

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6pm on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. in the District Service Center, Board Room, 12440 Rojas Dr, El Paso, Texas 79928. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.** The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax \$ 0.876500 /\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax
Approved by Local Voters \$ 0.398954 /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	_____ % increase	<u>(3.45)</u> % (decrease)
Debt service	<u>1.61</u> % increase	_____ % (decrease)
Total expenditures	_____ % increase	<u>(2.86)</u> % (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>14,803,790,024</u>	\$ <u>16,575,551,122</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>446,000,171</u>	\$ <u>579,901,398</u>
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ <u>11,647,365,774</u>	\$ <u>12,834,771,433</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ <u>385,945,030</u>	\$ <u>527,258,549</u>

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).

** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness*
 \$ 824,171,789

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per
Student					
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.944400	\$.398954*	\$ 1.343354	\$ 3,484	\$ 7,243
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.015340	\$ 0.437500*	\$ 1.45284	\$ 3,639	\$ 7,091
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.876500	\$ 0.398954*	\$ 1.275454	\$ 3,534	\$ 7,144

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 144,549	\$ 165,039
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 119,366	\$ 132,494
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed		
Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.343354	\$ 1.275454
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,603.50	\$ 1,689.90
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 86.40

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.275454.

This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 1.275454.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 53,177,994
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 16,212,288

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.



Jeffrey Dion, executive director of the National Compassion Fund, Aug. 22 visited the makeshift shooting victims' memorial behind the Cielo Vista Walmart store, where the Aug. 3 mass shooting occurred. VIC KOLENC/EL PASO TIMES

Donations

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utive director of the National Compassion Fund, which managed disbursements for One Fund.

The leftover money, because of the disqualification of eight claims, was given to United Way of El Paso County to help victims and others in the community affected by the shooting, officials said. The One Fund board of directors approved the disbursement.

355 victims in four classifications get \$11.47 million through One Fund

Most of the money — \$11,469,678 — was allocated to the 355 victims and families in December 2019 through early 2020 in four victims' classifications: Death; people injured and hospitalized; people injured and received out-patient medical treatment; and people with psychological trauma, according to National Compassion Fund information.

Families of people who died received the largest allocations, and people who were physically injured or suffered psychological trauma received smaller amounts. Dion previously reported the vast majority of applications were from people claiming psychological trauma.

One Fund El Paso leaders, citing concerns for the privacy and security of the shooting victims, decided the amount of money allocated in each classification would not be made public.

Financial reports show different totals

Wegner CPAs, a Wisconsin accounting firm, did an audit of the One Fund El Paso money held and distributed by the National Compassion Fund. The simple, 1½-page report, titled "Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures," dated Jan. 25, 2021, said the firm looked at general ledgers and bank statements for Bank of America accounts with \$11,584,558 in contributions, or deposits, for One Fund El Paso, and \$11,584,558 in withdrawals from the accounts.

The firm looked at a sample of 111 disbursements, or 25% of the total disbursements, to verify they went to victims, the report stated.

It did not render an opinion or conclusion of its findings in the report, as done in full-fledged audits, because the firm was not hired to do an audit of all accounting records tied to the One Fund El Paso money, the report stated.

The \$11.58 million total does not include \$249,306 in donations used by the two El Paso community foundations for emergency payments to the 48 immediate victims prior to the National Compassion Fund taking over disbursements, according to information from the community foundations. Another \$64,000 in emergency payments were made in late 2019, Dion said.

The Compassion Fund audit did not look at the emergency payments.

One Fund financial documents show it sent \$11,488,558 in donations to the Compassion Fund. That's \$96,000 less than the National Compassion Fund total because the two community foundations each sent separate \$48,000 in donation payments to the Compassion Fund, the El Paso Community Foundation's Pearson said.

Largest \$1.5M donation from Chicago

The Paso Del Norte Community Foundation received \$5,869,531 from 4,422 donors, ranging from \$5 to \$1.5 million -- with the biggest donation from the Chicago Community Foundation on behalf of anonymous donors, reported Tracy Yellen, the foundations' chief executive officer. The next largest donation was \$575,000 from the WellMed Charitable Foundation. Paso Del Norte received many other large donations.

The El Paso Community Foundation received \$5,964,333 from 11,987 donors, ranging from \$2 to \$250,000, reported Eric Pearson, the foundation's CEO. The foundation is not authorized to reveal identities of donors without their permission, he said.

GoFundMe accounts bring in \$531,993

GoFundMe, the social fundraising

platform had 84 fundraising accounts set up by individuals for Walmart shooting victims that raised \$531,993, the company reported.

The five largest fundraisers:

Beautiful Heroic Couple, \$126,114, for three children of Andre and Jordan Anchondo, killed in the shooting.

Jordan Jamrowski and Andre Heroes El Paso, \$50,513, for the three Anchondo children. Jordan's maiden name is Jamrowski.

Supporting Margie Reckard Family, \$41,428, for Antonio "Tony" Basco, whose wife was killed in the shooting.

Michelle Grady's Recovery After El Paso Shooting, \$25,864, for the daughter of El Paso Pastor Michael Grady's daughter who survived after being shot three times.

Paso Del Norte Youth Soccer Community, \$25,424, to help the EP Fusion girls soccer team and their families. The team was doing a fundraiser outside Walmart on Aug. 3, 2019 when its head coach, Luis Calvillo, was wounded and his father, Jorge Calvillo Garcia, killed. Guillermo "Memo" Garcia, another coach, was wounded and months later died in the hospital.

Khalid education fund part of \$1.1M in other EP Community Foundation funds

The El Paso Community Foundation's other shooting-related funds received more than \$1.1 million:

El Paso Youth Scholarship Fund, \$300,383. El Paso's Rotary Clubs initiated fundraising for the fund to pay for costs tied to post-secondary education for immediate family members of those killed. It gave one college scholarship for \$1,500 so far, leaving \$298,883 in the fund.

Long-Term Trauma Fund for Community Healing, \$240,950. For a wide variety of services and activities aimed at healing the community from the shooting's effects, the foundation's Pearson said. The first disbursement of \$30,000 helped pay the head of the United Way-run Family Resiliency Center. The foundation plans to allocate about \$80,000 to \$100,000 this year for the El Paso County Healing Garden and other things, Pearson said.

The Great Khalid Foundation Scholarship Fund, \$569,240. Pop sensation Khalid raised \$500,000 from a September 2019 El Paso concert to establish the fund to pay post-secondary education costs for children and grandchildren of the 23 people killed in the shooting. Another \$69,240 was added from fund investments. No disbursements have yet been made.

\$411,608 for education costs in other Paso Del Norte Foundation funds

The Paso Del Norte Community Foundation's two other shooting-related funds received \$411,608 for educational costs for shooting victims' offspring:

CEA Survivors en Accion Fund, \$317,484. Established by CommUnity en Acción, an El Paso group of business and civic leaders, to support college expenses for children of the 23 victims killed in the shooting. A \$10,000 college scholarship was paid in 2020, reported the foundation's Yellen. The fund has \$307,484 remaining, which includes \$60,389 earned from investments.

CEA Fund for Survivors' Educational Needs, \$94,124. Established by CEA to support the educational needs of the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the 23 victims killed in the shooting. The fund gave out \$51,950 to 37 people in January 2020 for requests ranging from tuition assistance to school equipment. The fund plans to give out the last \$42,174 in August to 17 people.

Texas victims' fund pays out \$551,208

The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Program provided \$551,208 for 164 Walmart shooting victims and their families who applied for help, show data from the Texas attorney general's office, which administers the fund. The largest payments were one for the maximum allowed \$125,000, one for \$61,225, and two payments of \$50,000 each.

The top things the money went for were hospital care, physician fees, mental health counseling, loss of wages and loss of support, the attorney general's

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