

Erath County Judge's Summary UPDATE for the 2022 budget (September 3, 2021)

The Erath County Commissioner's Court meets in regular sessions on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Meeting notices (including special meetings), Agendas and Minutes are posted on the County website <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/agendacenter>

The proposed county budget for FY (fiscal year) 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022) is posted on the county website <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=38>.

In reviewing the County budget for FY2022, I'm writing this summary to paint a picture of how it affects our affects your County Taxes. The state has mandated that counties not exceed 3.5% in revenues over the previous year without holding a special referendum (election). This year, we are able to propose a rate within the State mandate. Property valuations have been reviewed, and we expect tax revenue from about \$75M in new properties in FY2022. This helps us to make realistic revenue projections to help determine the proposed tax rate for FY2022. Our proposed tax rate is .004355 per 100k in property valuations.

ERATH COUNTY TAXES

Tax Year	Tax Rate	Tax for \$100k home
2021-2022 Proposed	.4355	435.50
2020-2021	.4444	444.40
2019-2020	.4560	456.00
2018-2019	.4458	445.80
2017-2018	.4700	470.00
2016-2017	.4700	470.00
2015-2016	.4700	470.00

As proposed, a home valued at \$100,000 would have an assessment of \$435.50 in County Taxes. Where does the \$435.50 go?

- \$316.00 (.3160 rate) to the County General Fund, used to fund the operation all county functions except for activities of the four precincts:
 - Sheriff's Office, Jail, Indigent Health Care, Courts System, Elections, Voter Registrations, Vital Records, Land Records, Veteran's Services, Mental Health Services, Vehicle Registrations, 911 and addressing services, Fire Protection, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, and other county services;
- \$107.00 (.1070 rate) to fund county road and bridge maintenance in the County.
 - The amount is further divided among the four precincts (+/- \$27 ea.) according to the number of road miles (838 total) in each precinct;
- \$12.50 (.0125 rate) to pay for long-term debt (Jail addition in 2010).
 - Debt balance on 9/30/2021 = \$1,890,000;
 - FY 2022 debt payment due 9/30/2022 = \$522,611.

The proposed budget includes a Statement of Cash Reserves, which include:

- \$13.06M for the General Reserve Funds: including General Fund, Judicial Fund, and Indigent Health Care Fund;
- \$4.65M in the Road & Bridge Reserve Funds: divided in differing amounts among the four precincts; and
- 14.07M in Special or Dedicated Funds:
 - This includes balances for several funds, specially dedicated only for certain expenses, and not available to use for General Fund or Road & Bridge Fund expenditures. (descriptions are in the itemized budget p.6-7) <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=38>.

Upcoming Tax/Budget meetings:

- September 7 – Public Hearing on the Tax Rate and other business items.
- September 13 - Meeting to consider adoption of the 2022 Budget and 2022 Tax Rate, and other business items.



Citizens are invited to attend and are welcome to address the Commissioner's Court by signing up to speak. Signing up to speak can be done at the meeting(s) just prior to the meeting being called to order. Arrive a few minutes early.

Please call me with any questions. Let me know how we can better serve you.

You may contact my office with any opinions or suggestions at (254) 965-1415, or send me an email at countyjudge@co.erath.tx.us We are here to serve you, until next time –

Regards,
Alfonso Campos – Erath County Judge



As the COVID Cases and hospitalizations continue to increase, please remember to:

- Continue Social Distancing
- Wash Hands Often

We are monitoring cases county-wide daily.

- Active COVID Cases 9/2/2021 = 393
- See the Erath County website daily updates:

<https://www.co.erath.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/1331/COVID-19-Erath-Co-Daily-Report-PDF>

Celebrate Labor Day safely!



Plan on going boating?

- Wear a life jacket.
- Avoid alcohol.
- Be especially careful on personal watercrafts.