

Austin Housing Authority Returns to Its Original Name as It Approaches 90 Years of Service

Agency’s new mobile-friendly website makes housing information, resources and services easier to access

The Austin Housing Authority
(AUSTIN, TX) - The Housing Authority of the City of Austin announced its return to its original name, **Austin Housing Authority (AHA)**, as the agency approaches its 90th anniversary and begins a new chapter in serving Austin residents.

Originally established as the Austin Housing Authority in 1937, the agency was the first public housing authority in the nation. For nearly nine decades, it has helped Austin families, seniors, people with disabilities and individuals experiencing homelessness access safe, stable and affordable housing.

Returning to the Austin Housing Authority name honors that history while creating a clearer and more recognizable identity for the residents, partners and communities the agency serves.

“As we approach our 90th anniversary, returning to the Austin Housing Authority name allows us to honor where we began while moving confidently toward the future,” said **Michael Gerber**, president and CEO of the Austin Housing Authority.

“The needs of Austin families - and the ways residents connect with us - have changed dramatically across generations. We are continually innovating to make our services easier to find, understand and use. Our new website is one important example of how we are pairing a proud history with a modern commitment to serving residents and building stronger communities.”

As part of this new chapter, the agency has launched austinha.org, a redesigned website created to make it easier for residents, applicants, landlords, partners and community members to find information and connect with services.

The website features simpler navigation, more helpful housing resources, clearer language, improved accessibility, expanded language access and more direct pathways to agency programs and assistance. It was also designed to provide a significantly better experience on smartphones and tablets - an increasingly important priority as more residents rely on mobile devices as their primary way to access information and services.

Residents and community members can also follow the AHA on social media at [@theaustinha](https://twitter.com/theaustinha).

Know Your Rights and Consumer Protections as the Texas Summer Heats Up

Public Utility Commission of Texas

(AUSTIN, TX) – With summer heat firmly in place across Texas, the **Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)** is reminding Texans about consumer protections to help keep their electricity service connected during extreme heat. These protections include safeguards against disconnection due to financial hardship or extreme weather emergencies, as well as access to bill payment assistance.

“It’s hard to stay cool in the Texas summer heat, and that’s especially true for Texans facing financial challenges,” said PUCT Executive Director **Connie Corona**. “Our rules help ensure Texans have the power they need to stay safe during extreme summer heat while they work to pay their electric bills without risking disconnection.”

PUCT rules prohibit electric service disconnections for non-payment during extreme weather emergencies, including periods of extreme heat. **Retail electric providers (REPs)** also must offer deferred payment plans for bills that become due during an extreme weather emergency. The PUCT’s definition of an extreme weather emergency follows National Weather Service advisory criteria outlined in Chapter 25, Sections **25.29(i)** and **25.483**.

Consumers experiencing financial difficulties related to higher-than-normal energy bills should contact their electric provider to learn about available assistance options. Texans can also call 2-1-1 for information about programs available in their area.

The PUCT also provides additional protections for consumers who are ill or disabled and have documented that a service disconnection would cause illness or worsen an existing medical condition. More information is available on the PUCT’s **Know Your Rights** webpage.

In addition, the PUCT’s Consumer Protection Division works with Texans to help resolve utility service issues. Consumers should first contact their electric provider. If the issue cannot be resolved, they may contact the Consumer Protection Division by emailing consumer@puc.texas.gov or calling **1-888-782-8477**.

For energy-saving tips and to comparison shop for retail electric plans, visit the PUCT’s **Power to Choose** website.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

Proposed Tax Rate	\$0.579948	per	\$100
No-New-Revenue Tax Rate	\$0.535466	per	\$100
Voter-Approval Tax Rate	\$0.579948	per	\$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2026 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Austin from the same properties in both the 2025 tax year and the 2026 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest rate that the City of Austin may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of that rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that the City of Austin is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2026 tax year.

A public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on August 12, 2026 at 10 a.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, the City of Austin is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the City Council of City of Austin at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

Your taxes owed under any of the tax rates mentioned above can be calculated as follows:

Property tax amount = tax rate x taxable value of your property / 100

FOR the proposal: Kirk Watson, Natasha Harper-Madison, Vanessa Fuentes, Jose Velasquez, Jose "Chito" Vela, Ryan Alter, Krista Laine, Mike Siegel, Paige Ellis, Zohaib "Zo" Qadri, Marc Duchen
PRESENT and not voting:
AGAINST the proposal:
ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.Gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/propertytaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Austin last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by the City of Austin this year.

	2025	2026	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.524017	\$0.579948	Increase of \$0.055931 per \$100, or 10.7%
Average homestead taxable value	\$505,159	\$489,991	Decrease of \$15,168, or 3.0%
Tax on average homestead	\$2,647.12	\$2,841.69	Increase of \$194.57, or 7.4%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,189,822,183	\$1,293,656,574	Increase of \$103,834,391, or 8.7%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for the City of Austin at 512-854-9473 or TaxOffice@TravisCountyTX.gov, or visit [Tax-Office.TravisCountyTX.Gov](https://www.Tax-Office.TravisCountyTX.Gov) for more information.

AX-40018925

While the name has returned to the agency’s roots, its mission remains focused on the future. The Austin Housing Authority will continue providing affordable housing while connecting residents with education, workforce development, health, financial empowerment and other resources that

support stability, opportunity and self-sufficiency. The name reflects where the agency began. Its continued innovation reflects where it is going: Building Stronger Communities throughout Austin. To explore the new website, find housing resources or connect with services, visit austinha.org.

HHSC Highlights Available Resources During National Breastfeeding Month

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

(AUSTIN, TX) – The **Texas Health and Human Services Commission** is observing **National Breastfeeding Month** in August by promoting resources for moms. This year’s theme, “Breastfeeding Support Anytime, Anywhere,” emphasizes services that help families get trusted guidance when and where they need it.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC, serves more than 760,000 women, infants and children each month throughout the state.

“Every family’s breastfeeding experience is different, and mothers deserve support that meets them where they are,” HHS Executive Commissioner **Stephanie Muth** said. “Through Texas WIC, families can feel encouraged, connected and empowered as they give their children a strong, healthy start in life.”

Texas WIC provides breastfeeding information to all moms at every stage of the breastfeeding journey through its website, **BreastmilkCounts.com**. HHSC also partners with the Texas Department of State Health Services Maternal and Child Health to offer free breastfeeding support, regardless of WIC enrollment, through the 24/7 Texas Lactation Support Hotline at 855-550-6667.

WIC clients can receive mom-to-mom support through breastfeeding peer counselors, certified lactation consultants and specially trained clinic staff. Eligible families can access personalized breastfeeding and nutrition counseling, as well as support groups, through **local WIC clinics**. Clients can also receive fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, cheese and other healthy foods.

Women can apply for Texas WIC as soon as they learn they are pregnant. Caregivers with children under the age of 5, including dads, foster parents, guardians and grandparents, can apply for WIC.

HHSC administers WIC in Texas. For more information about benefits, eligibility, applying or finding a clinic, visit [TexasWIC.org](https://www.TexasWIC.org) or call **800-942-3678**.

WILDFIRE SEASON AWARENESS

By Villager staff

(TRAVIS CO.) - Officials across Travis County are urging residents to take immediate precautions as Central Texas enters the most dangerous stretch of the wildfire season. With August bringing triple digit temperatures, critically dry vegetation, and persistent low humidity, emergency managers warn that conditions are primed for fast moving fires that can ignite from even small sparks.

The Travis County Fire Marshal’s Office reports that thousands of homes—particularly those near greenbelts, wooded lots, and unmanaged fields—are at elevated risk. Officials say the combination of prolonged heat, drought stressed grasses, and gusty winds has created a volatile landscape where fires can spread rapidly before crews arrive on scene. Residents are being asked to treat this month as a “peak risk window” and to take protective steps now rather than waiting for an emergency.

Homeowners are encouraged to clear dry brush, trim low hanging branches, and remove debris within at least **30 feet** of their homes to create defensible space. Fire officials also recommend replacing wooden fencing near structures with non combustible materials, storing gasoline and outdoor equipment away from heat sources, and ensuring that gutters and yards are free of dead leaves. Even routine activities—mowing, welding, grilling, or towing trailers—can spark fires when conditions are this dry.

Local departments are increasing patrols in high risk corridors and reminding residents to report smoke or fire immediately. Emergency managers emphasize that early calls save lives, giving firefighters a chance to contain flames before they reach homes or roadways.

Officials say community awareness is critical. With wildfire danger expected to remain high through the end of the month, residents are urged to stay alert, follow burn ban restrictions, and take steps to protect their families, homes, and neighborhoods. Travis County leaders stress that preparation now can prevent devastation later—and that every household plays a role in keeping the region safe.