



Katy Mayor Dusty Thiele (left) and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Harris listen to a recommended landscaping ordinance presented by the city planning department during a special workshop on August 25 at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.

**CITY**

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Local business owner Shari Booth spoke against the measure during public comments, expressing concerns about the increased costs imposed on local businesses who may want to re-develop or expand their property.

Once in regular session, council took a vote on the proposed 2025 tax rate of \$0.425, the same as the current tax rate; vote was 5-0 in favor of the recommended rate. A public hearing will be held on the proposed rate on September 22 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.

After a proposal for a \$28,000.00 tourism grant was tagged by Councilmember Rory Robertson in the council's August 21 meeting, the measure passed unanimously without discussion. The agreement between the Katy Foundation Inc. and Goodtaste TV, LLC is for production of a full TV episode featuring small businesses

within the city and highlighting local restaurants. Local restaurateur Edgar Carlson, owner of Southern Dough on Katy's historic downtown square, spoke passionately in favor of the measure during public comments, citing increased business for his restaurant and other downtown businesses after they were featured on a previous episode of the show. "Goodtaste with Tanji" is a culinary show hosted by Emmy Award-winning journalist Tanji Patton, exploring the vibrant world of food and wine across Texas.

In other action, council:  
 • Delayed action on a special use permit application by the Apostolic Church LAWNA at 5038 E. Fifth Street; item was tagged by Councilmember Janet Corte, who requested more information on the issue.  
 • In a 5-0 vote, authorized the mayor to sign an interlocal



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

City of Katy City Planner Rachel Lazo addresses Katy's mayor and city council during an August 25 workshop on a potential landscaping ordinance which would primarily impact commercial property and redevelopment. The workshop was conducted in council chambers prior to the regular council meeting.

agreement with the Katy Development Authority (KDA) and Harris County authorizing up to \$950,000.00 in city contributions to fund a design study for the Katy Fort Bend Road project.

The next meeting of City Council will be held on September 8 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C in Katy.

**KISD**

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not believe that a similar plan was in KISD's best interests.

While House Bill 2 from the 89th legislative session provided new funding for school districts, its impact has been significantly diminished by inflation, fast-paced growth and the absence of state-funded cost adjustments in recent years, a spokesperson for the district said in a subsequent press release after the meeting. As a result, Katy ISD is currently projecting a \$24.9 million budget deficit. However, district officials report that this shortfall is expected to be reduced, or potentially eliminated, through strategic cost savings, underspending and other efficiencies over the course of the school year. Katy ISD Chief Financial Officer Christopher Smith explained that the budget is a spending backstop, and the district does not typically spend the entire budget.

HB2's state support for salary increases boosted pay for some teachers this school year, though early-career educators were not awarded state-funded pay increases. To support those teachers, Katy ISD funded salary increases with local dollars. In addition, other employees, excluding administrators, received a 3% pay increase with 1.3% funded by HB2 and the remaining 1.7% funded by Katy ISD. Administrators were provided with a 3% increase, funded entirely by Katy ISD.

"As our district grows and costs continue to rise, we remain committed to being responsible with our resources, supporting our dedicated teachers and staff, and ensuring students continue to receive the high-quality education our community expects," said Katy ISD Board President Lance Redmon.

**PROPOSED TAX RATE: 2025-26**

Maintenance & Operations/General Operating (M&O)	\$0.7271
Interest & Sinking/Debt Service	\$0.3900
<b>Total Tax Rate</b>	<b>\$1.1171</b>

Budgeted student enrollment in KISD increased by more than 500 children (0.5 percent) compared to the 2024-2025 school year, while the tax base declined by 2.1 percent. Despite those challenges, the district maintains a competitive compensation plan and healthcare plans for employees and projects to decrease or eliminate its budget deficit through calculated underspending, officials said.

During the August work study board meeting, Smith explained that the state's funding towards tax compression and property tax relief is designed to ease the burden of rising appraisal values set by county appraisal districts. In addition, the expected increase in the state's homestead exemption should further decrease tax bills this school year. The increase in the homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 (\$200,000 for seniors and disabled homeowners) as approved by the state legislature, will be on the November ballot.

Future meetings of the board are scheduled as follows:  
 • Board work study meeting - September 15  
 • Regular board meeting - September 22

**BOOTS**

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and stroll.

In addition to the music and brews, Boots & Brews will offer plenty of entertainment, including a dance floor, a mechanical bull for those looking to test their cowboy skills, and custom hat bars where attendees can create a one-of-a-kind western look. Souvenir cups will be available for purchase and proceeds from the evening will benefit Rotary Club scholarships, helping support students in the Katy community.

The inaugural Boots & Brews will launch what is sure to become a new Katy tradition, serving as the official kickoff to the beloved Katy Rice Harvest Festival—a celebration which has brought generations together for decades to celebrate the city's rich heritage.

The event will take place at Historic Town Square, 904 Avenue C, admission is free and open to the public. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/717737231041233/>.

**CHAMBER**

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local businesses, contributing directly to the overall prosperity of the area."

All are invited to attend and join the new chamber.

**About the Brookshire Chamber of Commerce**

The Brookshire Chamber of Commerce is a newly revitalized organization dedicated to promoting the economic vitality and community well-being of the greater Brookshire area. Its mission is to serve as a resource for local businesses, advocate for a favorable business environment, and foster collaboration to build a stronger, more resilient local economy.

**Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate**

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 25 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2025 on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at the District Administration Building, located at 10347 Clodine Road, Richmond, Texas, 77407. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://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.

<b>FOR</b> the proposal:	Jeffery Williams, Syed Wasim, Mustafa Asif, Brian Addicks
<b>AGAINST</b> the proposal:	None
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Jabirul Quadir

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.83000 /\$100	\$0.81000 /\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.02000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.41%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$370,533.00	\$396,026.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$370,533.00	\$396,026.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,075.42	\$3,207.81
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$132.39 4.30%

**NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE**

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

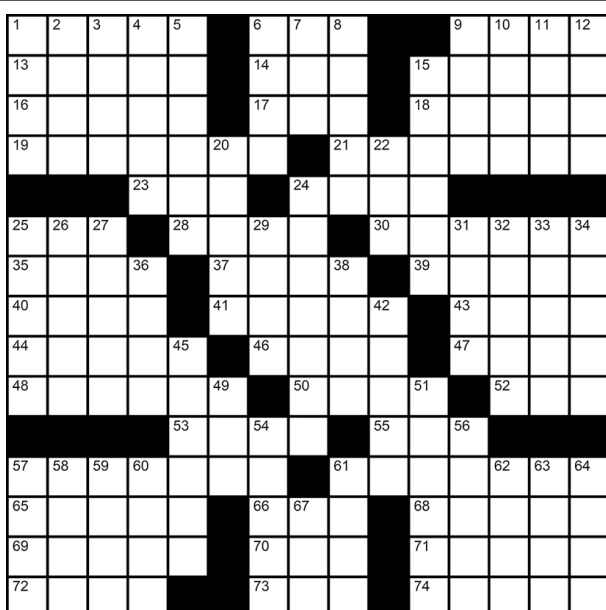
The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

**CROSSWORD THEME: MEET ME IN...**

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Manual calculator, pl.
  - Beach Boys: "\_\_\_ Only Knows"
  - Army beds
  - Pressed ham and cheese sandwich
  - Part of spch
  - Popular Latin dance
  - Influencer's creation
  - Hula dancer's flowers
  - Birdlike
  - "Meet me here, under the arch"
  - "Meet me at the Top of the Rock"
  - Comic book expression for alarm
  - Press backward arrow key
  - "Hand" with claws
  - Spreadsheet software command
  - Day off, backwards
  - Bug-eyed
  - "Cheers" regular
  - Coupe alternative
  - Be dependent
  - Damage one's reputation
  - Slightly (2 words)
  - Prefix for below
  - Shade of beige
  - Java neighbor
  - War mounts
  - Rope fiber
  - "\_\_\_ Now or Never"
  - Leave at the altar
  - Flapper's feathers
  - "Meet me at the London Bridge"
  - "The Black Eyed Peas: "Meet Me \_\_\_"
  - "Meet me in \_\_\_ Mara, Kenya"
  - Undergarment
  - "Meet me in Australia to see this bear"
  - Done to printer cartridge
  - Corn unit
  - Poet W. H. \_\_\_ of "Funeral Blues" fame

- CLUES DOWN**
- Parts of a play
  - Actor Reynolds of "Smokey and the Bandit"
  - Cain's victim
  - Paddler's vessel
  - Endows or empowers
  - "Buffalo \_\_\_ , won't you come out tonight..."
  - Keats' poem
  - Jinn or genie
  - Guinea pig or capybara
  - Mixture
  - Russian monarch
  - What Titanic did
  - Went to bid farewell (2 words)
  - "Meet me in Orthodox church to see these"
  - "Meet me in Tokyo, pre-1968"
  - "Meet me in the largest city in Netherlands"
  - "Meet me under the Eiffel Tower"
  - Real estate broker, e.g.
  - "The Bonfire of the Vanities" author Tom \_\_\_
  - "Meet me by the Trevi Fountain"
  - Adipose tissue
  - "Meet me at the Burj Khalifa"
  - Like the Tower of Pisa
  - Bigfoot's cousins
  - Swirling vortex
  - Filly's mother
  - Popular Cuban dance
  - Be next to, as in rooms
  - Fall from grace
  - The Kenosha Kickers' songs
  - Sticker on a jar
  - Run \_\_\_ of the law
  - Same as ayah



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- Respiratory rattling
- Osiris' sister and wife
- Opposite of zigs
- Tortoise's opponent
- Do like fly fishermen
- Sheltered, nautically
- Pull
- Everybody loved him on TV

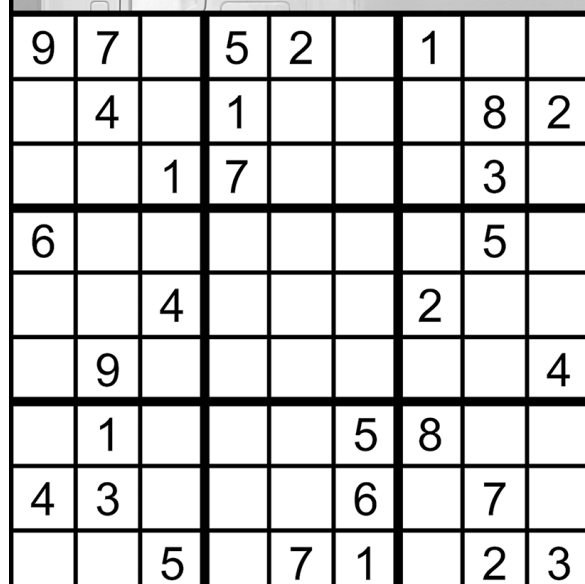
Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. Answers will be provided in next week's edition.