



HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR 2021

PRESS RELEASE

The Harris County Board of Commissioners adopted the FY 2021-22 annual budget on June 15, 2021 after many public budget work sessions, two public hearings, and much thoughtful deliberations. To adequately fund the approved budget, have less reliance on other funds to balance the General Fund budget, sufficiently fund upcoming projects, respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and prepare for future growth, a small property tax increase is needed. The Board of County Commissioners is proposing to keep the county's current property tax rate of 9.38 mills which would increase property taxes by 1.68% above the roll back rate of 9.225. The portion of the city of West Point that is located within Harris County will also keep its current property tax rate of 5.628 mills or 0.52% above their roll back rate of 5.599. Since the millage rate is proposing to stay the same as the previous year, only those property owners with increased property valuations will pay more county property taxes than last year.

As an example, the financial impact of this proposed property tax increase on a \$225,000 home will be approximately an additional \$14 in county property taxes.

A small property tax increase is necessary at this time due to many reasons including:

- Grant a 2% cost-of-living-allowance and 1% longevity allowance to county employees.
- Hire five new full-time positions including a building inspector for the Community Development Department, facility maintenance technician for the Facility Maintenance Department, construction inspector for the Public Works Department, park maintenance technician for the Recreation Department, and an administrative assistant for the Tax Assessor's Office.
- Complete the impact fee feasibility study to potentially fund park and recreation improvements and public safety needs.
- Complete the land development code update to guide the county's future growth.
- Purchase new and replacement vehicles for the Community Development Department, Public Works Department, Recreation Department, Vehicle Maintenance, Sheriff's Office, and Solid Waste.
- Purchase a backhoe and skid steer for the Public Works Department.
- Purchase six replacement automated CPR devices for the EMS Department.
- Upgrade the telephone system at the Prison, Public Works, NRCS Office, Facilities Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance, and Water Works.
- Replace the roof at the Prison.
- Further develop Ellerslie Park by installing entrance gates, signage, new pavilion, restrooms, storage building, trails, and dock among other items.

To view the county's approved FY 2021-22 budget, please visit the county's website at www.harriscountyga.gov

Since the Board of County Commissioners is proposing a property tax increase that is above the roll back rate of 9.225, state law requires the county to conduct three public hearings to obtain citizen comments. Therefore, all concerned property owners and citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the three public hearings to be conducted on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. All public hearings will be conducted in Room 223 of the Harris County Courthouse, 102 N. College Street, Hamilton, GA.