

## **NEWTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 6**

### **INFORMATION AS TO PROPOSED LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX ELECTION**

**SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

THE PROPOSED TAX WILL BE A 2% LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTED ON THE SALES OR USE ON GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE NEWTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 6 (THE “DISTRICT”).

#### **WHAT IS A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX?**

Local government entities such as cities and emergency services districts may assess a total local sales and use tax not to exceed 2% to be collected on the sale or use of goods and services within the local government entity. This local sales and use tax is separate from the sales and use tax charged by the State of Texas. In order to provide an additional source of funding for emergency service districts, legislation was passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007 that provided emergency services districts with the right to present to the voters a request to collect local sales and use tax in any areas within an emergency service district where the local sales and use tax rate was not already at the 2% cap. If the local sales and use tax is approved at the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 election, businesses that collect state sales and use taxes that are outside the City of Newton, but inside the boundaries of the District would begin collecting 2% sales and use tax on the sale and use of their goods and services.

#### **WILL THIS LOCAL SALES TAX AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES PAID TO THE DISTRICT?**

No. The property tax of the District will remain at .700926 per \$100 valuation. That is the minimum set by previous legislation.

#### **WHY DOES THE DISTRICT NEED THE SALES TAX?**

The population of the District is approaching around 12,500 people with only about 1,500 living within the City of Newton, which is excluded, as they are already paying the sales and use tax to the City of Newton. Chapter 775 of the Health & Safety Code which governs the District authorizes the Districts to expend funds to acquire emergency medical services to protect life and health. To continue current levels of service and response times, the District needs to contract with an ambulance service to provide emergency medical services throughout the district. Additionally, a constituent of the District has committed a donation of \$300,000.00 to purchase and supply ambulances within the District contingent upon the implementation of the sales tax. This commitment will accelerate the process of providing ambulance services within the District.

#### **WHY IS THE DISTRICT TRYING TO GET THE SALES TAX?**

The minimum amount of property tax the District can collect is set by the Texas Legislature at \$0.03 cents per \$100 valuation. The District has been at that rate for some time now and those funds are budgeted for current operations for ESDs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The District has no other funds to purchase new equipment and apparatus, make improvements to its five (5) fire stations, and pay for training.

#### **WILL THIS LOCAL SALES TAX AFFECT MY PROPERTY TAXES PAID TO THE DISTRICT?**

NO. This will not affect any monies going to the E.S.D. Fire Districts.

#### **WHY IS THE DISTRICT TRYING TO GET THE SALES TAX?**

The E.S.D. Number 6 does not collect ANY taxes at this time. They will need to collect a 2 cent sales tax to sustain an EMS Service in Newton County.

## **HOW WILL THE PASSAGE OF THE LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX INCREASE MY TAXES?**

Items purchased or services used anywhere in the District will be taxed in the same manner as goods and services as the other local entities in the area. The sales tax does not affect your property taxes.

## **WHO MAY VOTE IN THIS ELECTION? WHO MAY EARLY VOTE IN THIS ELECTION?**

Any qualified voter who lives within the boundaries of the District but outside the boundaries of the City of Newton, as those residents already pay the sales and use tax to the City of Newton.