

Oak Hill Fire Department
Travis County Emergency Services District #3

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PRESS RELEASE

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3 / Oak Hill Fire Department
Lowers Ad Valorem Tax Rate

The Board of Commissioners for Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3, operating locally as the Oak Hill Fire Department, took decisive action on Thursday, September 5th, to lower the tax rate for its community. After confirming the impact and implications of the tax reform legislation from the 2019 legislative session, the District has positioned itself to be able to reduce its tax burden on the community.

As a matter of meeting its stated goals, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3 communicated in 2004 related to the passage of a sales tax for the District that its long-term goal was to reduce the ad valorem (property) tax rate to 8 cents per hundred dollars of valuation for the community. The District was well on its way to realizing that goal when the economic downturn required the Board of Commissioners, after careful consideration, to delay the plan to reduce the ad valorem tax rate until the economic downturn subsided.

However, during the past several legislative sessions, property taxation was at the forefront of discussion to potentially change the longstanding property tax system. In anticipation of legislative limits on taxation, the Commissioners adopted tax rates that assured the future economic viability of the District. With the passage of the 2019 legislature's "Senate Bill 2," the District has evaluated that it can continue to appropriately fund the operations of the Oak Hill Fire Department while still being able to reduce the ad valorem tax rate.

The Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3 are pleased to announce that the District has unanimously adopted an ad valorem tax rate of 8 cents per hundred dollars of valuation compared to 9.75 cents per hundred dollars of valuation in 2019. The newly adopted lower tax rate will go into effect for the 2020 calendar year and represents a tax rate that is well below both the "rollback" tax rate and the "effective" tax rate, meaning that the District has actually reduced the amount of taxes its community members pay for fire and emergency medical first response services.

Through effective planning, leveraging of cooperative purchasing opportunities, and the implementation of logical cost control measures, the District is able to meet its commitment to the community in lowering the tax rate to 8 cents per hundred dollars of valuation while maintaining its high level of providing the services the community desires. The Oak Hill Fire Department operates out of two fully staffed fire stations located at 9211 Circle Drive and 4111 Barton Creek Boulevard.

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