

MAY 1, 2021 ELECTION INFORMATION

Harris County Emergency Services District No. 16 (“the District”) has called for an election to change its tax rate cap. The measure on the ballot reads as follows:

“To authorize in Harris County Emergency Services District No. 16 a maximum ad valorem tax rate of ten (10) cents on each \$100 of taxable value of property.”

The Board would like the public to know that the above measure is **NOT** a vote to raise your taxes.

The tax rate setting process for the District, which in part determines the budget of the Klein Fire Department, does not commence until August of 2021. After the Harris County Appraisal District and the Harris County Tax Office have completed their work and tax calculations, the District will set its property tax rate (called an “ad valorem tax rate”) for 2021. However, any tax rate set by the District is limited by the *De Minimis Tax Rate* and the *Voter-Approval Tax Rate* as well as the other provisions set forth in the Senate Bill 2 passed back in 2019. If you want to learn more about Senate Bill 2, please click [here](#).

What is the current tax rate cap for the District?

Currently, the District cap is \$.05 per \$100 of taxable value. That means that for a home worth \$250,000 the maximum tax that the District can impose is \$125 per year. That value does not include exemptions you may be entitled to either. The District currently provides a 10% homestead exemption, a \$100,000 over 65 exemption and a \$100,000 disability exemption. Those exemptions can further reduce your tax liability to the District.

What does all of this mean?

If the District wants to increase your taxes above the *De Minimis Tax Rate* or the *Voter-Approval Tax Rate*, the District will need to hold another election in November to impose that kind of tax increase.

Why increase the tax rate cap at all?

The *De Minimis Tax Rate* and the *Voter-Approval Tax Rate* do allow for small tax increases without causing an election. It is very complicated to illustrate the calculation here, but generally speaking, the *Voter-Approval Tax Rate* limits tax increases for the District as a whole to 3.5%. That does not mean that your individual tax liability will increase 3.5%. That 3.5% limitation applies to the entire tax base of the District, not just one house. That is because the Harris County Appraisal District sets the taxable value of your home. If the taxable value of your home decreases, that tax liability will decrease too. If the taxable value of your home increases, that tax liability will increase too. The 3.5% increases for the District will provide the District and the Klein Fire Department more revenue over time. The current tax rate cap will prohibit the ability of the tax rate to grow above 5 cents per \$100 of taxable value.

If you want to learn more about the District’s tax rate calculations, please click [here](#). Lines 66 through 70 show the District’s *No-New Revenue Tax Rate*, *De Minimis Tax Rate* and the *Voter-Approval Tax Rate*.

If you want to learn more about the District's *No-New Revenue Tax Rate* and *Voter-Approval Tax Rate*, please click [here](#).

What is the tax rate cap for other Emergency Services Districts around Klein?

The Klein Fire Department is surrounded by four other Emergency Services Districts. The Champions Fire Department, Cypress Creek Fire Department, Ponderosa Fire Department and Spring Fire Department are all neighbors of the District. All of those other Emergency Services Districts already have a tax rate cap of 10 cents per \$100 of taxable value.

What happens if the District does set the tax rate at the maximum cap after holding another election?

Using the example above, if the District tax rate cap was increased to \$.10 per \$100 of taxable value for a home with a taxable value of \$250,000 (NOT including exemptions) the maximum tax that the District can impose would be \$250 per year. That is a tax of about \$.68 per day for fire and emergency response services.

When is the election?

The election will be on May 1, 2021. Voting starts at 7:00 a.m., and ends at 7:00 p.m. The election is being held in the Klein Fire Department Administration Building located behind Fire Station #4 at 16810 Squyres Road, Klein, Texas 77379.

PLEASE COME OUT AND VOTE AND LET THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO!!