



## **City Manager's Notes**

**Week Ending  
August 15, 2025**

Mayor and Council.

The City Manager's Notes for the week ending August 15, 2025, are provided below. This report contains public information and can be freely shared.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislative Special Session Called**

With the conclusion of the first special session, Governor Greg Abbott has called a second special session that begins on Friday, August 15, 2025. There are 19 topics included for this session. A copy of the Governor's Proclamation, which includes these topics, has been provided as an attachment to this report. Of particular note:

- Legislation reducing the property tax burden on Texans and legislation imposing spending limits on entities authorized to impose property taxes.
- Legislation prohibiting taxpayer-funded lobbying, including the use of tax dollars to hire lobbyists and payment of tax dollars to associations that lobby the Legislature.
- Legislation that protects law enforcement officers from public disclosure of unsubstantiated complaints in their personnel files.

### **Budget Workshop Reminder**

This is a reminder that the City Council is scheduled to conduct a Budget Workshop on Friday, August 22. This meeting will begin at 12:00 PM and will be held in the Rosenbaum Room the Terrell Police Headquarters.

### **Budget Public Hearing**

This is a reminder that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2025 Amended Budget and the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget.

**Tuesday, August 26 at 6:00 PM**

**Terrell City Hall  
City Council Chambers  
201 E. Nash Street  
Terrell, TX 75160**

### **Proposed Tax Rate, Tax Rate Public Hearing, and Vote on Tax Rate**

At its meeting on Thursday, August 14, the City Council approved the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate. After presentation to the City Council, it was determined that a proposed tax rate of \$0.81 per \$100 of valuation would be advertised. The maximum rate the City Council could consider without triggering an election is the Voter-Approval Rate of \$0.862142 per \$100 of valuation. By proposing a tax rate of \$0.81, the Council has put a cap in place, making \$0.81 the highest tax rate the City Council can consider and adopt. Council is under no obligation to adopt an \$0.81 tax rate or increase the tax rate. As part of future budget and tax rate discussions, Council will be able to determine



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what the appropriate tax rate should be, whether that results in no change, an increase, or a decrease in the tax rate.

As a reminder, an individual can estimate the amount of City Tax they will pay under any rate using the following formula:

$$(\text{Tax Rate}) \times (\text{Taxable Value of Property}) \div \$100 = \text{Property Tax Amount}$$

For example, if the City Council adopts a tax rate of \$0.7642, the formula for a property with taxable value of \$100,000 would be:

$$\$0.7642 \times \$100,000 \div \$100 = \$764.20$$

Owner-occupied residential properties may be eligible for a 10% Homestead Exemption, Senior Tax Ceiling, or Disabled Person Tax Ceiling. These can be obtained by reaching out to Kaufman Central Appraisal District at 972-932-6081 or through their website at <https://kaufman-cad.org/>.

This also serves as a reminder that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Tax Year 2025 Proposed Tax Rate.

**Tuesday, August 26 at 6:00 PM**

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After the conclusion of the public hearing, it will be announced that the City Council will conduct a meeting on Friday, August 29 at 1:00 PM for a final vote on the tax rate. Taking action at a subsequent City Council meeting is necessary as State law prohibits the Council from adopting a tax rate the same night as it conducts its Budget Public Hearing.

A copy of this notice has been included as an attachment. This notice will run in Forney Messenger on Thursday, August 21.

### **TML Region 13 Meeting**

For those that are interested, TML will be holding its Region 13 meeting at the Waxahachie Civic Center on Thursday, September 4 from 6 PM to 9 PM. This is a ticketed event at a general admission cost of \$28.52 per ticket. Additional information can be found [here](#).

### **Interim Assistant City Manager**

At this point many of you have had an opportunity to be introduced to Bernie Parker. Mr. Parker started with us on Monday, August 11 and will be serving as our Interim Assistant City Manager during the time I serve in the role of Interim City Manager. He has a diverse background that I believe will be of great



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benefit to us during his time here. He has previously served as a City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Director of Economic Development, and Director of Public Services.

Until we are able to permanently fill the Utility Director position, Mr. Parker will also be serving as our Interim Utility Director and will be housed at the Service Center. Human Resources is currently reviewing and updating the job description for the Utility Director. Once complete, we will engage with CPS HR Consulting to begin the recruitment process.

### **Interim Finance Director**

Due to previously existing personal obligations, Interim Finance Director Marty Coursey departed on July 31. Just prior to her departure, staff has been actively trying to identify a replacement to serve as Interim until the position can be filled permanently. We are pleased to announce Lee Ann Huddleston will be joining our team. Ms. Huddleston previously served as the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Chief Financial Officer for the City of Lubbock. She has also served as Chief Financial Officer, Finance Director, and Chief Information Officer (IT) for a number of cities throughout her 30+ year career. She is expected to start the week of August 18.

### **Finance Director Search**

Based on the award of RFQ 2025-04 Executive Search Services, City staff is currently working with CPS HR Consulting (CPS HR) for the recruitment of the City's next Finance Director. Recruitment efforts officially began on Tuesday, August 5. As of Friday, August 15, CPS HR has received 42 applicants for the position. There are also additional applicants who CPS HR is vetting and interested individuals who have contacted CPS HR for more information prior to proceeding further into the process.

### **In Closing**

If staff can provide additional information or clarification, please let me know. Thank you all for your continued service and dedication to the City of Terrell.

Respectfully,

Mark C. Mills  
Interim City Manager




GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

August 15, 2025

The Honorable Jane Nelson  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Room 1E.8  
Austin, Texas 78701

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE  
10:21 AM O'CLOCK

AUG 15 2025

  
Secretary of State

Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

A proclamation calling a second extraordinary session of the 89th Legislature, to convene in the City of Austin, at noon on Friday, August 15, 2025.

The original proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gregory S. Davidson  
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD/gsd

Attachment

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE

## Governor of the State of Texas

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TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, by the authority vested in me by Article III, Sections 5(a) and 40, and Article IV, Section 8(a) of the Texas Constitution, do hereby call Special Session #2 of the 89th Legislature, to convene in the City of Austin, commencing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2025, for the following purposes:

To consider and act upon the following:

Legislation to ensure and enhance youth camp safety.

Legislation to improve early warning systems and other preparedness infrastructure in flood-prone areas throughout Texas.

Legislation to strengthen emergency communications and other response infrastructure in flood-prone areas throughout Texas.

Legislation to provide relief funding for response to and recovery from the storms which began in early July 2025, including local match funding for jurisdictions eligible for FEMA public assistance.

Legislation to evaluate and streamline rules and regulations to speed preparedness and recovery from natural disasters.

Legislation to eliminate the STAAR test and replace it with effective tools to assess student progress and ensure school district accountability.

Legislation reducing the property tax burden on Texans and legislation imposing spending limits on entities authorized to impose property taxes.

Legislation making it a crime to provide hemp-derived products to children under 18.

Legislation to comprehensively regulate hemp-derived products, including limiting potency, restricting synthetically modified compounds, and establishing enforcement mechanisms, all without banning lawful hemp-derived products.

Legislation further protecting unborn children and their mothers from the harm of abortion.

Legislation prohibiting taxpayer-funded lobbying, including the use of tax dollars to hire lobbyists and payment of tax dollars to associations that lobby the Legislature.

Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 1278 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that protects victims of human trafficking from criminal liability for non-violent acts closely tied to their own victimization.

Legislation that protects law enforcement officers from public disclosure of unsubstantiated complaints in personnel files.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
10:21 AM O'CLOCK

AUG 15 2025

Legislation protecting women's privacy in sex-segregated spaces.

Legislation that strengthens the Attorney General's authority to investigate and prosecute state election crimes.

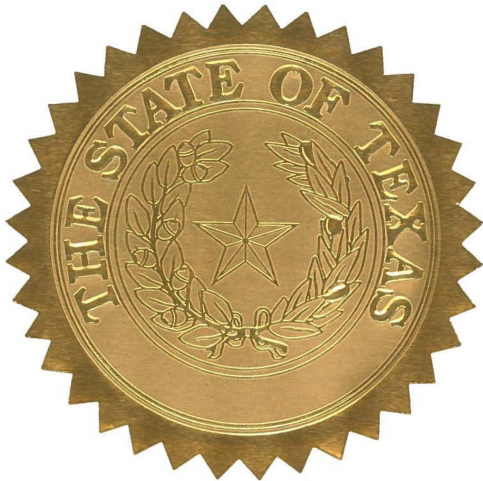
Legislation that provides a congressional redistricting plan.

Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 648 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that provides strengthened protections against title theft and deed fraud.

Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 1253 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, that authorizes political subdivisions to reduce impact fees for builders who include water conservation and efficiency measures.

Legislation, similar to Senate Bill No. 2878 from the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, relating to the operation and administration of the Judicial Department of state government.

The Secretary of State will take notice of this action and will notify the members of the legislature of my action.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 15th day of August, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GREG ABBOTT  
Governor

Attested by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JANE NELSON  
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
10:21 AM O'CLOCK  
AUG 15 2025



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.810000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Terrell.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.810000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.741085 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.862142 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2025 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Terrell from the same properties in both the 2024 tax year and the 2025 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that City of Terrell 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 City of Terrell is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2025 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2025 AT 6:00 PM AT TERRELL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 201 E. NASH STREET, TERRELL, TX 75160.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Terrell 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 Terrell City Council of City of Terrell 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:

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

<b>FOR the proposal:</b>	Rick Carmona, Mayor	Donna Renee Anderson, District 2
	Mayrani Velazquez, District 3	Stephanie Holmes-Thomas, District 4
<b>AGAINST the proposal:</b>		
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:		
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Phil Robison, District 5	

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 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 City of Terrell last

year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Terrell this year.

	2024	2025	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.764200	\$0.810000	increase of 0.045800 per \$100, or 5.99%
Average homestead taxable value	\$184,142	\$198,447	increase of 7.77%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,407.21	\$1,607.42	increase of 200.21, or 14.23%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$15,169,522	\$17,048,250	increase of 1,878,728, or 12.38%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Terrell at 972-551-6600 or [taxinfo@cityofterrell.org](mailto:taxinfo@cityofterrell.org), or visit [www.cityofterrell.org](http://www.cityofterrell.org) for more information.