

Georgetown's Property Tax Rate Among Lowest in Texas

Annual TML survey shows tax rate lower than 98 percent of cities above 20,000

The recently released 2005 Tax and Debt survey of 585 Texas cities by the Texas Municipal League shows that Georgetown had a lower property tax rate than all but two of 86 cities with populations above 20,000. Georgetown's population in the survey was listed as 34,000 and is currently estimated at 38,734.

The survey also revealed these figures about Georgetown's property tax rate:

- Georgetown's tax rate is lower than 98 percent of the other 85 Texas cities in the survey with populations greater than 20,000. Only Amarillo and Tyler were lower.
- Georgetown's tax rate is lower than 95 percent of the other 145 Texas cities in the survey with populations greater than 10,000. Only Amarillo, Tyler, Stafford, Humble, Dumas, Rio Grande City, and Sante Fe were lower.

"Our low tax rate is the result of a tradition of fiscal discipline in Georgetown," says City Manager Paul Brandenburg. "The current City Council identified a low tax rate as a high priority in the most recent budget process, maintaining that tradition."

The TML survey results are posted at www.tml.org on the web site for the Texas Municipal League, an organization that represents municipal government organizations in Texas. Not all cities respond to the annual voluntary survey, which was based on financial reporting for the 2004 fiscal year. Georgetown's 2004 fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2004.

While the TML survey for the current fiscal year has not yet been conducted, other available information shows that Georgetown's property tax rate continues to be one of the lowest.

For cities of larger or comparable size in Central Texas, Georgetown's tax rate in 2005, which was set last fall, is still the lowest.

FY 2005 Property Tax Rates (per \$100 assessed valuation)

CITY,	TAX RATE
Belton,	0.705
Killeen,	0.695
Pflugerville,	0.640
Temple,	0.602
Leander,	0.557
Austin,	0.501
Cedar Park,	0.498
San Marcos,	0.471
Round Rock,	0.387
Georgetown,	0.346

Keeping city taxes low is an economic development tool as well as a benefit to residents, says Brandenburg. "Lean and efficient city government that delivers services at the lowest possible cost helps every city taxpayer. It's also a key advantage when we are trying to attract employers who are comparing their tax bill in Georgetown to that in other cities."