

TRAVIS COUNTY BUDGET-IN-BRIEF

FISCAL YEAR 2013



*COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM IN THE 1931 COURTHOUSE, EARLY 1930S
-PHOTO No. C05168, AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY*



*NEW COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM AT 700 LAVACA, 2012
-TRAVIS COUNTY ARCHIVES*

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 1

SARAH ECKHARDT
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 2

KAREN HUBER
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 3



MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT 4

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THE VISION, VALUES AND MISSION OF TRAVIS COUNTY

The following statements have been developed by the Commissioners Court in an effort to describe Travis County's vision, values and mission.

THE VISION FOR TRAVIS COUNTY

We envision an open, diverse community where all people are safe and healthy and can fulfill their hopes and dreams; one which provides a good quality of life and protects our natural resources for ourselves and future generations.

THE VALUES THAT GUIDE TRAVIS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Taking responsibility, public trust and accountability, good customer service, excellence in performance, sound fiscal policy, respect for the individual, honesty and openness, caring, collaboration and cooperation.

THE MISSION OF TRAVIS COUNTY

For the people of Travis County, our mission is to preserve health, provide a safety net for the needy, ensure the public safety, facilitate the resolution of disputes, foster an efficient transportation system, promote recreational opportunities, and manage county resources in order to meet the changing needs of the community in an effective manner.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FY 13 BUDGET

BIG PICTURE

The County is in a sound financial position, with a superior (AAA) bond rating recently confirmed for the 11th consecutive year. The General Fund budget increased from \$541.2 million to \$588.1 million, an increase of \$46.9 million, or 8.7%, from FY 12 to FY 13. Although Travis County has experienced difficult financial conditions over the last several years, area economists predict a fairly stable economic performance for the near future. The FY 13 budget reflects this positive news, yet also reflects the County's history of fiscal prudence.

TAXES

The Tax Rate increased by 1.46 cents, from \$0.4855 to \$0.5001 per \$100 of appraised value. This is a 3% increase above the FY 12 Tax Rate of \$0.4855. The average Travis County homestead will see an increase of \$25 in County property tax payments (totaling \$1,073 in FY 13 compared to \$1,048 in FY 12). Based on the latest information from the Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD), the average homestead value (with exemptions) remained relatively stable at \$214,567 in FY 13, as compared to \$215,829 in FY 12.

SELECT BUDGET ISSUES

This budget meets the County's existing contractual and programmatic commitments, many of which have grown in recent years as demand for services has increased and funding has been constrained. No reductions to departmental budgets were required in the development of the budget. The FY 13 budget contains compensation increases of 3.5% on average for classified positions studied under the Market Salary Survey. Salaries for Elected Officials increased by 3.5%, and Associate Judges' Salaries increased by 7%. The salaries of law enforcement and corrections officers covered by the Peace Officers Pay Scale (POPS) were increased by an average of 11%. POPS employees have not had a market salary review since 2008.

Other large increases in the FY 13 budget include:

- Resources for the Travis County Sheriff's Office to add FTE and support needs related to the growth in the community and the resulting demand for services;
- A new EMS Station at Austin Colony, and full-time staffing for the Bee Caves and Kelly Lane Stations;
- Funds for Travis County to develop infrastructure for a collaborative justice/public safety case management system that will maximize efficiency by sharing technology with other Counties;
- Funding to replace state, local and grant funding cuts to and increasing costs for social service and job training agencies such as Family Eldercare, Meals on Wheels, Workforce Solutions, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Skillpoint Alliance.

THE STRUCTURE AND ROLE OF TEXAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Texas County government focuses primarily on the judicial system, health and social service delivery, law enforcement, and upkeep of County maintained roads. In contrast to other parts of the country, Texas counties seldom have responsibility for schools, water and sewer systems, electric utilities, and commercial airports. County governments in Texas have no ordinance-making powers other than those explicitly granted by state legislative action.

The state's 254 counties have similar organizational features: a governing body (the Commissioners Court) consisting of one member elected County-wide (the County Judge), and four Commissioners elected from geographically unique precincts. The County Judge is so named because he or she often has actual judicial responsibility. In urban counties, the County Judge is primarily an executive and administrator in addition to being the presiding officer of the Commissioners Court.

Other elected officials in Texas Counties are:

- District Judges,
- County Court-at-Law Judges,
- Justices of the Peace,
- The County Sheriff,
- A District and/or County Attorney,
- The County and District Clerks,
- The County Tax Assessor-Collector
- The County Treasurer,
- and one or more Constables.

The State District Judges in each county appoint the County Auditor, who serves as the chief financial officer for the County.

In Travis County, a Purchasing Board comprised of three State District Judges and two members of Commissioners Court appoint a Purchasing Agent who oversees a centralized procurement function.

The Commissioners Court serves as both the legislative and executive branch of county government, and exercises budgetary authority over virtually all county departments, including those headed by other elected officials. The high number of elected officials, including many with judicial authority, creates an organizational structure unlike more familiar public sector designs, which usually contain a Chief Executive or Operating Officer and a Board that focus on broad policy matters.

County services in Texas are financed primarily by an ad valorem tax on real property and business inventory. Secondary financing sources include an array of fees, fines, service charges and state payments. The County Commissioners Court sets the property tax rate annually, subsequent to a public hearing. Most of the other revenue sources are established in state law and may be changed only through legislative action.

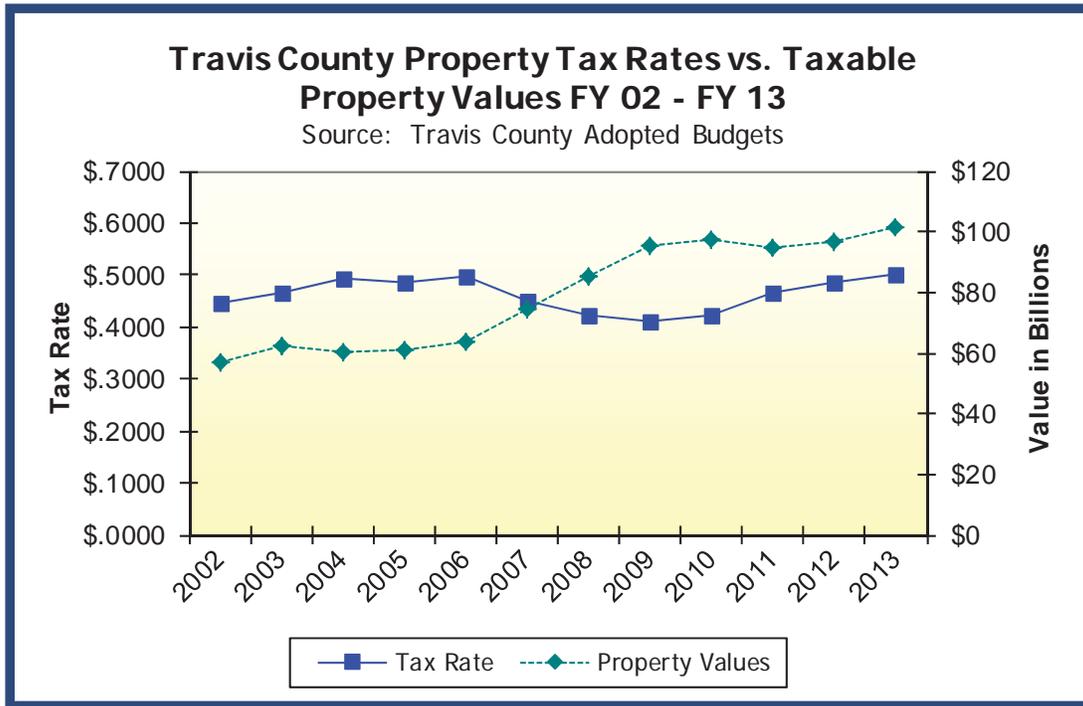
The Travis County Commissioners Court follows a fiscal year starting on October 1st and ending on September 30th. The Planning & Budget Office (PBO) begins the annual budget process by meeting with the Commissioners Court to discuss the framing of the next fiscal year’s budget and preparing a set of guidelines that are used to develop budget recommendations for the Commissioners Court. Elected Officials and County Departments submit their requested budgets to PBO in early Spring for review and evaluation. PBO prepares a draft budget called the Preliminary Budget and makes a presentation to the Commissioners Court in mid-July. The Preliminary Budget is used by the Commissioners Court as a platform for the deliberations that occur during August and September at various public hearings, work sessions and voting sessions of the Commissioners Court. The Adopted Budget is approved by the Commissioners Court in late September.

Apr/May	June/July	Aug/Sept	Oct
Review submissions/ develop recommendations	Develop/Present Preliminary Budget	Budget Deliberations & Adoption/Public Hearings on the Proposed Budget	New Fiscal Year Begins

PROPERTY TAX RATE

The Chief Appraiser for TCAD has projected that the total taxable value for all Travis County property has increased from \$97.05 billion in FY 12 to \$101.3 billion for FY 13, of which approximately \$1.5 billion was related to improvements covered under economic development agreements that rebate back a majority of the taxes. This includes the adjusted value in property and the value of new construction. New property value added to the tax roll totals \$3.55 billion. The table below depicts the impact of the final adopted tax rate of \$0.5001 per \$100 of taxable value on the average residential homeowner claiming the homestead exemption. This rate is \$0.0146 above the FY 12 tax rate of \$0.4855.

All taxable property values in Travis County are set by the Travis Central Appraisal District. The Central Appraisal District is an independent body that is separate from Travis County Government. For information on a specific property contact **TCAD at (512) 834-9317** or visit them online at **www.traviscad.org**.



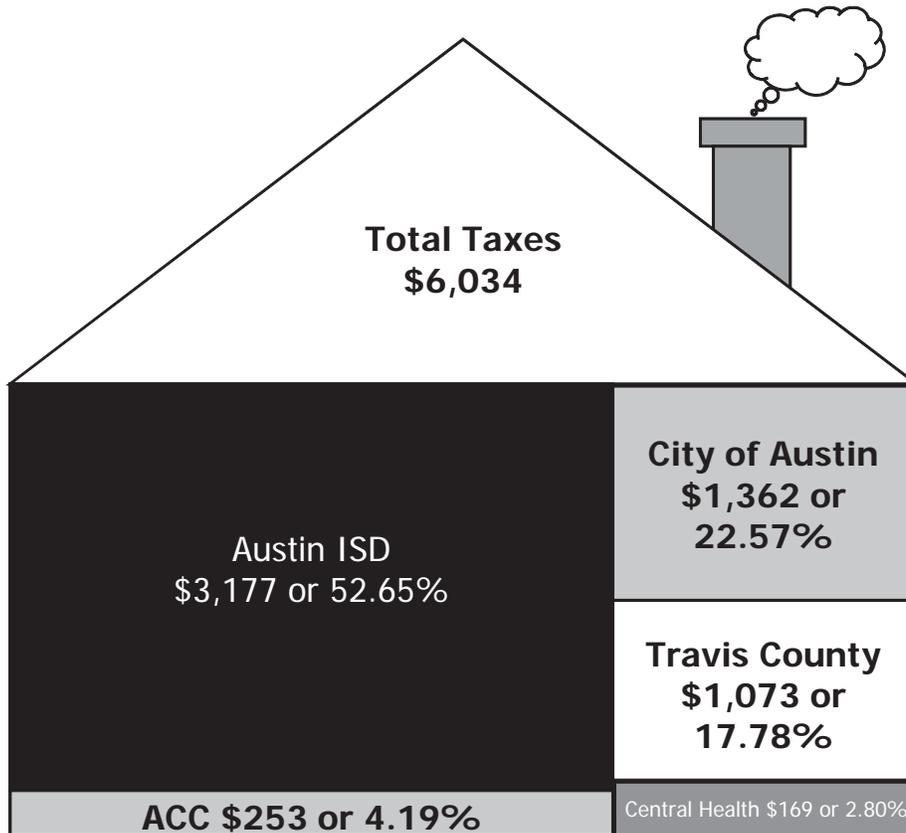
IMPACT ON AVERAGE HOMESTEAD

(All homestead values per final Travis Central Appraisal District value)

	FY 12	FY 13	Difference	
Average Homestead Value	\$272,931	\$270,774	(\$2,157)	(0.79%)
Taxable Value*	\$215,829	\$214,567	(\$1,262)	(0.58%)
Tax Rate per \$100	\$0.4855	\$0.5001	\$0.0146	3.01%
Average Tax	\$1,047.85	\$1,073.05	\$25.20	2.40%

* After 20% exemption granted by Travis County, and other required adjustments.

**FY 13 PROPERTY TAX FOR AVERAGE TRAVIS COUNTY HOMESTEAD
VALUED AT \$270,774 (WITH \$214,567 TAXABLE VALUE)**



HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS/TAX RELIEF & TAX RATES

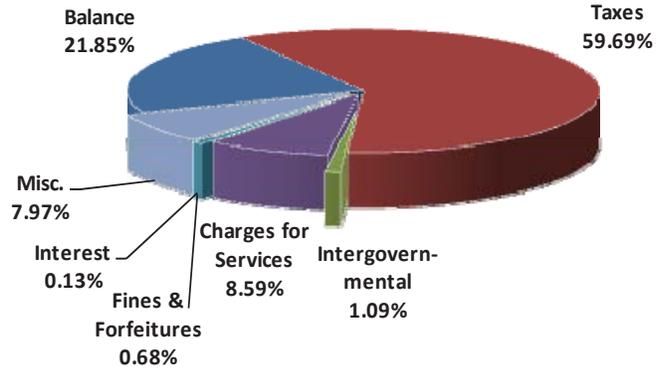
Additional exemptions are offered by each jurisdiction for homesteads or disabled homeowners and those 65 years of age and older. The Travis County Commissioners Court increased the exemption for those 65 years of age or disabled from \$65,000 to \$70,000. Travis County Homeowners do not have to pay a fee to claim any exemptions. For more information regarding specific exemptions for which you may be eligible, please contact the **Travis County Tax Office at 854-9473**.

Jurisdiction	Over 65 Years Old Exemption	Disabled Exemption	Homestead Exemption	Tax Rate
Austin ISD	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$15,000	1.2420
Travis County	\$70,000	\$70,000	20%*	0.5001
City of Austin	\$51,000	\$51,000	-	0.5029
ACC	\$115,000	\$75,000	\$5,000/1%	0.0951
Central Health	\$70,000	\$70,000	20%*	0.0789

* Minimum exemption is \$5,000

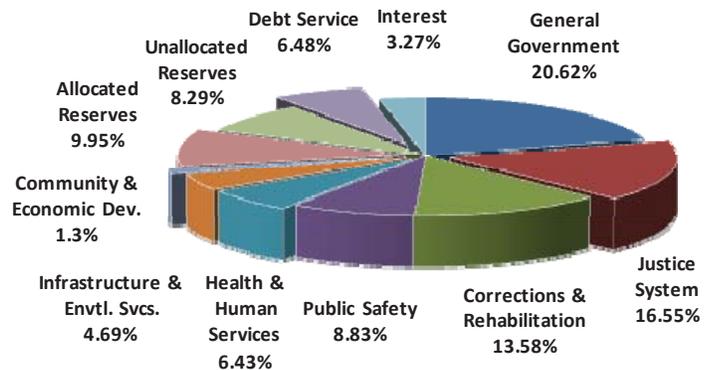
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM? ALL FUNDS

FY 2013	
<u>ADOPTED BUDGET</u>	
Balance	\$177,897,223
Beginning Balance	\$177,789,391
Other (Not Budgeted)	\$107,832
Taxes	\$486,033,387
Intergovernmental	\$8,858,972
Charges for Services	\$69,965,517
Fines & Forfeitures	\$5,545,718
Interest	\$1,041,371
Miscellaneous	\$64,895,741
Total All Funds	<u>\$814,237,929</u>

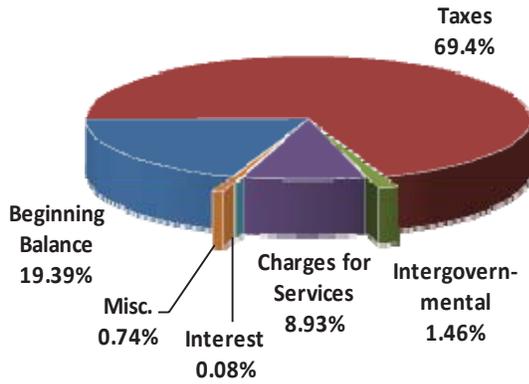


WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? ALL FUNDS

FY 2013	
<u>ADOPTED BUDGET</u>	
General Government	\$167,929,540
Justice System	\$134,769,491
Corrections & Rehab.	\$110,588,882
Public Safety	\$71,925,545
Health & Human Svcs.	\$52,360,851
Infrastructure & Env'tl.	\$38,177,501
Community & Economic	\$10,606,003
Allocated Reserves	\$81,016,724
Unallocated Reserves	\$67,525,598
Debt Service	\$52,725,000
Interest	\$26,612,794
Total All Funds	<u>\$814,237,929</u>

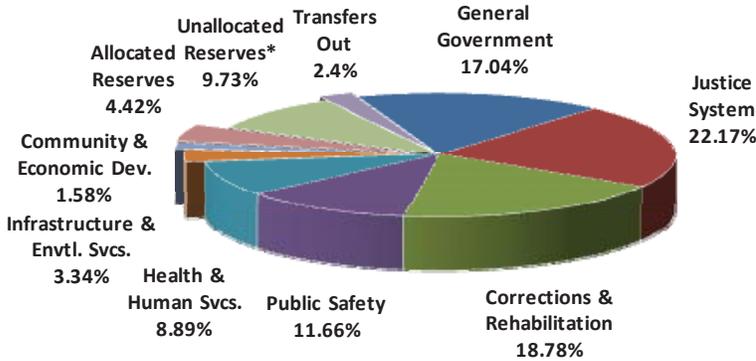


WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM? GENERAL FUND



FY 2013	
<u>ADOPTED BUDGET</u>	
Beginning Balance	\$114,021,855
Taxes	\$408,134,737
Intergovernmental	\$8,599,534
Charges for Services	\$52,505,442
Fines & Forfeitures	\$918,977
Interest	\$462,840
Miscellaneous	\$2,377,709
Transfers In	\$1,084,498
Total General Fund	\$588,105,592

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? GENERAL FUND



FY 2013	
<u>ADOPTED BUDGET</u>	
General Government	\$100,190,179
Justice System	\$130,386,468
Corrections & Rehab.	\$110,448,716
Public Safety	\$68,594,483
Health & Human Svcs.	\$52,295,201
Infrastructure & Evtl.	\$19,634,978
Community & Economic	\$9,297,104
Allocated Reserves	\$25,977,227
Unallocated Reserves*	\$57,195,853
Transfers Out	\$14,085,383
Total General Fund	\$588,105,592

* The Unallocated Reserves ratio calculation is based on budgeted expenditures (excluding transfers) in the General Fund, Debt Service Fund, and Road and Bridge Fund.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 — 2013 GENERAL FUND FTE & DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Dept.	Dept Name	FY 13 FTE¹	Adopted Budget FY 2012	Adopted Budget FY 2013	Difference Adopted 13 Adopted 12	% Change²
101	County Judge	5	\$440,887	\$454,781	\$13,894	3.15%
102	Commissioner-Pct 1	4	\$351,924	\$365,899	\$13,975	3.97%
103	Commissioner-Pct 2	4	\$350,524	\$364,831	\$14,307	4.08%
104	Commissioner-Pct 3	4	\$340,489	\$359,096	\$18,607	5.46%
105	Commissioner-Pct 4	4	\$340,394	\$352,920	\$12,526	3.68%
106	County Auditor	84	\$10,101,131	\$10,853,517	\$752,386	7.45%
107	County Treasurer	8	\$563,097	\$809,468	\$246,371	43.75%
108	Tax Assessor-Collector	134	\$7,791,062	\$8,367,827	\$576,765	7.40%
109	Planning and Budget	18	\$1,903,205	\$2,099,092	\$195,887	10.29%
110	General Administration	3	\$4,340,753	\$4,755,726	\$414,973	9.56%
111	Human Resource Mgmt	16	\$10,376,533	\$12,984,047	\$2,607,514	25.13%
112	ITS	113	\$20,975,022	\$22,325,266	\$1,350,244	6.44%
114	Facilities Management	131	\$9,497,220	\$10,073,725	\$576,505	6.07%
115	Purchasing	37	\$3,282,109	\$3,670,716	\$388,607	11.84%
116	Veterans Services	0	\$315,115	\$0	(\$315,115)	-100.00%
117	Historical Commission	0	\$4,942	\$9,442	\$4,500	91.06%
118	Texas AgriLife Extension Service	0	\$1,010,187	\$0	(\$1,010,187)	-100.00%
119	County Attorney	190	\$15,676,888	\$16,959,561	\$1,282,673	8.18%
120	County Clerk	110	\$9,122,132	\$9,633,213	\$511,081	5.60%
121	District Clerk	111	\$7,190,346	\$7,528,936	\$338,590	4.71%
122	Civil Courts	73	\$6,089,599	\$6,303,458	\$213,859	3.51%
123	District Attorney	171	\$16,526,503	\$17,524,583	\$998,080	6.04%
124	Criminal Courts	72	\$6,980,976	\$6,574,762	(\$406,214)	-5.82%
125	Probate Court	10	\$1,660,932	\$1,779,865	\$118,933	7.16%
126-130	Justices of the Peace Pcts 1-5	99	\$7,785,935	\$8,117,071	\$331,136	4.25%
131-135	Constables-Pcts 1-5	165	\$12,023,882	\$13,055,894	\$1,032,012	8.58%

137	Sheriff's Department	1,586	\$133,572,284	\$147,433,519	\$13,861,235	10.38%
138	Medical Examiner	37	\$4,009,231	\$4,407,871	\$398,640	9.94%
139	Comm Super & Corr	6	\$561,138	\$564,015	\$2,877	0.51%
140	TCCES	43	\$3,264,816	\$3,546,333	\$281,517	8.62%
142	Pretrial Services	76	\$3,730,564	\$5,095,573	\$1,365,009	36.59%
143	Juvenile Public Defender	13	\$1,360,296	\$1,426,110	\$65,814	4.84%
145	Juvenile Probation	463	\$33,743,514	\$35,624,105	\$1,880,591	5.57%
147	Emergency Services	18	\$4,339,583	\$4,781,918	\$442,335	10.19%
149	TNR	186	\$29,816,081	\$32,096,244	\$2,280,163	7.65%
154	Civil Service Commission	1	\$92,428	\$92,376	(\$52)	-0.06%
155	Criminal Justice Planning	39	\$3,744,824	\$4,104,313	\$359,489	9.60%
157	RMCR	31	\$5,157,039	\$5,103,818	(\$53,221)	-1.03%
158	Health & Human Services	209	\$28,226,235	\$32,293,147	\$4,066,912	14.41%
159	Emergency Medical Services	32	\$16,599,439	\$19,407,179	\$2,807,740	16.91%
189	Hospitalization Contra	0	(\$3,305,938)	(\$3,305,938)	\$0	0.00%
191	Centralized Rent & Utilities (Facilities)	0	\$4,921,469	\$4,837,821	(\$83,648)	-1.70%
193	Civil Court Legally Mandated Fees	0	\$2,784,040	\$2,940,573	\$156,533	5.62%
194	Criminal Court Legally Mandated Fees	0	\$8,114,683	\$8,442,719	\$328,036	4.04%
Total Dept Budgets Excluding CAR		4,303	\$434,112,581	\$472,435,527	\$38,322,946	8.83%
Total CAR Budgets			\$19,001,378	\$32,496,985	\$13,495,607	71.02%
Total Dept Budgets			\$453,113,959	\$504,932,512	\$51,818,553	11.44%
Reserves						
	Capital Acquisition Resources Reserve		\$1,433,446	\$2,813,944	\$1,380,498	96.31%
	Regular Allocated Reserves		\$15,196,426	\$6,920,945	(\$8,275,481)	-54.46%
	Unallocated Reserves		\$51,367,824	\$57,195,853	\$5,828,029	11.35%
	Other Reserves		\$20,121,177	\$16,242,338	(\$3,878,839)	-19.28%
Total Reserves			\$88,118,873	\$83,173,080	(\$4,945,793)	-5.61%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		4,303	\$541,232,832	\$588,105,592	\$46,872,760	8.66%

¹ Total FTE for all budgeted funds is 4,937.

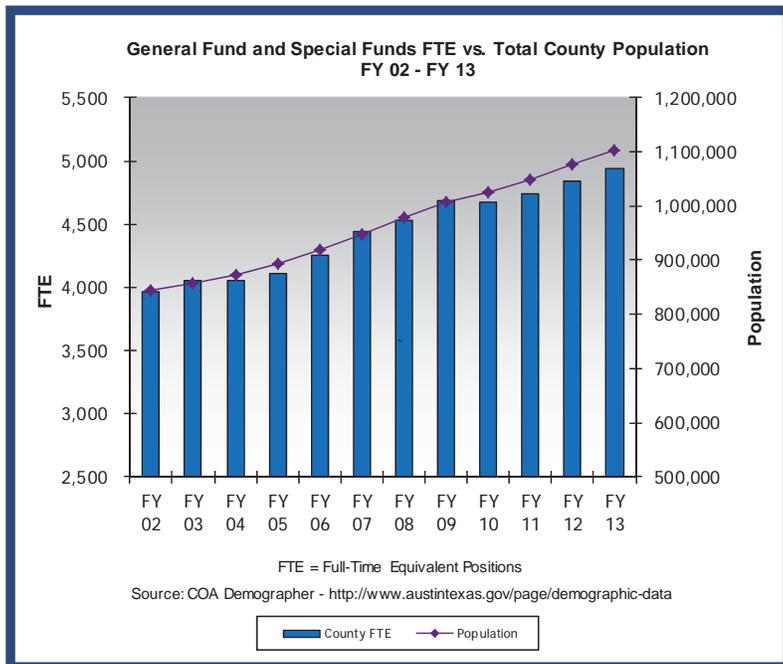
² Additional explanations regarding percentage change between FY 12 and FY 13 will be available as part of the FY 13 Adopted Budget, Volume I publication.

FY 13 CHANGES IN NUMBER OF FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

A net 102.15 regular FTE were added to the FY 13 General Fund budget. This includes 9.75 FTE that were approved by Commissioners Court in midyear FY 12. The majority of the new positions are related to increasing workload. The job increases include IT, clerical, human resource and financial positions; security, law enforcement and corrections positions; and human services positions.

General Fund Position Changes	
Department/Description	Net Chg.
Midyear approval of security staffing for county facility in Sheriff's Office	5.00
Midyear increase for new park opening and water administration	2.00
Other FTE approved by Commissioners Court (CJP, TCSO, HRMD, Criminal Courts, Pretrial Services, County Clerk's Office, and JP, Pct. 1)	2.75
Subtotal – Previously Approved by Commissioners Court Mid-year FY 12	9.75
Existing FTE changes between departments (EMS to ES) or between General Fund and Other Funds (County Clerk, Civil Courts, Juvenile Probation, TCSO, and RMCR)	9.78
Internally funded increases (District Attorney and HHS&VS)	0.75
Correction of Special Project Temp in TNR	-0.15
Subtotal for FY 13 Changes for Existing FTE	10.38
New Travis County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Personnel	5.00
New Travis County Sheriff's Office Corrections Personnel	1.00
New Classified Positions for Travis County Sheriff's Office	16.00
Subtotal – New Correction, Law Enforcement and Security Positions	22.00
New and restored positions related to additional revenue (Constables Pcts. 3, 4 & 5, and Juvenile Probation)	2.50
New FTE from Preliminary Budget (various)	43.08
Other New FTE approved by Commissioners Court during Markup (various)	14.44
Subtotal – New Positions-Other Changes	60.02
Total General Fund Net FTE Change	102.15

GROWTH IN COUNTY FTE VS. POPULATION



Since FY 02, the County's workforce for all funds has increased from 3,969 FTE to 4,937 FTE in FY 13, or about 24.4%. As reflected in the table to the left, this annual increase has essentially matched the annual increase in the County's population over the same time frame. While County staffing levels have increased proportionately with population growth, County budgets have increased at a higher percentage. This reflects increases in personnel costs and programmatic growth to meet statutory changes and citizen expectations.

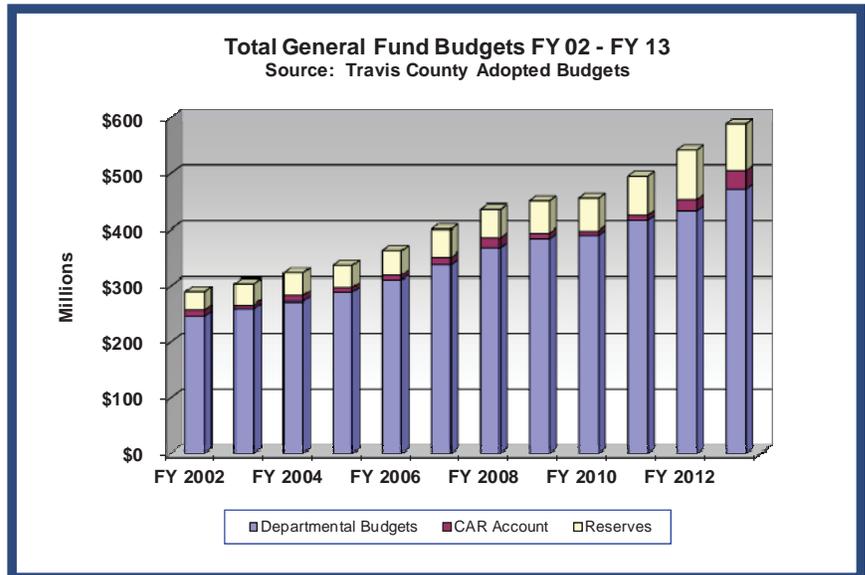
OVERVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGETS & RESERVES

The following table provides an overview of the makeup of the total General Fund budget for Travis County.

In addition to Departmental Budgets, the County's budget includes three main types of reserves:

- Unallocated Reserve
- Allocated Reserve, and
- The Capital Acquisition Resources Account Reserve (CAR).

There are also departmental and County-wide reserves that are established for special purposes and do not necessarily remain in the budget from year-to-year.



The Unallocated Reserve is not intended to be spent except in the case of a disaster or dire emergency, and makes up much of the budgeted ending fund balance. The level of this reserve demonstrates the County's fiscal strength. The County's bond and financial advisors recommend maintaining a ratio between 8 and 12% of the General Fund balance for sound financial management. Maintaining this ratio at a steady 11% of the General Fund for nearly 20 years has contributed to the superior (AAA) bond rating currently earned by the Travis County Commissioners Court.

The Allocated Reserve is dedicated to known or potential expenditures, and some or all of the reserve is likely to be spent during the year. There are possible claims against the Allocated Reserve called "Earmarks" that signal the Commissioners Court that a department may have a justified need for a mid-year transfer of resources to their budget for a specific purpose.

The Capital Acquisition Resources Account Reserve (CAR) is similar to the Allocated Reserve, but is instead used for one-time expenditures or capital projects.

FY 13 CAPITAL FUNDING

To meet the County's capital needs, a total of **\$102,817,433** is included in the FY 13 Adopted Budget from the following basic sources:

- **\$35,310,929** General Fund Capital Acquisition Resources account,
- **\$25,275,000*** Short-term Certificates of Obligation,
- **\$41,940,000*** Voter Authorized bonds approved in 2000, and
- **\$291,504** Other funds.

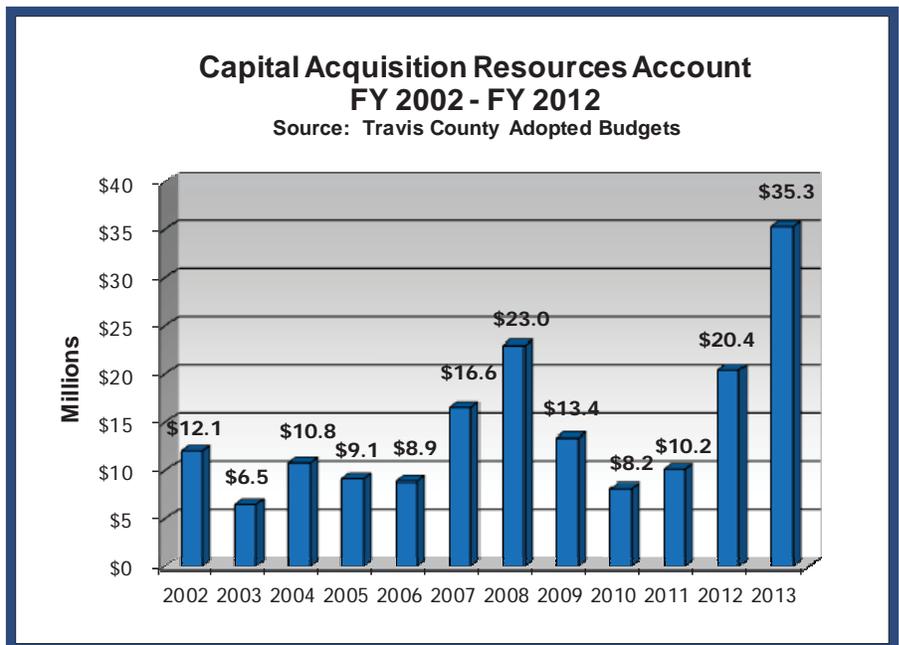
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL ACQUISITION RESOURCES ACCOUNT

The General Fund Capital Acquisition Resources (CAR) account is used to pay for capital equipment and facilities. This account has been variable over the years, driven by economic circumstances, capital needs, and other sources and constraints on debt financing.

This budget establishes the CAR account at \$35,310,929. This amount includes a Reserve of \$2,813,944 and \$3,525,738 of CAR resources appropriated in FY 12 and re-budgeted for FY 13.

CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION

Certificates of Obligation (COs) are usually issued as short-term debt for capital equipment and facilities. The amount of debt proposed to be issued through COs in FY 13 is \$25,147,440 with \$127,560 in estimated issuance costs. Projects include a fire fighting aircraft, resources for HMAC and Alternative Paving Projects, and projects for the Sheriff's Office.



*These numbers may change during discussions to finalize the CO and Bond Issuance. Such discussions frequently occur through December of a given fiscal year. The final list will be published on the County website at http://www.co.travis.tx.us/planning_budget/default.asp

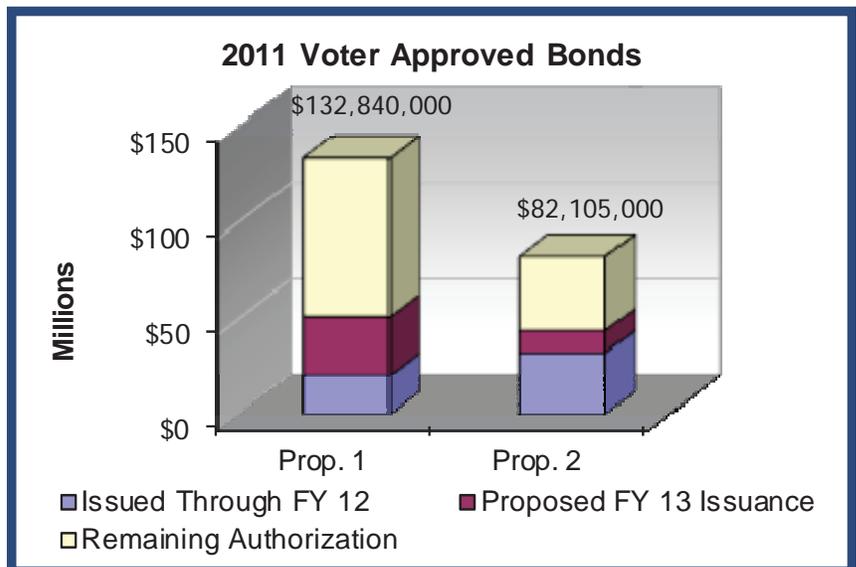
VOTER AUTHORIZED DEBT 2000, 2001, 2005 AND 2011

In November 2000, voters authorized the Commissioners Court to issue \$28,000,000 in General Obligation bonds for the acquisition of right-of-way for state highway projects located within Travis County. All but \$485,000 has been issued.

In November 2001, the Travis County voters authorized \$184,955,000 in General Obligation bonds. Of this amount, \$182,565,000 of the authorization has been issued for approved projects. The remaining authorization totals \$2,390,000 and includes \$2,190,000 (Proposition 1) that is considered projected savings due to the issuance of Certificates of Obligation in 2006, and \$200,000 (Proposition 2) that will not be issued because savings from Certificates of Obligation were used.

In November 2005, the voters of Travis County authorized an additional \$150,875,000 in General Obligation bonds for capital projects related roads, road-related drainage, and right-of-way, parks, and jail facility replacement beds and renovations. All authorized amounts were issued by FY 11.

In November 2011, voters authorized the Commissioners Court to issue \$214,945,000 for road, drainage, bridge, and bike/pedestrian projects (Proposition 1), as well as park and land conservation projects (Proposition 2). The adjoining table details the propositions, the amounts scheduled to be issued in FY 13, and the remaining authorization.



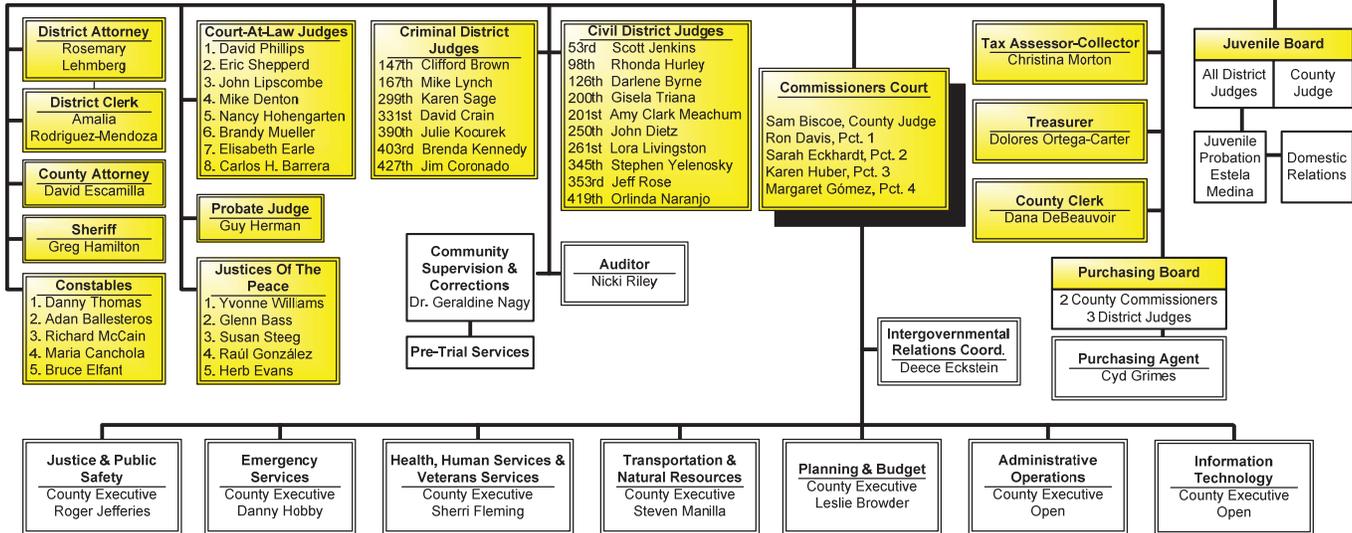
STATE HIGHWAY PROJECTS

The County has the authority to issue bonds for state highway pass-through financing projects. In January 2012, Travis County entered into an agreement with the State for two projects. The FM 1626 Project will widen the shoulders of FM 1626 from west of Brodie Lane to FM 2304. The FM 969 Project will widen and reconstruct FM 969 from FM 3177 to Hunter's Bend Road. The authorization for both projects was \$30,351,900. Of this amount, \$26,851,900 has not yet been issued, and is not planned to be issued in FY 13. However, it is expected to be issued in the coming years.

Travis County Organization Chart

As of October 2012

Travis County Voters



Elected Officials



Prepared by the Travis County Planning & Budget Office
 For additional copies call (512) 854-9106 or go to:
www.co.travis.tx.us/planning_budget/default.asp