

Quick Facts

Who: Voters in Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2.

Where: Northeast Travis County outside the City of Pflugerville and the Wells Branch Library District.

What (are we talking about):
Whether to levy a half-cent sales tax in portions of the district.

Why: ESD2 needs additional funding to take its emergency medical response to the next level, training and equipping firefighters to provide the advanced care currently only available from a paramedic on an ambulance.

When:

Early voting, April 28-May 6

TRAVIS COUNTY OFFICES, 5501 AIRPORT BLVD.
COUNTY TAX OFFICE, PFLUGERVILLE
15822 FOOTHILL FARMS LOOP
GUS GARCIA RECREATION CENTER, 1201 E. RUNDBER
RANDALLS RESEARCH, 10900 RESEARCH BLVD
RANDALLS STEINER RANCH, 5145 NORTH FM 620
MANOR ISD ADMINISTRATION BLDG, 10335 U.S. 290
RANDALLS FLAGSHIP WEST LAKE HILLS
3300 BEE CAVES ROAD
RANDALLS LAKEWAY, 2301 RANCH ROAD 620 SOUTH
BEE CAVE CITY HALL, 4000 GALLERIA PKWY

**Election Day, Saturday, May 10
Consult**

**www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/
for times and locations.**

How (much would it raise in taxes):
The additional sales tax would raise an estimated \$1 million/year.



**TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 2
PFLUGERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

203 E. Pecan
Pflugerville, TX 78660

www.pflugervillefire.org

*INFORMATION FROM THE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE YOUR FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL FIRST-RESPONSE
Para obtener una copia de esta informacion traducida al español,
favor llame a telefono 512-251-2801*

*Deciding the future of your
fire protection and emergency
medical response*

Questions and Answers

Fire/EMS Election

**Travis County
Emergency Services
District No. 2/
Pflugerville Fire Dept.**

**Early Voting:
April 28-May 6**

**Election Day:
Saturday, May 10**

www.pflugervillefire.org

About your Fire Dept.

Q: Who provides our fire protection and emergency medical first response?

A: Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 is the grassroots government responsible for providing fire protection and emergency medical first-response in the northeastern portion of Travis County, including Pflugerville, Wells Branch and Northtown.

Q: What is an emergency services district?

A: An emergency services district is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, much like a school district or municipality. It's overseen by a five-person Board of Commissioners made up of residents appointed by the County Commissioners Court. An ESD can provide fire protection or emergency medical services or both. The ESD funds and operates the Pflugerville Fire Department.

Q: Where does our local ESD get its money?

A: As allowed by the Texas Constitution and state statutes, ESD2 levies a property tax of 10 cents per \$100 of property value. That means that the owner of an average home taxed on \$200,000 of value pays \$200 a year — a little less than \$17 a month — to know that trained, professional firefighters with state-of-the-art equipment will be at the door within minutes in an emergency. That's the current limit that the ESD can tax under the state constitution. Municipalities, with a higher tax cap, routinely spend as much as four times that to provide fire service.

To augment Fire Department revenues, voters in 2000 approved a half-cent sales tax for the entire district. The 2014 proposition would, as statutes allow, levy another half-cent sales tax in areas that are not at the state maximum.

About the May 10 election

Q: Why is the ESD calling a sales tax election?

A: The Pflugerville Fire Department faces an array of challenges: Rapid growth in Central Texas...an older population...newcomers who haven't found a regular doctor...the Affordable Care Act. These mean more medical emergency calls every day. Faced with these challenges, the ESD hopes to raise the level of emergency medical care you can expect if you're sick or injured.

Medical emergency calls make up about 70 percent of the calls that the Pflugerville Fire Department responds to. Sixty percent of those are serious enough to require transport to a hospital.

Currently, Pflugerville firefighters can provide **basic medical attention** as they wait for paramedics on an Austin/Travis County EMS ambulance to arrive and provide advanced care. Two ambulances are stationed in ESD2, but they are often deployed into Austin or other parts of Travis County. In half of the emergency medical calls in ESD2, an ambulance is not available in the district and must make its way back to our area through Austin traffic.

Travis County ESD2 needs additional funding to provide its firefighters with the training and equipment they need to provide the same level of care as an EMS paramedic, putting "an emergency room in your living room" when you need help. This includes using specially equipped SUVs to serve as rapid response vehicles for medical calls. Instead of waiting for an ambulance, you can get the same level of care from firefighters in your neighborhood.

Q: How much will the sales tax raise?

A: The additional sales tax in a portion of the ESD will raise an estimated \$1,000,000, which is about

an 8 percent increase in the total revenues for the Fire Department. 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 local governments, such as ESDs. Most residents are used to paying the 8.25 percent, because most of their shopping is in Austin, Pflugerville or Wells Branch, which are already at the maximum.

Q: Is there a disagreement with the City of Pflugerville about the sales tax?

A: Everyone agrees that the ESD should provide the best level of medical response it can afford, and everyone agrees that a healthy economy is necessary in our area. Some city officials were concerned that the ESD sales tax would preclude imposing a city sales tax for its economic development corporation. Under state law, cities and ESDs can work out arrangements to share sales tax revenue, and the ESD has pledged it will work with the city if voters approve the May 10 measure.

Q: Will the election affect my property tax?

A: No. **ESD2 is NOT asking for a property tax increase.** Along with providing resources to provide the next level of emergency medical care, a sales tax also distributes the burden of providing fire service. Through a sales tax, people who are not property owners, but who can require emergency service while they are in the district, help pay for that protection when they buy taxable items.

Q: What happens if the sales tax proposition fails?

A: The district will have to make a choice between dipping further into reserves or abandoning its plans to improve services.