

2020  
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

# CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

## PANDEMIC-RELATED STATE AND LOCAL ORDERS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

We know it can be hard to keep track of all the news and updates in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With a number of local and state orders currently in effect, we wanted to highlight some of the key elements of these orders, especially those that most affect the people of our community.

The Denton City Council recently voted to extend the Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency first executed on March 13. The Council also adopted a new Tenth Order of Council that supersedes all previous orders related to the pandemic. Both the declaration and the order will remain in effect until Thursday, Dec. 31.

Though not addressed in the Council's new order, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has a number of statewide orders in place that also provide guidance and mandates for the Denton community.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- In accordance with Governor Abbott's order, GA-29, everyone should take caution when in public by **practicing social distancing** and **staying at least six feet apart** from those outside your household.
- GA-30 requires **limited occupancy for certain businesses**, and **outdoor gatherings** are currently **limited to no more than 10 people**. Occupancy limits vary depending on business type. Visit [open.texas.gov](http://open.texas.gov) for details.

- GA-29 also states that all persons age 10 years and older must **wear face coverings** when in public where social distancing is not possible. See the order and exemptions at [open.texas.gov](http://open.texas.gov).
- All commercial and nonprofit entities in the city of Denton are required to **develop and maintain a health and safety policy** that incorporates the face covering and social distancing requirements ordered by the state. Safety policies must be posted in clear view of employees and members of the public.



PRACTICE  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCING



OCCUPANCY  
LIMITS ARE  
IN PLACE



WEAR FACE  
COVERINGS  
IN PUBLIC



HEALTH & SAFETY  
POLICIES REQUIRED  
FOR BUSINESSES

Concerns that a business is not following occupancy requirements by state order or does not have signage posted as required by local order, or about general health and safety, may be reported through the City's Engage Denton mobile app. Engage Denton is available for download from the App Store or Google Play Store. To file a report online, visit [www.engagedenton.com](http://www.engagedenton.com).

To learn more about the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including local orders, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/coronavirus](http://www.cityofdenton.com/coronavirus). For more information about Gov. Abbott's state orders, visit [gov.texas.gov/coronavirus](http://gov.texas.gov/coronavirus).

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## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

City of Denton offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

## VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

To protect the health and safety of the Denton community; City Council, board, and commission members; and City staff, all public meetings have moved to a remote format until further notice. All meetings will use the new Rules of Procedure that were adopted during the March 31 Council meeting.

Scheduled public meetings are streamed online at [www.cityofdenton.com/dtv](http://www.cityofdenton.com/dtv), made available on-demand, and can be viewed live on the City's DTV cable channel (Frontier FIOS on channel 38, Charter Spectrum on channel 194, and Grande on channel 12). Due to the remote format of the meetings, no in-person attendance at Denton City Hall will be permitted.

Certain meetings will accommodate and receive public input on eligible agenda items. Citizens are able to participate using a number of virtual public comment options, including an online Virtual White Card and by phone.

For additional information and a current list of upcoming public meetings, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/publicmeetings](http://www.cityofdenton.com/publicmeetings).



## FROM THE MAYOR



With the Nov. 3 Council election just around the corner, and my time as your Mayor coming to an end, I am continuously reminded of all that we have accomplished together throughout the twelve years that I have been a member of the Denton City Council. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Mayor for the past six and a half years, especially during these historic and unprecedented times. From increasing local economic opportunities to improving services to those experiencing homelessness, none of it could be accomplished without the compassionate spirit, strong heart, and steel determination of you, the citizens of this great city.

I never could have imagined that, in my final months as Mayor, a global pandemic would hit our community like it has. COVID-19 has forced us all to pause and work together to discover new ways of doing most everything. From the very beginning, the Council and City staff have worked tirelessly to create new policies, processes, and procedures that would ensure continuation of critical City services, and minimize the impact on the local economy is as much as possible. We never expected that we would be fighting this battle today, but I am proud of the swift actions the City has taken, and I know that our local government will continue to fight along with us, our families, and our businesses, as we all work to bring this vibrant community through some of our most trying times.

As you'll see in this newsletter, the City is already hard at work making plans for the future as we enter into the 2020-21 fiscal year. In spite of the financial challenges we have faced, we are proud to be able to provide you with no tax rate increases, no rate increases for wastewater and electric services, and rate decreases for water, solid waste, and recycling services.

When the time comes for me to pass the baton to your next Mayor, I can proudly move on to new adventures knowing that this diverse, hard-working, unique, and original community stands on a firm foundation for success—one that we have all built together.

## DENTON CITY COUNCIL



- Chris Watts**, Mayor | [Chris.Watts@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Chris.Watts@cityofdenton.com)
- Gerard Hudspeth**, District 1 | [Gerard.Hudspeth@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Gerard.Hudspeth@cityofdenton.com)
- Keely G. Briggs**, District 2 | [Keely.Briggs@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Keely.Briggs@cityofdenton.com)
- Jesse Davis**, District 3 | [Jesse.Davis@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Jesse.Davis@cityofdenton.com)
- John Ryan**, District 4 | [John.Ryan@cityofdenton.com](mailto:John.Ryan@cityofdenton.com)
- Deb Armintor**, At Large Place 5 | [Deb.Armintor@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Deb.Armintor@cityofdenton.com)
- Paul Meltzer**, At Large Place 6 | [Paul.Meltzer@cityofdenton.com](mailto:Paul.Meltzer@cityofdenton.com)

# FIVE THINGS TO ADD TO YOUR FALL TO-DO LIST

## 1 Turn your pumpkins into Dyno Dirt.

When you're ready to dispose of your fall pumpkins, place them at the curb to be picked up with your yard trimmings. The pumpkins will be mixed with your leaves, tree branches, and grass, and composted into Dyno Dirt products by the City's Beneficial Reuse Division. If you've opted in to the Yard Waste program, you can place your pumpkins in your brown cart or in a kraft bag. If you aren't opted in to yard waste service, you can place your pumpkins with your brush and schedule a pickup by calling the automated self-service line at (940) 349-8740. To learn more about our Dyno Dirt products, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/dyno](http://www.cityofdenton.com/dyno).



## Visit your local Library.

In October, the Denton Public Library plans to reopen the doors to the North Branch and South Branch libraries.

# 2

After taking precautions to keep our community safe from COVID-19, these libraries will be reopening at 50-percent capacity. This reopening will allow for walk-in service and non-scheduled use of the Library's computers.

## Maintain your drain.

During the holidays, nothing is better than a home-cooked meal. However, these meals can have an adverse effect on your pipes if you dispose of excess fats, oils, or grease (FOG) down the drain. FOGs harden and cling to the walls in your household pipes or city sewer lines, which can reduce water flow and cause a sewage backup into your home or neighborhood. Visit [www.maintainyourdrain.com](http://www.maintainyourdrain.com) for helpful tips on how you can better maintain your drain and to learn more.

# 3



To learn more about the Library's reopening plan, visit [library.cityofdenton.com](http://library.cityofdenton.com).



## 4 Celebrate Texas Arbor Day.

Join Keep Denton Beautiful and the City of Denton Parks and Recreation department on Saturday, Nov. 6 for a day-long celebration of nature. They will host virtual tree planting activities, including a tree-themed StoryTime.

Register for the event and learn more at [www.kdb.org](http://www.kdb.org).

## Prepare your fire safety plan.

October is Fire Prevention Month. Help ensure that your home and family have a plan and are ready for the unexpected. Fire Prevention Month is the perfect time to talk with your family about fire safety. Make it a family activity by testing alarms, changing the batteries, learning how to use a fire extinguisher, and planning your escape route.



For safety tips and more, follow the Denton Fire Department on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/dentonfire](http://www.facebook.com/dentonfire).

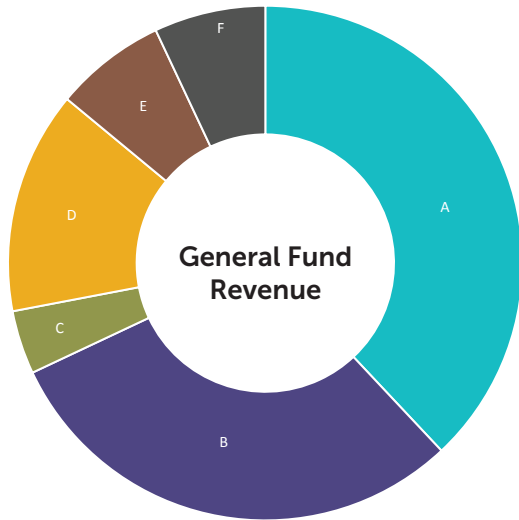
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# CITY OF DENTON ADOPTS FY2020-21 BUDGET

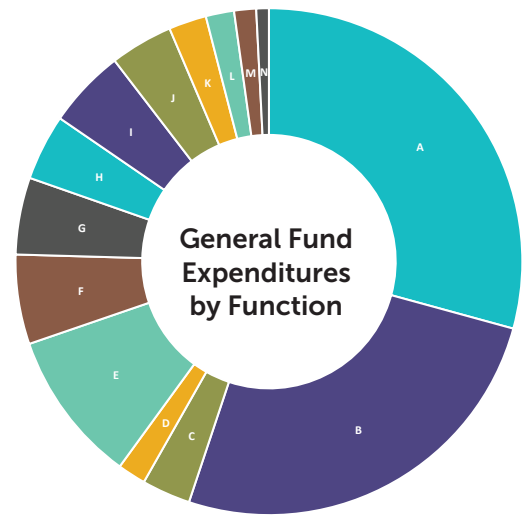
After months of deliberation and public input through online and over-the-phone comments from residents, the Denton City Council has adopted a budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. This annual budget reflects Council priorities, which include public safety, infrastructure improvements, a continued investment in countywide homelessness strategic initiatives, and a new 311 system for a more efficient response to citizen requests.

The FY20-21 adopted budget includes no rate increase from the current tax rate of \$0.5905 per \$100 of valuation, which still allows the City to maintain a tax rate lower than the no-new-revenue tax rate, which is the tax rate that results in the same amount of revenue from existing properties as the prior year. The budget also includes rate decreases for Water and Solid Waste & Recycling services and continues the trend of no increases to utility rates over the past four years. There are no rate changes for Wastewater and Electric services.

Take a look at the graphs below for a brief overview of where your local government's funds come from and where they are spent. For a quick overview of the newly adopted FY2020-21 budget, see page 5.



- A. Ad Valorem Taxes 38%
- B. Sales Taxes 30%
- C. Franchise Fees 4%
- D. Fees, Permits, Use of Reserves 14%
- E. ROI 7%
- F. Cost of Service 7%



- A. Police 29.2%
- B. Fire 25.8%
- C. Public Safety Communications 3.1%
- D. Animal Services 1.8%
- E. Parks & Recreation 9.7%
- F. Planning/Community Dev./ Inspections 5.7%
- G. Libraries 4.9%
- H. Legal/ City Manager's Office 4.2%
- I. Finance/Internal Audit/HR 5%
- J. Other 4%
- K. Traffic/Transportation/ Street Lighting 2.4%
- L. 380 Agreement 1.8%
- M. Municipal Court/Judge 1.4%
- N. Economic Development 0.8%

## CITY OF DENTON GENERAL FUND REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

**Adopted Tax Rate** — The adopted FY20-21 budget includes a tax rate equal to the current tax rate of \$0.5905. Of the adopted tax rate, \$0.380364 will be applied to fund operations and maintenance in the General Fund and \$0.210090 will be applied to fund tax-supported debt.

**Utility Rates** — Setting the rates for Electric, Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste & Recycling services is an important component of the City's annual budget process. Utility rates are set so that sufficient revenues are generated to support operations, maintenance, and improvements for each of the City's utility funds. To view the FY2020-21 residential utility rates, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/utilityrates](http://www.cityofdenton.com/utilityrates).

To learn more about the FY2020-21 budget and tax information, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/budget](http://www.cityofdenton.com/budget).

# CITY OF DENTON

## FY 2020-21 BUDGET

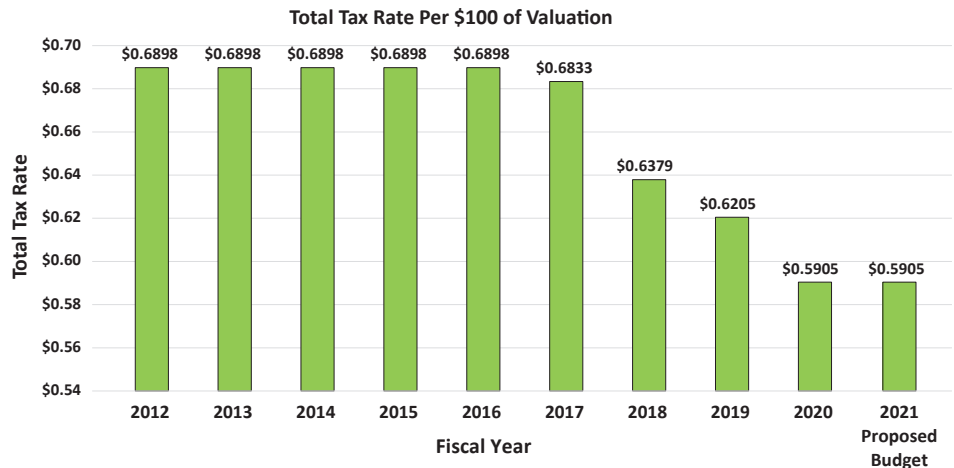
For additional information, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/budget](http://www.cityofdenton.com/budget).

### TAX RATE

**\$0.5905** for every \$100 of property value.

**NO TAX RATE INCREASE**

### TAX RATE HISTORY



The FY 2020-21

budget includes

**RATE DECREASES**

for water and solid waste & recycling services, and

**NO INCREASES** for wastewater and electric services.

### UTILITY RATE HISTORY

	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20*	Proposed Budget FY 20-21
Electric (1,200 kWh/month)	\$129.26	\$124.80	\$124.80	\$124.80
Water (9,200 gallons/month)	\$54.18	\$54.18	\$54.18	\$53.10
Wastewater (5,400 gallons/month)**	\$33.12	\$31.52	\$31.52	\$31.52
Solid Waste - Standard Cart*	\$24.51	\$24.51	\$21.51	\$20.51
Total	\$243.50	\$235.01	\$232.01	\$229.93

\*FY 17-18 and FY19-20 reflect mid-year rate decreases

\*\*FY 18-19 reflects a 5% rate decrease and min volume decrease from 6,000 to 5,400

## SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

- New 311 system for efficient response to citizen requests (\$1.3 million)
- Six new Sworn Police Officer positions (\$811,598)
- Three new Firefighter positions for Station #8 (\$273,263)
- 2019 Bond Election funds issued for Street Improvements (\$12.4 million)
- Bond funds issued for Public Safety Facilities 2019 Bond Election (\$42.9 million)



# GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS SET FOR NOV. 3

As previously stated in the August/September issue of *Resident Update*, the Saturday, May 2, 2020, General and Special elections were postponed to Tuesday, Nov. 3, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the elections is to elect candidates to City Council Districts 1 and 2 (known as single-member districts), with only qualified voters residing in that district being eligible to vote, and elect candidates to City Council Places 5, 6, and 7/Mayor (known as at-large seats), wherein any qualified voter in the city may vote for one candidate in each of those places.

## WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES IN THE GENERAL ELECTION?

The following are the candidates on the ballot for the General Election on Nov. 3, in ballot order:

### Place 5 (At Large)

Deb Armintor  
Rick Baria

### Place 6 (At Large)

Jim Mann  
Paul Meltzer  
Liam York

### Place 7 (Mayor, At Large)

Keely Briggs  
Gerard Hudspeth  
Michael Mitchell

## WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION?

The following are the candidates on the ballot for the Special Election on Nov. 3, in ballot order:

### District 1 (Single Member)

Birdia Johnson  
George Michael Ferrie Jr.

### District 2 (Single Member)

Ronnie Anderson  
Daniel Clanton  
Connie Baker  
Kady Irene Finley  
Jon Hohman



## HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You will need to register through the Denton County Elections Administration. To learn more, visit [www.votedenton.com](http://www.votedenton.com). The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 3 elections is Monday, Oct. 5.

## WHAT DISTRICT AM I IN?

To find your voting district, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/vote](http://www.cityofdenton.com/vote), click "Which District Am I In," and enter your physical address. If you have any problems locating your information, contact the Denton County Elections Administration at (940) 349-3200.

## WHAT IS MY VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBER?

To find your Voter Registration Number, visit the Denton County Elections Administration website at [www.votedenton.com](http://www.votedenton.com) and click "Voter Lookup." Having your Voter Registration Number readily available when going to vote is extremely helpful when inquiring where you will vote or getting a determination on the status of your voter registration. You can also find the number on your Voter Registration Card. If you have any problems locating your information, contact the Denton County Elections Administration at (940) 349-3200.

## WHERE AND WHEN DO I VOTE EARLY FOR THE ELECTION?

During early voting—from Tuesday, Oct. 13 to Friday, Oct. 30—registered voters can vote at any polling location in Denton County. Visit [www.cityofdenton.com/vote](http://www.cityofdenton.com/vote) for early voting times and location information.

## WHERE AND WHEN DO I VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, NOV. 3?

Election Day polling locations are assigned based on City Council District and County Precinct. You can find your voting precinct information and polling locations at [www.cityofdenton.com/vote](http://www.cityofdenton.com/vote).

## ¿DONDE PUEDO ENCONTRAR INFORMACION DE ELECCION EN ESPAÑOL?

Para obtener información sobre las elecciones en español, visite a [www.votedenton.com](http://www.votedenton.com) y haga clic en "Español" en la pancarta que se encuentra arriba de la página o llame a la Oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad al (940) 349-8309.

# CITY CELEBRATES COMMUNITY-OWNED DENTON MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC WITH PUBLIC POWER WEEK

From Oct. 4 to 10, the City of Denton will join more than 2,000 other community-owned utility systems in the United States to celebrate Public Power Week. Each year, the first week of October is designated as a time to help residents understand how you can better engage with, benefit from, and recognize community-owned electric utilities like Denton Municipal Electric (DME) for their contributions to the city of Denton.

For more than 115 years, the City of Denton has placed a high value on community-owned services like DME. The not-for-profit electric utility company provides:

- Denton residents and ratepayers with a direct say in utility operations and policies;
- Homes, businesses, schools, social services, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and sustainable electricity;
- Consumer protections and sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates;
- Education on energy efficiency, environmental protection, and safety awareness;
- Stewardship of the community's electric and information infrastructure;
- Incentives for energy efficiency and economic development; and
- A helping hand to communities who have experienced natural disasters.

**PUBLIC POWER  
BUILDS BETTER COMMUNITIES**

**COMMUNITY-OWNED AND  
CUSTOMER-FOCUSED**

**YOUR CHOICE AND  
YOUR VOICE**

**LOWER COSTS AND  
INCREASED RELIABILITY**

**PUBLIC POWER IS  
#COMMUNITYpowered**

**PUBLIC POWER  
WEEK 2020**

**CITY OF  
DENTON**

**DENTON  
MUNICIPAL  
ELECTRIC**



**CITY OF DENTON  
ANIMAL SHELTER**

## The DOs and DON'Ts for Outside Animals

**DO Provide shelter**  
**DO Provide food and water**  
**DO Interact and provide enrichment**

**DON'T Leave alone for long periods**  
**DON'T Tether unattended**

**WHEN THE WEATHER  
BEGINS TO DROP, PLEASE  
BRING YOUR ANIMALS IN OR  
PROVIDE ADEQUATE  
SHELTER AND WARMTH.**

Need help or accommodations for your outside animal? The shelter may be able to help! Call them at (940) 349-7594.

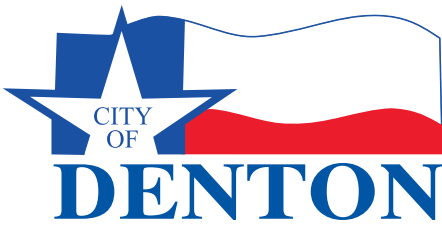


## FALL IS HERE! OPT IN TO THE CITY'S YARD WASTE PROGRAM

Now that the fall season is upon us, the leaves will begin to fall from your trees and limbs will need trimming. The City's Solid Waste & Recycling Department offers a Yard Waste Program where, when you opt in and pay the one-time \$20 cart fee, you will receive a large brown bin that is collected weekly along with your green trash bin and blue recycling bin. You can also place yard waste in paper kraft bags, which can be purchased at lawn and garden stores.

Additionally, when you join the Program, you can set up to four cubic yards of tree limbs on your curb for pick-up. If you have more than four cubic feet, a special pick-up can be quickly arranged for your next trash day.

To register, call our automated line at (940) 349-8740. When you call, be sure you know your City of Denton utility account number or the last four digits of the ID on file for the account. To learn more about the program, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/yardwaste](http://www.cityofdenton.com/yardwaste).



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Denton, TX  
Permit No. 438  
**ECRWSS**

\*\*\*\*\***ECRWSS**EDDM

**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**

# CITY OF DENTON RESIDENT UPDATE

**STAY UPDATED**

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Email Notifications



[www.cityofdentonnews.com](http://www.cityofdentonnews.com)



RECYCLABLE  
IN THE  
CITY OF DENTON