

Texas' Local Property Tax System

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Texas has no state property tax. Instead, the Texas Constitution and state law authorize local governments to collect property taxes to fund essential community services, including public schools, roads, police, and fire protection. More than 4,700 local entities—including school districts, cities, counties, community college districts, and special districts—throughout Texas establish their own tax rates, collect property taxes, and determine how those funds are used within their jurisdictions.

How Is Your Property Tax Bill Calculated?

Your individual property tax is determined by multiplying your property's appraised value by the local tax rates set by your local taxing entities. In this calculation, the property value is set by your local county appraisal district and includes any exemptions your property qualifies for. The tax rate is set by your local taxing entity, like the City of Austin and your local school district. To get your total property tax bill, this calculation has to be done for every taxing entity that your home falls into, like your school district, county, and city, and as most homeowners can attest, it adds up fast!



PROPERTY VALUE

- Set by the County Appraiser
- Influenced by the real estate market



TAX RATE

- Set annually by local taxing authorities



TOTAL PROPERTY TAX DUE

Who are the Key Players?

There are several key players in the property tax system, each with specific responsibilities that impact your property tax bill. In Travis County, the main taxing entities are Travis County, the City of Austin, Public School Districts, Austin Community College, and Central Health. However, dozens of other taxing entities, including municipal utility districts, may appear on your tax bill as well.



APPRAISAL DISTRICT

(TRAVIS CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT)

- Determines Property Values
- Sends out Notices of Appraised Value
- Handles protests
- Administers exemption & deferral applications



TAXING ENTITY

(CITY, SCHOOL DISTRICT, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ETC.)

- Adopts Budgets
- Determines tax rates
- Provides community services



TAX ASSESSOR COLLECTOR

(TRAVIS COUNTY TAX OFFICE)

- Calculates and distributes property tax bills
- Collects property tax payments

Visit UnlockMLS.com/PropertyProtest for more information and resources for understanding our local property tax system!

