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Harris County Commissioners Set To Vote On An 11.4% Property Tax Increase
Would see \$200,000,000 plus more in taxes flow into government coffers

Houston, TX – Harris County Commissioners Court is poised to vote on a nearly 11.4% property tax increase which would dramatically increase county revenues by more than \$200 million more than last year. An average homeowner, with a taxable value of \$177,690 (the average taxable value home in Harris County according to October 2019 data provided by HCAD) would pay an additional \$118 more on their county tax bill than they did last year.

Harris County Commissioners Court Proposed Tax Increase	
Value Growth Increase	
Avg. Taxable Home Value Has Increased Over \$12,000 In The Past Year	\$ 78.49
Tax Rate Growth Increase	
2019 Proposed Property Tax Rate Increase of \$0.02262	\$ 40.19
Total Tax Bill Growth in 2019	
Based on Avg. Taxable Home Value of \$177,690	\$ 118.68

“This is really is a Tax to the Max on taxpayers at the old rollback rate of 8%. The 8% figure is not the true increase percentage on tax levies in Harris County as it is just an adjusted number,” said Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston). **“Raising the property tax rate on top of such strong appraisal roll growth really is taxing to the max the year before these much-needed taxpayer reforms can take effect.”**

Senate Bill 2, Authored by Senator Bettencourt and Sponsored by Rep Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) passed in the last legislative session on a bipartisan vote, gives voters a direct say over their property tax bills in Texas. The bill lowered the rollback rate from 8% to 3.5% for Cities and Counties and requires an automatic November election to exceed this limit. However, since the law does not take effect until 2020 many taxing entities across the State are vacuuming up every tax dollar that they can, in some cases like El Paso, entirely negating the ISD tax rate buy down by the Texas Legislature. A 2/3rd majority in both chambers of the Legislature is needed for a law to take immediate effect.

“Senate Bill 2 will put an end to these preposterous increases and ensure that voters have the final say on their property tax bills,” continued Senator Bettencourt. **“The average taxpayer is not getting an 11.4% raise and government should not be either!”**

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