

North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 Proposition Election Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - DRAFT

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 ("NHCESD No. 1", or the "District") has called for a proposition to be placed on the ballot for the May 6, 2023 Election. If approved by voters, this proposition would authorize the District to raise the *ad valorem* tax rate cap up to the state maximum *ad valorem* of \$0.10, before setting the levied *ad valorem* at a higher rate **if so approved by voters in a later election**. If the proposition passes, the maximum available tax rate for the District to levy would be raised from \$0.03/\$100 to \$0.10/\$100. **There is no increase to the currently set tax rate as a part of this election.**

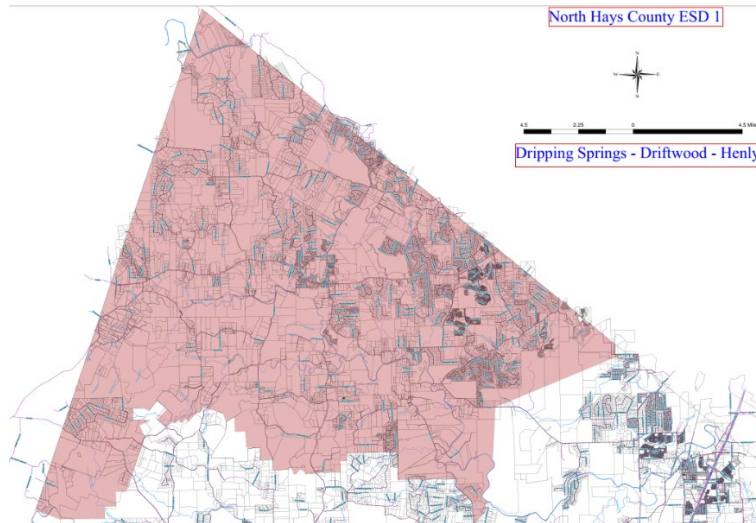
Raising the *ad valorem* cap does not immediately raise the property tax rate; the District would need to ask voters in a subsequent election for the authorization to increase the levied property tax rate.

To ensure that residents and other constituents of the District have accurate information regarding the proposed authorization and the Board's goals for the District, answers to common questions are provided below. This page will be updated periodically to address additional questions and provide supplemental information prior to the election.

What is North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1?

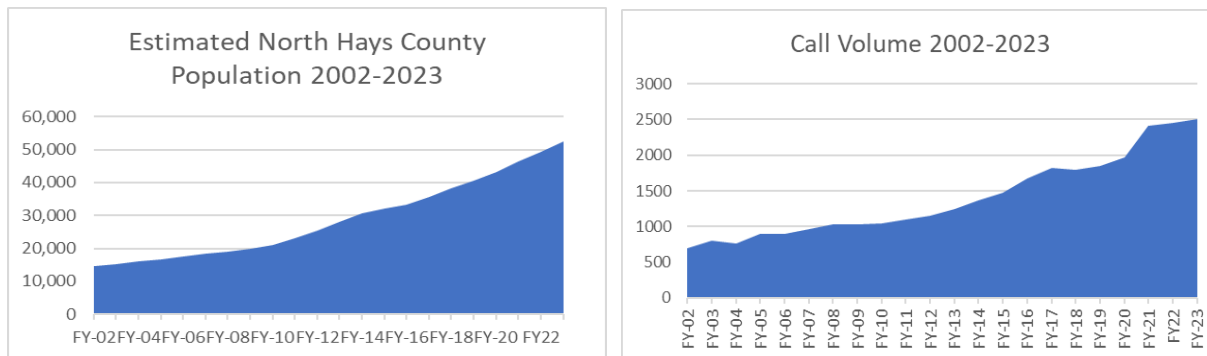
An Emergency Services District ("ESD") is a local government created by voters in an area to provide fire protection, emergency medical services, or both. More than 300 districts are operating in Texas, and more are added at almost every uniform election date.

NHCESD No. 1 is the government entity that collects property taxes to provide funding for emergency response to the residents within the District boundaries (see map below). NHCESD 1 provides emergency medical service by funding San Marcos-Hays County EMS, who has served the community for almost 20 years.



What are the issues facing the district?

NHCESD 1 has seen tremendous population and commercial growth over the past decade and is projected to continue similar growth trends in the coming decade. Because of this growth, the number of calls the District has responded to has increased as well over the last 10 years.



To maintain the current response model moving forward and adhere to NFPA standards, the District would require additional stations and housed ambulances. Additionally, this increase in calls and additional station locations requires more personnel to be staffed at all stations to provide 24/7 response.

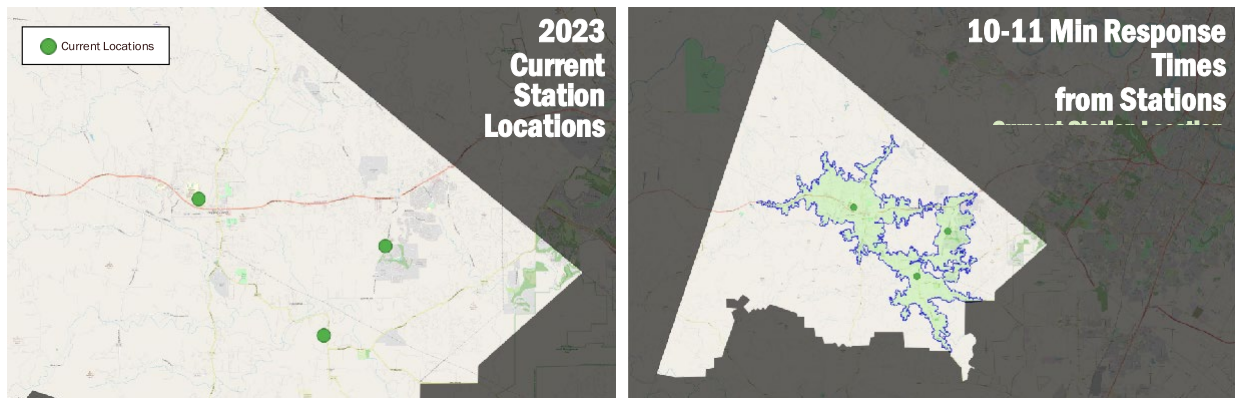
To meet the needs of the community growth, maintain the current response model, and adhere to NFPA standards for response times, additional infrastructure, equipment, and paid personnel will be required. To address these issues, the Board must consider the additional funding possible by raising the *ad valorem* cap.

Why is the District asking for voter authorization to raise the *ad valorem* cap?

The Board of Commissioners of NHCESD 1 is at a crossroads with funding for the District despite sound fiscal management and good stewardship. The Board has been able to purchase and maintain the current training, apparatus, and equipment to protect the community up to this point with a limited budget. However, there are three major issues facing the District which require additional funding:

- Poor station location relative to local construction and population density
- Population growth and increased call volume within the service area
- Limited number of ambulances, relating to:
 - Number of active calls able to be covered without activating neighboring aid; and
 - distance to receiving emergency rooms, taking ambulances out of service for longer periods of time

As the Board considers the next 10 years of growth and emergency response, long-term strategic goals have been drafted to highlight the next steps in anticipating the needs of the District.



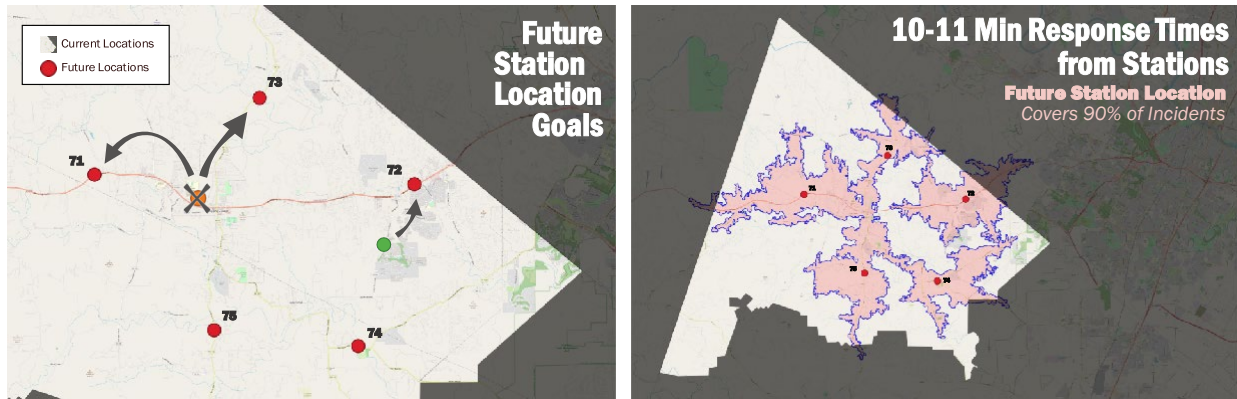
What is the Long-Term Strategic Plan?

The Board of Commissioners of NHCESD 1 and their administration staff are addressing the issues facing the District by developing a strategic plan. The three overarching goals outlined in the long-range plan are:

- Distributing the station response areas by moving existing stations and building new ones
- Adding additional housed ambulances and full-time personnel
- Maintain a regular equipment replacement and refit schedule for existing and new equipment

To fully realize these goals, additional funding will be needed, and that requires raising the *ad valorem* cap to the state maximum allowed: \$0.10/\$100 valuation of taxable property.

Raising the *ad valorem* cap does not immediately raise the property tax rate; the District would need to ask voters in a subsequent election for the authorization to increase the levied property tax rate.



What happens if the *ad valorem* increase proposition fails?

If voters do not approve the authorization proposition on the May 6, 2023 ballot, the Board of Commissioners are unable to call for an authorization to increase the *ad valorem* tax rate in a subsequent election to meet the increased operational costs, which could necessitate dipping into existing capital reserves and potentially operate at a deficit even without addressing the desired goals outlined above.

What Will the Ballot Look Like?

The May 6, 2023 ballot will ask residents to vote for or against an *ad valorem* tax rate cap increase authorization, for the entity North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1. It will read as follows:

Proposition A:

" Authorizing an increase in the maximum ad valorem tax rate that North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 may impose on property within the District to a rate not to exceed ten cents (\$0.10) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation."

Voters will need to be looking for this language if they wish to cast their vote regarding the proposition for NHCESD 1.

I have more questions...

Good! The goal is for the residents to have all the information at their disposal when voting approaches. Additional questions can be fielded through the “Contact Us” form on the District’s website: <https://www.northhayscountyesd1.org/>

Join us for the Resident Informational Events

North Hays County Emergency Services District No. 1 Board of Commissioners cordially invites you to our Resident Informational Event to discuss the upcoming *ad valorem* tax rate cap proposition election on the May 6, 2023 ballot. This event will feature exhibits showing the plans and goals for the District, and the Commissioners, District administration, and our consultants will be present to answer your questions. To prepare yourself for the event, be sure to review posted information regarding the election.

March 18, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

North Hays County ESD 1 Station 1

111 EMS Drive,
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

When, where, and how can I vote?

Voting schedules and locations for the May 6, 2023, election can be found at this official Hays County website <https://hayscountytexas.com/departments/elections/>.

Use these links to find information on registering to vote:

- Registering to vote: <https://www.votetexas.gov/register/index.html>
- Mail-in Ballots: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml>