

District 7 Fire Rescue

Special Report

May 7th Sales Tax Election



Special Election to Support District 7

Bexar County Emergency Services District 7 (ESD 7) is the grassroots government entity that funds fire suppression, emergency medical services and public service to the residents and businesses of District 7.

ESD 7 Commissioners have called for an election on May 7, asking voters to consider a local sales tax of one-and-one-half percent. This would raise the sales tax from 6.75 percent to 8.25 percent. The additional sales tax is projected to raise about \$200,000 a year to fund equipment and personnel needs for District 7. It would **not** increase the property tax for residents and businesses within District 7.

What It Would Mean to District 7 Residents

A 1.5 percent tax rate increase would translate into \$1.50 collected for every 100 dollars purchased within the District. Everyone would pay the additional sales tax -- residents who shop within the District, and travelers and visitors to the District as well. The total sales tax would be 8.25% -- which is the sales tax for most items in San Antonio and in parts of Bexar County. With the growth of District 7, the additional income will cover maintenance and enhancement of equipment and services, as well as maintaining an adequate and trained professional firefighting workforce.

About the Ballot Proposal

District 7 Fire Rescue is currently funded through an ad valorem tax set and collected by ESD 7. The current rate is set at 10 cents per one-hundred dollars valuation on property.

The proposal is to allow for an additional .015 cents to be added to the current sales tax rate within District 7. The funds generated would be exclusively dedicated to District 7 Fire Rescue Operations.

About Texas Sales Tax

In Texas, the sales tax on covered items cannot exceed 8.25 percent. Of that, 6.25 percent goes to the state of Texas. The remaining two percent is reserved for use by local governments, such as ESD 7.

Most residents in District 7 are used to paying the 8.25 percent in sales tax, as most shopping is done in San Antonio, where the tax is at the maximum rate.

Questions and Answers

About your ESD 7

Fire Rescue Operations

Q: Who provides our fire protection and emergency medical services?

A: Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 7 (ESD 7) is the government entity responsible for fire protection in the 45 square miles of Bexar County just outside of Loop 1604 and around the Government Canyon State Natural Area. The District serves a population of approximately 30,000 residents. ESD7 operates as District 7 Fire Rescue.

Q: What is an emergency Service District? (ESD)

A: Emergency Service Districts are political subdivisions of the State of Texas, like school districts. An ESD can provide fire protection, emergency medical response, or both. There are more than 300 ESD's in Texas, including 11 in Bexar County. Of those 11, ESD 7 is the only one to provide EMS services.

Q: Where does our local ESD get its funding?

A: ESD 7 levies a property tax of 10 cents per 100 dollars property value. In other words, for every 100 dollars of property value, you pay a dime. For a home valued at \$200,000, its owners would pay \$200 a year for fire and EMS protection, or about \$17 a month.

Q: Why is ESD 7 calling for a sales tax election?

A: Mainly, the growth of the district makes it necessary for such an election. The state limits ESD's to a tax rate rate of 10 cents per 100 dollars property value -- exactly where ESD 7 is at currently. In 2006 when the District was formed, there were roughly 5,000 residential units within its boundary. Today there are now 10,000 residential units, and many more to come in the next few years. The additional sales tax would be able to complement the current property tax, and support the costs of additional equipment and staffing needs.

Q: How much money would the sales tax increase provide?

A: It would generate an estimated \$200,000 a year.

Q: Will this affect my property taxes?

A: No. This is strictly a proposal related to an increase in sales tax -- and not property taxes.

Q: How is sales tax collected?

A: Sales tax is collected when a person purchases a taxable item. The maximum sales tax that can be collected is 8.25 percent. Of that, 6.25 percent is reserved for the state of Texas. The remaining two percent is reserved for local jurisdictions.

Most residents of ESD 7 will most likely notice little change. Additionally, this sales tax will be collected from residents and guests alike, such as drivers passing through on thoroughfares. Their purchases will help pay for the protection that they occasionally need when they find themselves in an unfortunate accident that requires professional care and attention.

Early Voting Information

The Hours and Locations of Early Voting for the ESD 7 Election will be as follows:*

Monday, April 25th thru Friday, April 29th.....8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday, April 30th.....10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sunday, May 1st.....Closed
Monday, May 2nd thru Tuesday, May 3rd.....8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Early Voting sites include:

Bexar County Elections Department	1103 South Frio
Brookhollow Library	530 Heimer Road
Castle Hills City Hall	209 Lemonwood Drive
Claude Black Community Center	2805 East Commerce
Copernicus Community Center	5003 Lord Road
East Central ISD Administration Building	6634 New Sulphur Springs Road
Encino Branch Library	2515 East Evans Road
Fair Oaks Ranch City Hall	7286 Dietz Elkhorn Road
Great Northwest Library	9050 Wellwood
Helotes City Hall	12951 Bandera Road
Johnston Library	6307 Sun Valley Drive
Judson Middle School	9695 Schaefer Road
Kirby City Hall	112 Bauman
Kitty Hawk Middle School	840 Old Cimmarron Trail
Lion's Field	2809 Broadway
Losoya Intermediate School	1610 Martinez Losoya Road
McCreless Library	1023 Ada Street
Memorial Library	3222 Culebra
Mission Library	3134 Roosevelt Avenue
Northeast Lakeview College	201 Ktty Hawk Road
Northside Activity Center	7001 Culebra
Palo Alto College	1400 W. Villaret Blvd.
Rolling Meadows Elementary	17222 FM 2252
San Antonio Community College	1802 North Main
Shavano Park City Hall	900 Saddletree Ct.
Somerset City Hall	7360 E. 6th Street, Somerset
South Park Mall	2310 S.W. Military Drive
Universal City -- City Hall	2150 Universal City Blvd.
Windcrest Takas Park Civic Center	9310 Jim Seal Drive
Wonderland Mall of the Americas	4522 Fredericksburg

*Subject to change -- For more information contact the office of Bexar County Elections Administrator, Jacquelyn F. Callanen at (210)335-VOTE (8683)

May 7th Voting Information

Polls Open Saturday, May 7th

7 am to 7 pm

The following locations are precinct-specific. Please refer to your voter registration card to identify your specific district. Or visit www.bexar.org and go to the Elections Department webpage to confirm your specific voting precinct number:

For Precinct numbers 2063 and 2154: San Antonio M.U.D. #1
16450 Wildlake
Helotes, Texas 78023

For Precinct number 2065: Ward Elementary School
8400 Cavern Hill
San Antonio, Texas 78254

For Precinct number 2095: Folks Middle School
9855 Swayback Ranch
San Antonio, Texas 78254

For Precinct numbers 2101, 3008, 3160
and 3169: Kuentz Elementary School
12303 Leslie Road
San Antonio, Texas 78023

For Precinct numbers 2115 and 2125: Scarborough Elementary School
12280 Silver Pointe
San Antonio, Texas 78254

For Precinct number 3126: Scenic Loop Playground
18249 Sherwood Trail
Grey Forest, Texas 78023

For more information regarding the operations of ESD 7 and District 7 Fire Rescue, please contact Fire Chief Kevin Clarkson by phone at 210-688-0665, or by email at firechief@d7fr.org. Please feel free to visit the organization's website at www.d7fr.org for more information and updates, and follow District 7 on Facebook as well.

District 7 Fire Rescue

Station 115
11615 Galm Road

Station 116
18579 Hwy. 16 North

210-688-0665
www.D7FR.org