



## Goose Creek Board to hold line on taxes this year

Falling property values across the district will not translate into higher property taxes in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. ([See Proposed budget and tax rate](#))

The Goose Creek Board of Trustees voted on August 13th to use about \$5 million of unused 2005 bond money to cover the shortfall in the Interest & Sinking fund. This move will allow the Board to hold the line on taxes this year.

The overall property tax rate for Goose Creek CISD taxpayers will remain \$1.28 per \$100 of assessed value.

Goose Creek, the 57th largest school district in the state, saw its average residential property value decrease 17 1/2 percent from last year, while its also faced more than \$1 billion loss in property value decline in industrial petroleum values.

The move reflects the Board's feeling that Goose Creek taxpayers — who approved a \$220 million bond proposal in 2005 to build four schools, improve multiple other schools and buildings, and provide myriad upgrades across the District — should not have to pay higher taxes during the ongoing economic recession.

Thus, estimated unallocated funds from the bond are being used to pay down the bond debt, and maintain the current tax rate. The Citizens Bond Advisory Committee endorsed the allocation of 2005 bond funds to maintain the tax rate.

In 2005, the District projected that when the bonds were all sold, that residents could see up to a 17-cent increase in the Interest and Sinking tax rate. The good news for district taxpayers is that the actual Interest and Sinking tax rate for repayment of these bonds was approximately 11-and-a-half cents less than the tax rate estimated to voters during the bond election.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2009-2010 budget at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 31 in the Board Room of the Administration Building. It is anticipated the Board will adopt the 2009-2010 tax rate at a September Board meeting once the district receives the certified tax roll from the Harris County Appraisal District.

This year, Goose Creek CISD earned a "Recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency. Of the largest 57 largest districts in the state, only 15 earned the recognized status, and none were exemplary.

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