



Office of Council Member Mackenzie Kelly | District 6

(512) 978-2106 | austintexas.gov/district6
301 W. Second St, Austin, TX 78701

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Media Contact: Patricia Gutierrez, Outreach Director

(512) 512-0058, press.d6@austintexas.gov or patricia.gutierrez@austintexas.gov

Council Member Kelly Proposes Budget Plan to Support Austinites Without Raising Property Taxes

AUSTIN, TX - Today, Councilmember Mackenzie Kelly released a plan for the city budget that includes more revenue for the General Fund while ensuring that no property tax bills will rise for homeowners, renters, or businesses.

“When my constituents tell me they are struggling to make ends meet, I believe them and take it seriously. When the city tells us we’re in an affordability crisis, I believe them, too,” Councilwoman Mackenzie Kelly said in response to her tax proposal that ensures Austin taxpayers don’t have an increase in their property taxes.

With growth in revenue from new development, sales tax, transfers, and other revenue sources, the city’s General Fund has more than \$45 million in revenues for increases to department budgets without having to raise property taxes. The budget from the city manager proposes to increase property taxes by an additional 5.7%.

“From 2019 - 2023, according to the Taxpayer Impact Statements in past city budgets, city utilities and utility fees have increased by 17% and city property taxes by 27%. And now, with this budget, we are asking people to pay at least an additional 8.2% in city property taxes, utilities, and fees. I am proposing a budget plan this year in response to this,” Councilmember Kelly continued. Her plan is to keep property taxes flat from year to year and utilize growth in other revenues to increase the budget.

The urgency of this proposal is underscored by rising living costs: childcare has increased by 32%, groceries by 25%, and rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Austin has surged by over 50%. Currently, fewer than half of Americans can afford a \$1,000 emergency, a trend that is reflected in Austin's changing demographics, where more people are leaving the city than moving in for the first time in two decades.

As part of her proposal, Councilmember Kelly lays out more than \$51 million in possible budget savings to accomplish her goal of not raising property taxes. This is well more than is needed. She asks her Council colleagues and city manager to provide their ideas for cost savings as well.

“We can’t keep telling people they are in an affordability crisis while increasing their costs every year,” Councilmember Kelly emphasized. The City of Austin will do fine without increased property taxes, but Austinites will fare worse if we do. I choose Austinites.”

For more details, find the [full budget plan here](#).

Here is the [list of possible budget cuts](#) for consideration.

[Kelly - Budget Proposal - City of Austin Council Message Board \(austincouncilforum.org\)](#)

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