their property taxes. This tax relief has been a high priority for the Commissioners Court, particularly in recognition of the recent significant increases in property values in this community.

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

Travis County property taxes are used to fund operations such as law enforcement, the jails, the courts and prosecutors, roads, parks, social services, juvenile justice, and emergency medical services.

The County of Travis will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 1.5 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 6:00 PM, in the Commissioners Courtroom, on the first floor at 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, Texas.

The second hearing will be held on Friday, September 19, 2014 at 9:00 AM, in the Commissioners Courtroom, on the first floor at 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, Texas.

The members of the Travis County Commissioners Court voted as follows on the proposal to consider the tax increase:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe (for)
 Commissioner Precinct One Ron Davis (for)
 Commissioner Precinct Two Bruce Todd (for)
 Commissioner Precinct Three Gerald Daugherty (for)
 Commissioner Precinct Four Margaret J. Gómez (for)

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Travis County last year was \$222,431 (disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.4946 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$1,100.14.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Travis County this year is \$240,026 (disregarding residence homestead exemptions available only to disabled persons or persons 65 years of age or older). If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.4496 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$1,079.16.

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.4563 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$1,095.24.

You have a right to attend the hearings and make comments. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and make comments to express their views.