

## ROYAL CONVOCATION



Royal ISD welcomed teachers and staff back to school on Friday, August 11th at the district's annual convocation. District employees gathered in the cafeteria at Royal High School for breakfast and were able to meet with vendors who donated door prizes and giveaways. Music was provided by the Royal High School Band. Teachers – many in costume – paraded their way to the main assembly where they were addressed by Superintendent Rick Kershner.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE PREJEAN



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

## ORIGINAL SCHOOL BELL RETURNS



The original school bell from the 1909 building was returned to Katy Elementary on Tuesday, August 8th, after being temporarily removed for recent renovations. "Thanks, KISD, for keeping the tradition alive," Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris said on his Facebook page. In that post Harris noted that Katy Elementary was a wooden schoolhouse in 1898 and became a brick building in 1909. It was renovated in 1965, 1988 and 2023. In 2017 Katy Elementary received a County Historical Marker for "Site of First Schoolhouse in Katy" in 1898. Pictured left to right are Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele, Council Member Gina Hicks, former school board member David Frishman, City Administrator Byron Hebert and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris.



CHRIS HARRIS

ASHLEY PELLOQIN

## KATY ISD GOES BACK TO SCHOOL



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATY ISD

On August 5th Superintendent Ken Gregorski welcomed over 11,000 staff back for the new school year through his annual "Welcome Back Message." discussed the 88th Legislative Session, school safety and security, and enrollment growth and bonds, among other topics, according to the district Facebook page. The event was held at the Merrell Center.

## Katy ISD receives "Safe and Secure Schools" award

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy ISD Police Department recently received a recognition on behalf of the district from the Harris County Department of Education Center for Safe and Secure Schools, according to the district's Facebook page. The district received the award for being an

active member of the Center for Safe and Secure Schools, participating in the Center's Emergency Operations Board and for advancing safe and secure learning environments through partnership. "The safety of our students, staff and community is our top priority in Katy ISD," said the district in the post.

## Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

A tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2**.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.100000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.086201 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.089808 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.091751 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** exceeds the voter-approval rate for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2**.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2**, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2**.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

The proposed tax rate is also greater than the voter-approval tax rate and the de minimis rate. If **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** adopts the proposed tax rate, **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** is required to hold an election so that the voters may accept or reject the proposed rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** will be the voter-approval rate of the **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2**.

A **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., at 26950 Cinco Ranch Blvd., Katy, Texas 77494.**

**Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** may take action on the proposed tax rate on August 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., following the hearing to be held.

The election will be on November 7, 2023. You may contact the Fort Bend County Clerk's Office – Election Department for information about voting locations. The hours of voting on election day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR:	<b>Robert Miller, Daryl Brister, Wes Noonan and Steven Fein</b>
AGAINST:	<b>Corey Zollinger</b>
PRESENT AND NOT VOTING:	<b>None</b>
ABSENT:	<b>None</b>

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** this year.

	2022	2023	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.094515	\$0.100000	Increase of \$0.005485, or 5.80%
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$343,413	\$379,183	Increase of \$35,770, or 10.42%
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$324.58	\$379.18	Increase of \$54.60, or 16.82%
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$8,551,991	\$9,884,492	Increase of \$1,332,501, or 15.58%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the District Counsel for **Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 2** at (713) 984-8222 or [pierce@coveler.com](mailto:pierce@coveler.com) or visit [www.willowforkfire.com](http://www.willowforkfire.com) for more information.



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