AUSTIN BOARD OF REALTORS®
2025 ELECTION GUIDE

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Key Election Dates

Early Voting: October 20 – 31, 2025
Election Day: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Find your Closest Polling Location

Local Issues | City of Austin's Proposition Q: Tax Rate Election

Background: On August 14, 2025, the Austin City Council formally adopted the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budget totaling $6.4 billion, which includes the base budget of $6.3 billion with an additional $110 million of spending that triggered a 5-cent Tax Rate Election (TRE). Voters must approve any adopted property tax rate above the 3.5% voter-approval threshold set by state law. This November, Austin voters will decide whether to approve Proposition Q, a measure that would raise the city's property tax rate by 5-cents per $100 in property value. For the typical homeowner, that means an estimated $197.92 more each year, on top of the $104.76 increase already baked into Austin's tax rate. Proposition Q will appear on the ballot as as follows:

> **Proposition Q: THIS IS A TAX INCREASE** – Approving the ad valorem tax rate of $0.574017 per $100 valuation in the City of Austin for the current year, a rate that is $0.05 higher per $100 valuation than the voter approval tax rate of the City of Austin, for the purpose of funding or expanding programs intended to increase housing affordability and reduce homelessness; improve parks and recreation facilities and services; enhance public health services and public safety; ensure financial stability; and provide for other general fund maintenance and operation expenditures included in the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget as approved or amended by City Council. Last year, the ad valorem tax rate in the City of Austin was $0.4776 per $100 valuation.

The City's Five-Year Financial Forecast (released in May) projects **ongoing structural deficits totaling ~$900 million by FY 2029-2030**, which contributed to Council's decision to move forward with a TRE.

How Does This Impacts You and Your Clients?

When factoring in property taxes, city fees (drainage, sanitation, etc.), and utility rates (electric and water), the City of Austin estimates that the **average annual increase for homeowners is estimated at $417.24.**

	If TRE Passes	If TRE Fails
City Fees and Utility Rates	$114.56	$114.56
Property Tax Bill	$302.68	$104.76
Total Increase for Typical Austin Tax-and Ratepayer	**$417.24**	**$219.32**

If the voters approve Proposition Q, the average Austin homeowner's property tax bill will increase by ~$198 per year.

*The City Fees and Utility Rates were approved in the budget process are not impacted by the TRE. The typical homeowner is based on a projected FY 26 property tax bill for the median non-senior homestead assessed value of $494,803.

How Will the TRE Property Tax Revenue be Spent?

- **$70 million** to cover higher baseline costs for existing services (e.g. staff salary increases, debt service, and inflationary pressures)
- **$40 million** of "new" spending for budget priorities of public safety staffing, housing and homelessness services, infrastructure, and workforce support.

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CoA Proposition Q Action Plan – Learn. Decide. Vote.

TRE Support and Opposition

The November election will determine whether the adopted tax rate stands or is rolled back. There are organizing efforts in support of the TRE branded as the "Love Austin" campaign. There are also groups opposing the TRE including Save Austin Now and several business orgainzations.

ABoR's Position

The Austin Board of REALTORS® recognizes the difficult decisions facing City leaders. During the budget process, **we advocated for the lowest possible financial impact on Austin households** while encouraging the City to demonstrate fiscal discipline, accountability, and transparency in how tax dollars are used. **Now the decision is up to voters.** ABoR is not advocating for or against the TRE. We're encouraging Austinites to carefully review the details of the TRE and make an informed decision that is best for their household.

Your Voice Matters

Take the time to learn what the Tax Rate Election means to you, your family, and your fellow community members. Cast your vote in a way that aligns with your values and priorities for Austin's future. Every vote counts.

Statewide Ballot Propositions Supported by TEXAS REALTORS®

Proposition 1: Establish special funds for the State Technical College System
Proposition 2: Prohibit any state capital gains tax on individuals, estates, and trusts
Proposition 4: Allocate a portion of sales tax revenue to the State Water Fund
Proposition 8: Prohibit estate and inheritance taxes in Texas.
Proposition 9: Authorize a property tax exemption for business personal property.
Proposition 10: Provide a property tax exemption for property destroyed by fire.
Proposition 11: Increase the homestead tax exemption for elderly and disabled homeowners.
Proposition 13: Increase the general homestead property tax exemption.
Proposition 17: Establish a property tax exemption for border security infrastructure.

Texas REALTORS® has taken no position on propositions 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, and 16.

Learn more about the Texas REALTORS® positions.

Looking for More Information?

The League of Women Voters of Texas created a nonpartisan **voter guide** with resources covering all races and ballot items statewide. For a personalized and interactive voter guide visit **VOTE411.org/lwvtx**.

You can also visit ABoR's Voter Resource Hub at **unlockmls.com/vote** or reach out to ABoR's Government Affairs Team at **advocacy@abor.com**.