

...Notes from Extension  
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Avoid placing the mulch in contact with the trunk.

Re-use shower, bath and cooking water; just capture the water in a bucket or other container.

Check your irrigation systems for leaks.

Let your lawn grow taller. Shade from longer grass helps to reduce the soil temperature and the amount of water lost due to evaporation.

Avoid pruning activities. Pruning of live tissue causes trees to expend energy to seal over the wounds. That energy could be better used to overcome drought stress.

Avoid disrupting the soil under and around the drip line or canopy of the tree. Root disturbance and compaction reduces the ability of the tree to absorb and transport water.

Avoid digging holes in an effort to water more deeply as this will dry out the soil in a tree’s root zone.

Some trees are also beginning to see secondary pests and diseases, or stressors. Secondary pests and diseases are those that attack a tree that is already stressed by something else, such as a drought or a winter storm. These stressors should not be what is treated this summer.

“This summer, the root cause of the issues we are seeing is the dry conditions and extreme heat,” said Flocke. “We might be seeing that represented as the tree becomes stressed by other issues, such as insect attacks or fungus forming on the tree, but really, the root cause is drought and heat stress and that is what we need to address in order to keep the trees healthy, not the insects or fungus that are secondary.”

While we won’t know the extent of the impact the drought is going to have on the state’s tree canopy until it’s over, chances are it will get worse before it gets better. So, for now, prioritize your trees for significance and value, and try to water them as conservatively as possible while we endure this Texas drought.

For additional information on caring for trees during drought conditions, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm/Drought/>.

Email Your  
News and  
Pictures  
by Monday at 5  
pm for  
that week’s  
newspaper.  
ObserverEnterprise  
@gmail.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.444930 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of COKE COUNTY.

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| PROPOSED TAX RATE       | \$0.444930 per \$100 |
| NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE | \$0.429568 per \$100 |
| VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE | \$0.444940 per \$100 |

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2022 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for COKE COUNTY from the same properties in both the 2021 tax year and the 2022 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that COKE COUNTY may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that COKE COUNTY is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2022 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 22, 2022 AT 9:00 AM AT 13 E 7th Street Robert Lee, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, COKE COUNTY is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Coke County of COKE COUNTY at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

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

Property tax amount= (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

|                   |                   |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| FOR the proposal: | Marshall Millican | Donnie Robertson |
|                   | Joe Sefcik        | Hal Spain        |
|                   | Paul Williams     |                  |
|                   |                   |                  |

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

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.

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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by COKE COUNTY last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by COKE COUNTY this year.

|                                     | 2021        | 2022        | Change                           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Total tax rate (per \$100 of value) | \$0.464776  | \$0.444930  | decrease of -0.019846, or -4.27% |
| Average homestead taxable value     | \$54,498    | \$61,468    | increase of 6,970, or 12.79%     |
| Tax on average homestead            | \$253.29    | \$210.43    | decrease of -42.86, or -16.92%   |
| Total tax levy on all properties    | \$2,232,682 | \$2,331,522 | increase of 98,840, or 4.43%     |

No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures

The COKE COUNTY spent \$64,844 from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedure, less the amount of any state grants received. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$42,552. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by \$0.000214/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for COKE COUNTY at 325-453-2641 or [hal.spain@co.coke.tx.us](mailto:hal.spain@co.coke.tx.us), or visit [www.co.coke.tx.us](http://www.co.coke.tx.us) for more information.