



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2015



**Fort Bend County
Bond Election**

**2016 County Budget
Approved**

On September 22nd the Commissioners
Court approved the 2016 budget of \$318



On August 19th, 2015 the Fort Bend County Commissioner's Court approved a bond election to be held on November 3rd, 2015 with four ballot propositions. If voters elect to approve all four propositions, the county would be authorized to sell \$98.6 million in bonds to fund expansion and renovations to current Fort Bend County buildings and facilities.

The bond is focused on renovation and expansion to county facilities to accommodate the ever-growing population and acquiring land before the rising property values and private development blocks out the county. The bond would do a lot in diminishing the current cramping in public buildings with as many as 7 new facilities on the ballot.

The 5th Street Community Center, which houses the Fort Bend County Meals on Wheels, Head Start and Boys and Girls Club will see expansion as well. The bond will fund a new, 9,000 sq. ft. gymnasium and renovations to the adjacent existing Boys and Girls Club facility. Additionally, the Pinnacle Senior Center will see expansion with the addition of a new aquatics fitness center to provide additional services to Fort Bend County seniors.

The Fort Bend County Justice Center will see the largest expansion, which would facilitate support of the two new courts recently created by the State Legislature and finding a permanent home for the District Attorney, District Clerk and County Clerk. The parking structure neighboring the Justice Center will see an additional 400 car spaces to accommodate the expanding courts.

[Prop. 1 \(\\$9,900,000\):](#)

million, about 9.7 percent higher than last year's adopted budget of \$290 million. The County saw a population increase of about 4.4 percent and will see an additional \$10.4 million in tax revenue to be raised from new properties added to the tax roll.

The budget includes eighty-five new positions, twenty-one of which are due to the addition of the new County Court at Law and District Court. Nineteen new vehicles and sixty-eight replacement vehicles were approved as well as \$8.8 million for Capital Improvement Projects.

Two public hearings were held on the proposed tax rate changes prior to budget approval. AS customary the proposed budget was filed in the County Clerk's Office and Auditor's Office for public inspection. The approved 2016 Budget is available [HERE](#) on the Fort Bend County Website.

Precinct 2 Prepares for National Night Out



Tuesday October 5, 2015, Precinct 2 and all of Fort Bend County will be celebrating National Night Out! Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. National Night out is a community-

Will fund County-wide Park improvements and Land Acquisitions and also fund the expansion of the 5th Street Community Center with the addition of a new, free-standing gymnasium.

[Prop. 2 \(\\$6,000,000\):](#)

Will fund the demolition along with a new 60,000 sq. ft. replacement facility for the George Livestock Building, along with various other improvements.

[Prop. 3 \(\\$19,800,000\):](#)

Will fund a new 35,000 sq. ft. Branch Library to serve the growing northern Fort Bend area, as well as a 9,600 sq. ft. addition and renovation to the existing Missouri City Branch Library.

[Prop. 4 \(\\$62,900,000\):](#)

Will fund the 105,600 sq. ft. expansion of the Fort Bend County Justice Center, a new Medical Examiners Office, a new Sheriff's Office Administration Building and a Sheriff's Office Sub-Station in the Katy-Area. Funds will also go towards land acquisition and renovation of the former Houston Community College in Sienna Plantation to be used as a county annex facility. A portion of the Proposition 4 funds will also go toward improvements to existing Emergency Medical Service facilities at various locations.

Early Voting will begin Monday, October 19th at 8a.m. through Friday, October 30th. Click [HERE](#) for polling locations, times and more information.

***Do You Have A Story?
We'd Like to Hear from You!***



This is your space! We want to hear from you, so send us your news. We may even publish

building campaign designed to foster a better relationship between community members and law enforcement, heighten awareness about crime prevention and send a message to would be criminals that neighborhoods are standing together against crime.

We're encouraging all areas of Precinct 2 to come together and get involved. **LET US KNOW!** We'd like residents to let us know what your community will be doing to celebrate National Night Out. If you'd like a representative from the Commissioner's Office to attend contact our office at 281-403-8000.

Fort Bend County Approves Voting Centers

The Texas Secretary of State notified Fort Bend County on August 24th that it has approved its application to participate in the Countywide Polling Place Program for the upcoming November election. The adoption of the Countywide polling hopes to encourage turnout by leveraging convenience. Citizens will be able to vote near home, work or school. It will also allow polling locations to be adapted to keep pace with the rapid growth of the County, not being limited to precinct lines.

The Voting Centers will also save the County money by reducing the number of polling stations that need to be equipped and staffed. Additionally, by replacing it now, the County will save \$2.5 to \$3 million in the future. And added benefit of switching to voting centers could be the reduction in the number of provisional ballots cast when a voter shows up to the wrong location. If the Voting Centers prove successful, Fort Bend County will be able to utilize the voting centers for future elections. Click [HERE](#) for a list of Voting Locations.

your article in a future newsletter (although we reserve the right to edit for length and content). Try to keep your submissions to 150-200 words. Submit articles to: commpct2@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Write away!



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