

The City of Euless
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Euless, Texas 76039
817-685-1400

www.euless.org/finance

The Euless City Council approved the FY 2009/2010 budget on August 25. Declining revenues from property taxes and sales taxes have made this year more challenging than ever, but we are pleased to announce that this budget continues all existing programs and services for our citizens while maintaining the current tax rate of .47¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation. This is the fourteenth consecutive year that the Euless tax rate has either been reduced or maintained while still preserving service levels and providing enhancements throughout our City.

The FY 2009/2010 general fund budget includes total operating and capital expenditures of \$31,666,345. The City continues to be strong financially; however, the economic downturn and fiscal conditions have affected everyone. Preparation of this budget included a city-wide effort to cut costs without impacting the quality of service provided to our citizens. During the budget process, importance was placed on maintaining proper reserve levels, supporting public safety, encouraging economic development and revitalization throughout our community.

Every attempt is being made to use outside funding sources and grants for projects when available. Grants are being used for a portion of the fleet replacement, street overlay and public safety equipment. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are being used for the design of the new Senior Center at Midway Park and stimulus funding is anticipated to provide an energy allocation grant that will assist with athletic field light replacements.

The City of Euless has a popular senior program with games, education sessions, healthy meals and special events. The center serves as a social connection for seniors as well as a link to area resources and support agencies. A new 22,240 square foot Senior Center will be built east of the Midway Recreation Center. The construction is anticipated to begin in January 2010. The state-of-

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Euless offers the following exemptions and deferrals for homeowners:

- ***Homestead Exemption of 20%***
- ***Senior Exemption of \$35,000 for residents age 65 and older***
- ***Property tax freeze for homeowners at age 65 or disabled***

The owner of a house valued at \$100,000, who has the 20% homestead exemption, would pay \$376 in City taxes annually. Senior citizens with the same value would pay \$211.50 annually. For more information about exemptions or freezes, please contact Tarrant Appraisal District.

A Word from the Mayor

Dear Citizens,

This year's budget has been a very challenging one to work through. The recession has affected us all. Euless staff took immediate action to reduce expenditures to weather the downturn in the economy. Because of our strong financial position, we were able to approve a conservative budget that maintains the current tax rate of .47¢ per \$100 valuation. Generally most of your property taxes will remain the same based on the value of your home. We will monitor the budget closely throughout the year and make adjustments if necessary.

We will work to enhance economic development, improve our housing and provide for our great citizens. We will continue to improve our infrastructure, add sidewalks, overlay roads, improve our parks and provide the best public safety services for our citizens. In 1993 our Euless citizens approved an additional ½ cent sales tax that is dedicated to cultural, recreational and economic development projects. This sales tax supports great programs in our parks and library.

Our Euless Revitalization program continues to be a highlight for those citizens in need. We work together with Tarrant County and several local churches, businesses and our cadre of volunteers to revitalize older homes for those who cannot do the work themselves. Euless is such a caring community and those involved are truly rewarded by their service.

Our mission is to provide our citizens the most efficient services possible that protect and enhance quality of life, through planning and visionary leadership. Your City Council and Staff work diligently to remain true to that mission.

And, thank you all for being the great citizens of Euless!



Mayor Mary Lib Saleh

PHONE NUMBERS TO KNOW

Tarrant Appraisal District
817-284-0024
www.tad.org

**Tarrant County
Tax Assessor**
817-884-1100
www.tarrantcounty.com/etax

Tarrant County College
817-515-8223
www.tccd.edu

**John Peter Smith (JPS)
Hospital**
817-921-3431
www.jpshhealthnet.org

HEB ISD
817-283-4461
www.hebisd.edu

Grapevine/Colleyville ISD
817-488-9588
www.gcisd-k12.org

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the-art facility will be dedicated for senior use and will include a library, media room, computer room, classrooms, game rooms, a medical room and a catering kitchen with adjacent dining areas. The building will also feature a covered drive-through for citizen drop off for handicapped purposes and inclement weather. Senior citizen input during the planning process revealed the desire and expectation for future programming that is geared towards a more active lifestyle with resources for fitness, nutrition and psychological well being. The City of Euless considers its senior population a true asset, providing both economic and volunteer benefits to the entire community. The Senior Center will be a hub of activities and programs that aid in health, well-being and quality of life.

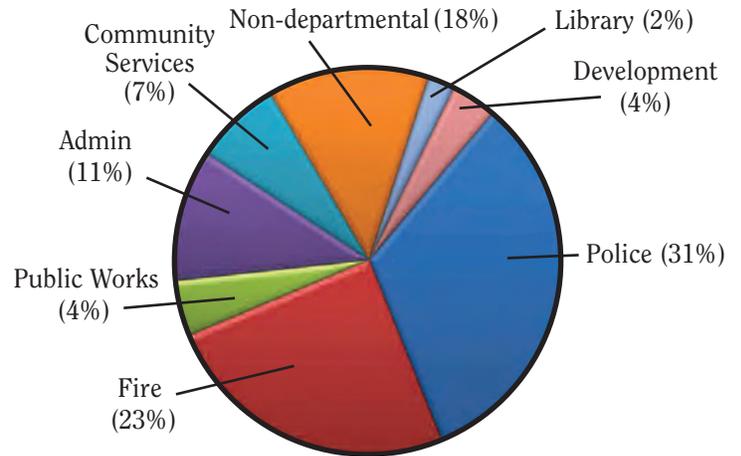
Recommended capital project funding includes the continuation of the Euless Revitalization and Tarrant County Home Programs, the purchase of vital equipment for departments including police, fire, courts, parks and public works and street overlay projects. Other projects of note include funding to design the reconstruction of Ash Lane from Aransas to North Main Street, the design of Baze Road from Priest Ln. to Glade Rd. and wastewater line replacements on West Alexander Lane, Norman Drive and Franklin Drive.

The FY 2010 capital budget also includes funding to complete the city's portion of an effluent water line which will connect to the City of Fort Worth's reclaimed water delivery system to a point of distribution within the City of Euless. This project will provide reclaimed water to city property for irrigation purposes, even during drought conditions and mandatory water restrictions.

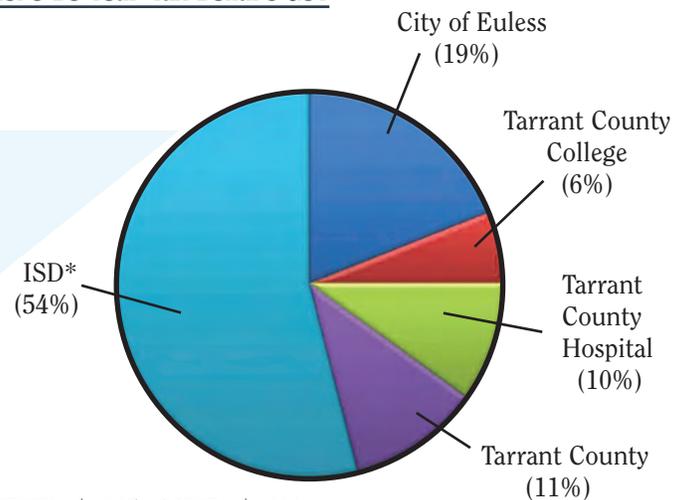
The City Council also approved operating and capital expenses for the water and wastewater fund totaling \$18,025,926. This budget provides for the distribution and treatment of water and wastewater for Euless customers. The City purchases the majority of its water and has all wastewater treated by Trinity River Authority (TRA). Included in the budget is a 6.6 percent increase in the water and sewer fund, primarily due to increased costs. In an effort to plan for future water supplies and promote water conservation, a tiered water rate was recently approved that encourages efficient water use. The more water you conserve, the lower your monthly bill. Tiered water rates began in October and will appear on November water bills. The water and wastewater budget also includes funding to continue the replacement of water and wastewater lines throughout the City to keep the infrastructure sound.

"While we face many uncertainties and challenges in the upcoming months, we also see many new opportunities. We will manage the recession's effect on our revenues by maintaining conservative fiscal practices and continuation of debt reduction to sustain our strong financial position now and in the future. The budget was developed with the principles of the Mayor and Council of the City's longstanding commitment to provide the same high levels of service," said City Manager Gary McKamie.

General Fund Expenditures - \$31,666,345 Total Expenditures



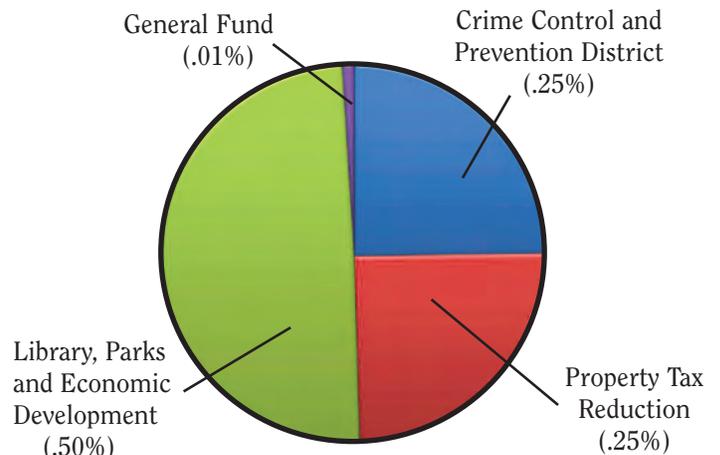
Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



*HEBISD - \$1.295. GCISD - \$1.290

Where Does Your Sales Tax Go?

For every dollar of taxable sales in Euless, an 8.25% sales tax is levied. The State of Texas collects 6.25% and the remaining 2% is used by the City of Euless as follows:



If you have questions or comments about this edition of *Euless Today*, please contact Betsy Deck at 817-685-1821.