

## **Parker County Emergency Services District No. 7**

### **Proposition Election Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

The Board of Emergency Services Commissioners (the "Board") of Parker County Emergency Services District No. 7 ("ESD 7," or the "District"), the grass-roots governmental entity that provides fire, EMS First Responder, and other emergency services to the residents of the District, has called for two (2) separate sales and use tax propositions to be placed on the election ballot for Tuesday, November 2, 2021. If approved:

1. One proposition would authorize an up to one and one-half percent (1.5%) increase in designated areas of the District not already at the state maximum of 8.25%; and
2. The other proposition would authorize an up to one-half percent (0.5%) increase in the City of Cool, Texas.

If passed by voters, these propositions would provide additional revenue for the District to use for emergency response needs of the community.

To ensure that residents and other constituents of the District have accurate information regarding the proposed authorization and the Board's goals for the District, answers to common questions are provided below.

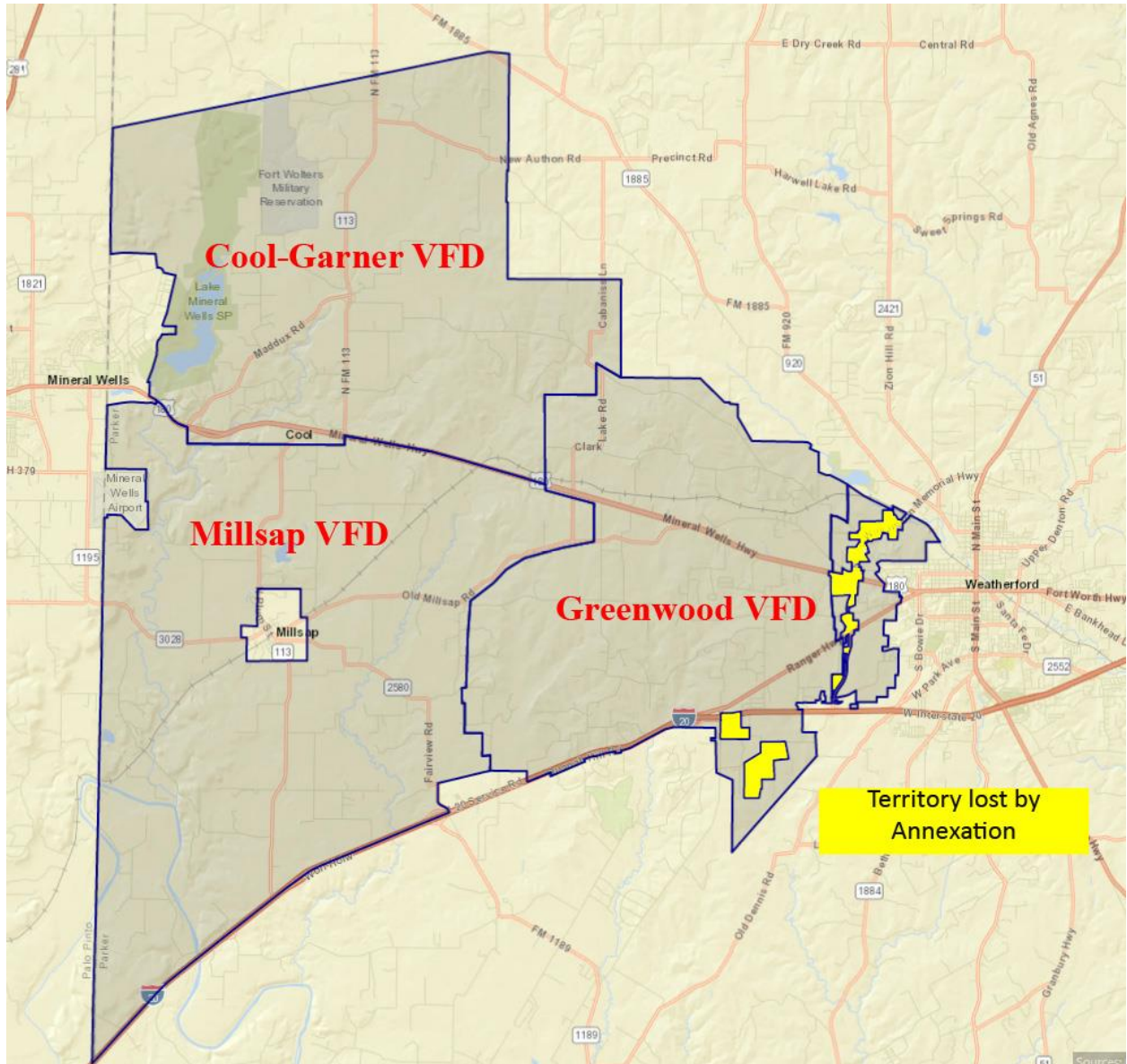
#### **What is Parker County Emergency Services District No. 7?**

An Emergency Services District (ESD) is a political subdivision created by voters in an area to fund fire protection, emergency medical services, or both. More than 300 districts are operating in Texas, and more are added at almost every uniform election date.

ESD 7 is the governmental entity responsible for providing emergency services to residents and guests within the District boundaries (see map below). The District covers approximately 140 square miles from the western city limits of Weatherford, extending north and south to the western edge of Parker County.

ESD 7 contracts with Greenwood Rural VFD, Millsap Fire & Rescue VFD and Cool-Garner VFD to provide fire and EMS services for the District. ESD 7 is a combination district with both volunteers and part-time paid firefighters. To provide consistent service, the objective of the District is to provide career paid firefighters to support the volunteers.

Note: The City of Millsap is not included in ESD 7, and emergency services for this area are provided through a separate contract with Millsap Fire & Rescue VFD.



### **Why does the District need more funding?**

Through sound fiscal management and good stewardship, the Board of Commissioners of ESD 7 has been able to purchase apparatus and equipment and provide necessary training to protect the community. Although the Board has been able to provide part-time paid staff to support the volunteers, the key issue facing the District is the shortage of manpower due to a decline in volunteerism and an inadequate budget to fund paid personnel sufficiently. Volunteers have been, and will continue to be, the backbone of Cool-Garner VFD, Millsap Fire & Rescue VFD, and Greenwood Rural VFD. The addition of career paid firefighters is needed to staff the Departments when volunteers are working in their full-time jobs or otherwise unavailable. Additional funding may also be used to support the existing budget for apparatus, equipment, and training.

### **What are the concerns with the staffing problem?**

- Shifts are left understaffed or vacant due to part-time personnel getting called on short notice to work emergencies at their full-time departments.
- Often, the District is forced to answer fire suppression calls with the bare minimum required by law – 2 firefighters.
- An unacceptable number of calls not responded to has been recorded due to the shortage of manpower. One of the 3 VFDs and/or one of the District's mutual aid partners will eventually respond, but the ESD is not always able to arrive as quickly as desired.

### **Why a Sales and Use Tax?**

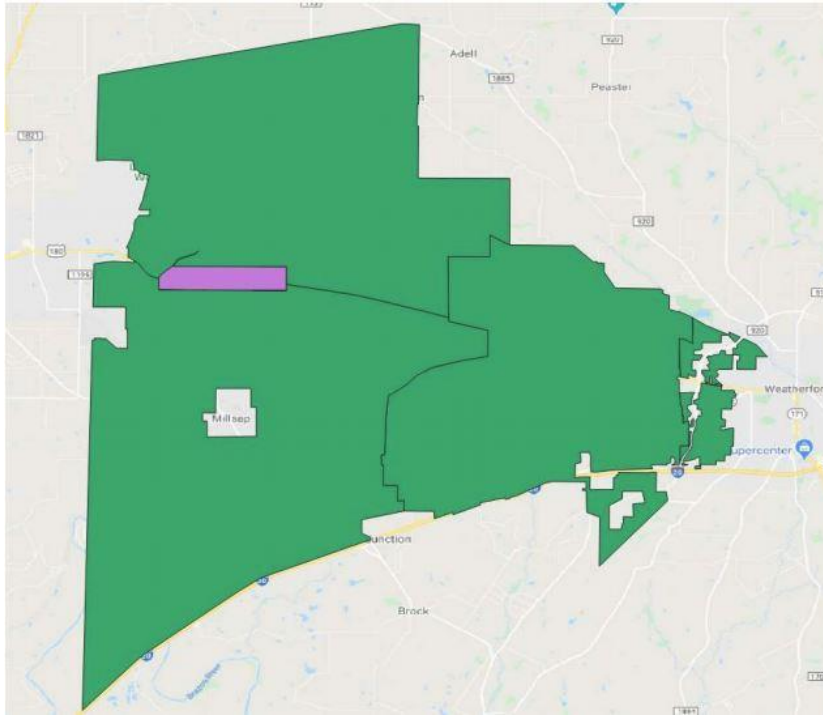
As our community grows, not only does the number of residents grow, but so does the influx of visitors and workers to the District, exponentially increasing the demand for emergency services. ESD 7 responds to calls that support a greater community of individuals and families, working in, traveling through, or visiting the District. Currently, the District is funded through property taxes which is capped, by law, at a ten cents per \$100.00 valuation property tax. The provision of emergency services for these out-of-district guests is borne solely by our citizens who pay property tax. If this sales-and-use tax increase occurs, some of the support for these vital emergency services will be paid by those guests. A sales-and-use tax places some of the funding for growth and response upon non-residents and non-property owners, allowing the District and the service providers to better serve the community as a whole.

The Board of Commissioners has determined the best option for additional funding would be the use of sales-and-use tax in the District. In Texas, the state captures \$0.0625 (6.25%) on every dollar spent but allows other local government entities to capture up to \$.02 (2%), with a state maximum of \$0.0825 (8.25%), to support community services. If the District levied an up to one and one-half percent (1.5%) sales and use tax, it could supplement the existing funding of emergency services from solely depending on residents' property taxes to those people traveling to and through the ESD 7 community, who may also use local emergency response.

### **What areas does the proposed new sales tax affect?**

On the map below, the green area is the portion of Parker County that the District would be able to capture the up to one and one-half percent (1.5%) sales and use tax. The City of Cool-Garner, designated in purple, would yield one-half percent (0.5%).

Businesses in the non-colored areas are already at the state maximum of eight-and-a-quarter percent (8.25%) sales and use tax and will see no increase. To clarify, no area within the District can go above the state sales and use tax cap as a result of this election proposition.



### **What Happens If the Sales Tax Proposition Fails?**

Whether or not the sales tax measure passes, the ESD 7 Board of Commissioners will continue to work to serve the residents within the District boundaries, but they will be unable to provide full-time paid career personnel to support the volunteers for the foreseeable future.

### **What Will the Propositions Look Like on the Ballots?**

#### **District area outside the City of Cool**

The November 2, 2021 ballot will ask residents in ESD 7, outside the City of Cool, to vote “for” or “against” a local sales and use tax, for Parker County Emergency Services District No. 7. It will read as follows:

“To authorize the adoption of a local sales and use tax in Parker County Emergency Services District No. 7 at the rate of one and one-half percent (1.5%).”

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7  
SPECIAL ELECTION**

*DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NO. 7  
ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL*

TO AUTHORIZE THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL SALES  
AND USE TAX IN PARKER COUNTY EMERGENCY  
SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7 AT THE RATE OF ONE AND  
ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%)

*PARA AUTORIZAR LA ADOPCIÓN DE UN IMPUESTO  
LOCAL SOBRE VENTAS Y USO EN EL DISTRITO DE  
SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA DEL CONDADO DE  
PARKER NO. 7 A UNA TASA DEL UNO Y MEDIO POR  
CIENTO (1.5%)*

**FOR** A FAVOR

**AGAINST** EN CONTRA

**District area inside the City of Cool**

The November 2, 2021, ballot will ask residents in ESD 7, inside the City of Cool, to vote “for” or “against” a local sales and use tax, for Parker County Emergency Services District No. 7. It will read as follows:

“To authorize the adoption of a local sales and use tax in Parker County Emergency Services District No. 7, City of Cool, Texas, at the rate of one-half percent (0.5%).”

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7  
CITY OF COOL  
SPECIAL ELECTION**

*DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NO. 7  
CIUDAD DE COOL  
ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL*

TO AUTHORIZE THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL SALES  
AND USE TAX IN PARKER COUNTY EMERGENCY  
SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7, CITY OF COOL, TEXAS, AT  
THE RATE OF ONE-HALF PERCENT (0.5%)

*PARA AUTORIZAR LA ADOPCIÓN DE UN IMPUESTO  
LOCAL SOBRE LAS VENTAS Y EL USO EN PARKER  
COUNTY EMERGENCY DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS NO. 7,  
CIUDAD DE COOL, TEXAS, A UNA TASA DEL UNO Y  
MEDIO POR CIENTO (0.5%)*

**FOR** A FAVOR

**AGAINST** EN CONTRA

Voters in ESD 7, and the City of Cool, respectively, will need to look for this language if they wish to cast their vote regarding the sales and use tax for ESD 7.

**When, where, and how can I vote?**

Voting schedules and locations for the November 2, 2021 Election can be found at the official Parker County website <https://www.parkercountytx.com/481/Election-Information>.

Mail-in Ballots: <https://www.parkercountytx.com/478/Ballots-by-Mail>

**I have more questions...**

Good! The goal is for the residents to have all the information at their disposal when voting approaches. Additional questions can be fielded through the “Contact Us” form on the District’s website: <https://pcesd7.org/contact/>.

**Stay in Touch with Us**

The Board of Commissioners of ESD 7 desires to provide excellent communication and transparency, and there are avenues to stay up to date about the District.

Visit <https://pcesd7.org/>, and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Parker-County-ESD-7-1725102834170151>.