

City of College Station

Proposed FY 2020 Budget

Budget Process

- The city council will discuss the budget in detail in three days of budget workshops from Monday-Wednesday at the CSU Meeting & Training Facility on Graham Road.
- The proposed budget will be posted on the city website (cstx.gov/budget).
- A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be Aug. 22.
- Public hearings on the budget and tax rate will be Sept. 12.
- The council is scheduled to adopt the budget and tax rate Sept. 26.

Here's What We Know

1. **Since 2009, our population has grown over 30%** (about 40,000). During the same period, the student population grew nearly 34%, not counting the RELLIS Campus.
2. Perhaps for the first time in College Station's history, **FY20 will see sales tax revenues being less than property tax revenues**. That's not all bad news, but it does show how sales tax can be a cyclical revenue stream.
3. SB2, which will affect all Texas cities beginning in FY21, will limit our ability to generate revenue needed to keep up with current needs, and certainly won't provide a sustainable funding path for future growth.
4. While property values are up, and we've seen positive developments in all parts of the city, we have seen an increase in the amount of exempt property with **more than \$2 billion of value now exempt**. Those exemptions include much of what's owned by the state of Texas, places of worship and faith-affiliated hospitals, seniors over the age of 65, and more.
5. **Healthcare costs continue to rise**. The city has also recognized these increases, which contributes to the need to ensure salaries and benefits remain competitive for recruiting and retaining a workforce that's able to meet our citizens' expectations.
6. **Our employees are being asked to do far more than ever as the number of city workers per 1,000 citizens has declined**. And while dozens more police and fire professionals have been added during the past decade — yet still fall short of recommended levels — the overall number of city employees remains relatively unchanged during that time frame.
7. Our recent citizen survey identified a long list of city services that remain important to our residents, yet they also say we have lost ground in terms of the quality of those services.