

# Quick Facts

**Who:** Voters in Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 10 (ESD10), including the City of Elmendorf. Bexar County ESD No. 10 provides fire protection and emergency medical first-response.

**Where:** ESD10 covers 75 square miles of eastern Bexar County, including Elmendorf.

**What (are we talking about) and Why:**

Voting on authority for ESD10 to levy a one-and-a-half percent sales tax in the district, *outside* the City of Elmendorf. Voters in the City of Elmendorf are eligible to vote in the May 5 sales tax election, even though the city is already at the maximum permissible sales tax rate. The election will not change the sales tax rate collected in Elmendorf.

ESD10 is NOT asking for a property tax increase. This is a previously unallocated sales tax collected by businesses and will be used for fire protection and emergency medical response. After conducting strategic planning ESD10 plans to build a new station on land donated by the City of Elmendorf and shift existing stations to provide faster response to emergencies throughout the district.

**When:**

**EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE**

8:00 am to 6:00 pm: Monday, April 23 Thursday, April 26

CLOSED: Friday, April 27

8:00 am to 6:00 pm: Saturday, April 28

CLOSED: Sunday, April 29

8:00 am to 8:00 pm: Monday, April 30-Tuesday, May 1

Any county location including:

Elmendorf City Hall, 8404 FM 327

Kirby City Hall, 112 Bauman St.

Windcrest Takas Park Civic Center, 9310 Jim Seal Dr.

**ELECTION DAY**

7:00 am - 7:00 pm, Saturday, May 5

Locations:

See <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department>

or call 210-335-VOTE (8683) for information.



**YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT  
BEXAR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 10**

6658 E. Houston Street  
San Antonio TX 78220

[www.bcesd10.org](http://www.bcesd10.org)

**INFORMATION FROM THE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE YOUR FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL FIRST-RESPONSE**

Para obtener una copia de esta información traducida al español,  
visita el sitio web [www.bcesd10.org](http://www.bcesd10.org)

*Deciding the future  
of your fire protection  
and emergency medical  
first-response*

## Questions and Answers

## Fire Protection Election

**Bexar County  
Emergency Services  
District No. 10**

**ESD10 Fire Dept.**

**Early Voting:  
April 23-May 1**

**Election Day:  
Saturday, May 5**

**Q: Who provides our fire and rescue protection?**

**A:** Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 10 (ESD10) is the local government responsible for fire protection and emergency medical first response in a 75-square-mile area of eastern Bexar County, including the City of Elmendorf.

The Bexar County Commissioners Court appoints the ESD Board of Commissioners. Current commissioners are Pamela Kelley, Marie Yates and Dan Lazar, with two vacancies.

**Q: What is emergency medical first-response?**

**A:** When a medical emergency call comes in, an ESD10 Fire unit is dispatched at the same time as an ambulance. Most ESD10 firefighters are certified as emergency medical technicians — several at the highest, paramedic level. Often, because ambulances may already be deployed at other emergency, ESD10 firefighters can stabilize a victim until an ambulance can arrive and provide transportation to a hospital.

Minutes count in a medical emergency. The chances of surviving a heart attack drop 7 to 10 percent every minute. Last year, 70 percent of ESD10's calls were for medical assistance.

**Q: What is an emergency services district?**

**A:** Emergency services districts are political subdivisions of the state of Texas, similar to school districts or municipalities. An emergency services district (ESD) can provide fire protection, emergency medical response or both. There are more than 320 ESDs in Texas, 11 of which are inside Bexar County.

**Q: Where does our local ESD get its money?**

**A:** ESD10 is able to levy a maximum property tax of 10 cents per \$100 of property value. Put another way, if you have taxable property worth \$100, you pay a dime in property tax.

The ESD is virtually at the maximum property tax rate allowed by the state constitution. A home on the tax roll with a taxable value of \$200,000 currently pays just less than \$200 a year in property tax — less than \$17 a month. These funds are used to provide equipment, fire stations and trained firefighters to respond to an emergency.

**Q: Why is the ESD calling a sales tax election?**

**A:** The Emergency Services District Board of Commissioners has identified the need for additional revenues to staff and equip new fire stations in the hopes of reducing the time it takes to respond to emergencies.

The City of Elmendorf is donating two acres of land for a station inside the city limits that would speed response to the southern end of the ESD, including Elmendorf. After conducting strategic planning, ESD10 hopes to relocate its three other stations to reduce response times.

A conservative projection of the costs of building and equipping the new stations is \$7 million.

**Q: How will this affect what I pay at the store?**

**A:** Most residents of ESD10 will probably notice little change. The maximum sales tax that can be collected is 8.25 percent — 6.25 percent goes to the State of Texas, and 2 percent is reserved for local jurisdictions.

If you bought \$100 worth of taxable goods before the sales tax rate increase, you would pay \$6.75 tax. If the new sales tax rate is implemented, on the same \$100 worth of taxable goods, you'd pay \$8.25.

Most residents already pay the maximum sales tax if they purchase taxable items in San Antonio, which is at the limit. The City of Elmendorf is also at the maximum. The election will not change the sales tax rate in Elmendorf. Elmendorf registered voters may cast ballots in the May 5 election, though.

**Q: How could this reduce my homeowner insurance premiums?**

**A:** In Texas, many insurance companies use an independent rating organization — ISO — to rate an area's risk for fire damage. It considers factors such as a home's proximity to a fire station and a fire department's equipment. The lower the risk, the lower the premiums insurers should charge. ESD10 consults and complies with ISO standards in an effort to lower homeowner insurance premiums for ESD residents.

**Q: Will this affect my property taxes?**

**A:** *No.* ESD10 is NOT asking for a property tax increase.

**Q: Do many ESDs collect a sales tax?**

**A:** More emergency districts are turning to sales tax as they hit the limits on the property tax rate. One advantage is that the sales tax keeps pace with growth. With the property tax, construction can begin on a lot, but it may take two years for a jurisdiction to receive any property tax revenue.

With a sales tax, revenues from purchases that builders or vendors make in the district are paying for the protection they receive when they're on the job site.

The sales tax can also reduce the burden on property taxpayers. Visitors to the district will help pay for the protection they receive. For example, drivers along FM 1604 may not live in the ESD, but they are protected while they pass through the district. Their taxable purchases in the district will help pay for that protection.

When ESD10 firefighters respond to a car accident, they don't check to see if the victim is a local taxpayer before they begin trying to save lives.

**Q: How much money will the sales tax provide?**

**A:** An estimated \$800,000 a year.