

Community College Branch Campus Maintenance Tax Information for Wichita County
Summer 2021

Purpose:

- The primary purpose of the branch campus maintenance tax (BCMT) supported by Wichita County residents is to enable Vernon College to develop additional career and technical programs and courses to train residents to meet local and regional business and industry workforce needs. The BCMT tax revenue would also assist to sustain and enhance current operations, programs, and services including instruction, student services, physical plant, maintenance, and technology at Skills Training Center, Century City Center and other Wichita County instructional sites to provide vital, accessible, and economical educational and training opportunities for Wichita County residents.

Texas' statutes permit the creation of a limited property tax to support, maintain, and operate a community college campus in locations (jurisdictions) outside of its' taxing district. Vernon College's taxing district is Wilbarger County and Texas law restricts those tax revenues to fund facilities and operations only in Wilbarger County. The branch campus maintenance tax (BCMT) may not exceed \$.05 per \$100 of assessed valuation in the jurisdiction. The current Vernon College tax rate for Wilbarger County residents is \$.2334 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Process:

- A local steering committee is created of citizens interested in establishing a branch campus maintenance tax in a jurisdiction to support community college operations. Ideally, the local steering committee shall be composed of a cross-section of the population of the area, with representation from major civic groups, business and industry, and governing bodies.
- The primary responsibilities of the steering committee, in cooperation with the College, are to serve as liaisons with the local community to conduct a feasibility study
- Submit the feasibility study and the request for a branch campus maintenance tax to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and approval
- If the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the request, in counties with population less than 150,000, the County Commissioners Court may call for a branch campus maintenance tax election
- A majority vote of the Commissioners Court in favor of calling the election is required for the election to be conducted.
- Once an election for the branch maintenance tax is established, any qualified voter residing in the boundaries of the jurisdiction in which the tax is to be levied is entitled to vote in the election
- To be adopted, the measure must receive a favorable vote of a majority of those voting on the measure

Use of tax funds:

- The proceeds from the branch campus maintenance tax may only be used to operate and maintain a community college branch campus and to support its facilities, programs, and services in the area of jurisdiction that levies the tax
- The proceeds can be used to provide support for academic programs, technical programs, student services, technology, supplies, facility maintenance, facility renovation, utilities, and other college operations in the taxing jurisdiction

- The College shall furnish the Commissioners Court with annual budget data as well as routine reports to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State of Texas.

Specific Benefits to Students, Wichita County residents, and Vernon College

- Reduction in tuition cost to Wichita County residents
 - Offset a reduction in tuition for Wichita County residents attending Century City Center, Skills Training Center, or other Vernon College Wichita County instructional sites because the BCMT code ensures they pay the same in-district tuition rate as Wilbarger County resident students
 - Currently, Wichita County residents pay \$100/SCH for tuition while Wilbarger County residents pay \$60/SCH for tuition because of the Wilbarger County tax support. This would save an estimate of \$600 per semester or \$1200 per year for each full-time Wichita County student taking 15 SCH per semester.
 - Offset a reduction in tuition for all Wichita County high school students in dual credit academic, technical, or Early College High School classes
 - High school dual credit students are currently charged \$300 per three SCH class
 - This would create various savings for the Wichita ISDs and students
- Development and implementation of new Vernon College career/technical programs to train residents to meet local and regional business and industry workforce needs
- Expansion and enhancement of current Vernon College career/technical programs which train residents to meet local and regional business and industry workforce needs
- Sustain and enhance current operations, programs, and services including instruction, student services, physical plant, maintenance, and technology at Skills Training Center, Century City Center and other Wichita County instructional sites to provide vital, accessible, and economical educational and training opportunities for Wichita County residents.
- Expansion of programs and courses for:
 - General education transfer
 - Allied Health program prerequisite courses
 - Technical programs
 - Welding program expansion
 - Auto Service Technicians
 - Plumbing
 - Electrician
 - Construction related skills
 - Industrial Maintenance Technicians
 - Aviation related skills
 - Other local demand occupations
 - Workforce training
 - Continuing and professional education
- Expansion of Support Services
 - Academic advising and counseling
 - Admissions
 - Financial aid
 - Tutoring
 - Developmental education
 - Bookstore operations

- Library Services
- Open-use computer lab availability
- Services for special populations
- Continued facility improvement
 - Facility expansion/renovation for additional technical programs to meet local demand
 - Parking lot improvements
 - Technology improvements
 - Capital improvements
 - On-going facility maintenance
- Strengthen partnerships with business and industry
 - Skills Development Fund training opportunities
 - Business and industry retention efforts
 - New business and industry assistance
 - Customized training
- Strengthen partnerships with Wichita County secondary school districts
 - Dual credit/concurrent credit opportunities
 - Technical program partnerships
 - Financial aid seminars
 - Scholarship opportunities

Texas Community Colleges that currently have a branch campus maintenance tax to support out of district locations and operations:

Amarillo College	North Central Texas College
Clarendon College	Odessa College
Frank Phillips College	Temple College
Hill College	Trinity College
Midland College	Weatherford College

Primary sources:

Texas Education Code 130.087 Branch Campus Maintenance Tax

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Chapter 8. Subchapter E: Creation, Expansion, Dissolution, or Conservatorship of Public Community/Junior College Districts