



For Immediate Release

Contact: Michael Willett
Phone: 832-558-5714 x203
Email: m.willett@touchstonedistrictservices.com

Wilson Co. ESD 5 Calls for Sales and Use Tax Election

10/12/2023 - The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of Wilson County Emergency Services District No. 5 (WCESD 5) has called for a proposition to be on the election ballot for Tuesday, **November 7, 2023**. If so approved by voters, this proposition would authorize up to one and one-quarter percent (1.25%) to be captured by the District in all areas not yet at the state maximum sales and use tax rate of 8.25%.

Currently, there are four major issues facing the District which require additional funding:

- Implementing recruiting programs to assist with staffing shortages;
- Securing additional equipment and training, including technical and swift water rescue;
- Adding additional 24/7 response vehicles; and
- Expanding response through establishing additional stations spread throughout the District

As the Board considers the next five years of growth the County is facing and how that affects emergency response, long-term strategic goals have been drafted to highlight the next steps in anticipating the needs of the District.

WCESD 5 has seen tremendous change and demand over the past five years. Because of this, the number of calls the District has responded to has increased significantly.

WCESD 5 has been using the District's capital reserves and *ad valorem* to forecast and plan for equipment purchases and maintenance for the foreseeable future, as increased costs for apparatus and longer lead times require more expenditure than in previous years. The sales and use tax, if so approved, would address the personnel-focused goals outlined above.

Wilson County Emergency Services District No. 5 (WCESD 5) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas serving as a taxing district to support fire suppression and rescue services. Wilson County Emergency Services District No. 5 was formed in 2019. The District protects and serves an estimated 17,000 people who live and work in the 256 square miles within the District boundaries, serving the greater area of Wilson County.

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Michael Willett at 832-558-5714 x203 or email m.willett@touchstonedistrictservices.com. Additional district information can be found at www.wilsoncountyesd5.com.

###