

The Senate of The State of Texas



BRIAN BIRDWELL

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TEXAS SENATE PASSES PROPERTY TAX REFORM BILL (SENATE BILL 2)

AUSTIN, TX — Today, the Texas Senate finally passed Senate Bill 2, by Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) on a vote of 18-13. Senate Bill 2 puts a 3.5% rollback trigger on the rate all local government entities, apart from school districts whose rate is 2.5%, can raise taxes without triggering an automatic public vote. The bill will also provide for an exemption for indigent defense costs that impact all the counties but disproportionately impact the small rural communities. SB 2 allows for an increase in tax rates only if a county's indigent defense expenditures exceed the amount of those expenditures for the preceding year.

"Over the past 18 months, I have been listening to my constituents and elected officials with whom I share those same constituents. The citizens of Senate District 22 and Texas have demanded property tax reform, and I believe Senate Bill 2 as passed today will have a significant effect on curtailing the rapid growth in property valuations and rate of growth in property tax bills that is, in its current form, unsustainable." Birdwell said. "SB 2 strengthens voter-approval and provides a balance between both fast-growing, more suburban counties like McLennan and the northern counties that abut the DFW metroplex, as well as the more rural counties in the district."

Texas is number 3 in property tax rates across the country. Senate Bill 2 lets the people vote on any yearly property tax increase above the 3.5% rollback rate for local government entities and 2.5% for school districts and give voters more control over the rate of growth.

Senate Bill 2 will now go to the House for consideration.

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Brian Birdwell is a native Texan, decorated military veteran, lifelong conservative Republican, survivor of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and a proud husband, father and grandfather. He currently represents the counties of Bosque, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, McLennan, Navarro, Somervell and Tarrant [partial] in Senate District 22.