

Setting the record straight: League City is a revenue generator for COM taxing district

For those who may be unfamiliar with the communities that College of the Mainland (COM) impacts, the college's taxing district includes the independent school districts of Texas City/La Marque, Dickinson, Hitchcock and Santa Fe. Its service area includes League City, Friendswood and Kemah. A very clear distinction should be made between COM's taxing district and service area as the two groups are impacted very differently when it comes to bonds, elections and funding. When discussing the COM Bond 2023, COM often receives questions regarding the COM League City facility and how (or if) that area will be impacted.

Here are the facts.

A BRIEF HISTORY

League City has long been a part of COM's service area. Since 2003, COM has had a League City presence to serve North Galveston County where its original League City facility housed allied health and dual-credit classes. Back in 2020, COM opened a new, expanded League City learning site near FM 518 and I-45 primarily to serve Clear Creek Independent School District dual-credit students. As a result, allied health programs moved from the old facility to the new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) building on COM's main Texas City campus while



dual credit and general education classes moved to the new League City location.

By law, the college is required to provide educational services — namely dual credit — to residents of League City and its other service areas. However, these residents are not in the COM taxing district, and therefore, are not eligible to vote on college-related election issues and also must pay a higher, out-of-district tuition rate.

HOW IS THE LEAGUE CITY FACILITY FUNDED?

The League City site is funded through out-of-district, student tuition, not taxpayer dollars. The college is not allowed to use taxpayer funds

Funds from the COM Bond 2023 will not be used in League City. If the COM Bond 2023 passes, all bond funding will go toward construction, renovation and development in Texas City.

(such as bond money or property taxes) on facilities outside of the taxing district. Therefore, students residing in League City pay a higher, out-of-district tuition rate, which funds the League City facility. Consequently, once calculating the revenue generated from out-of-district student tuition minus facility expenses, the result is that the League City campus is an income generator for the College — earning

approximately \$180,000 per year in revenue. This resulting cash inflow that is earned from the League City campus is funneled back to its Texas City campuses to enhance the learning experiences within the COM taxing district.

That said, funds from the COM Bond 2023 will not be used in League City. If the COM Bond 2023 passes, all bond funding will go toward construction, renovation and development in Texas City.

The League City campus is funded through out-of-district tuition, not by tax dollars. The bottom line is that the only way League City residents would ever pay taxes to College of the Mainland — or see subsequent bond funding go toward development in League City — would be if those residents voted themselves into the college's taxing district at some point in the future.

GET TO KNOW THE FACTS OF THE COM BOND 2023

Voters living within the Texas City/La Marque, Dickinson, Hitchcock and Santa Fe school districts will see the COM Bond 2023 on the upcoming election ballot. The official ballot language will read as follows:

College of the Mainland – Proposition A

“The issuance of \$250,000,000 bonds for the construction, renovation, acquisition, and equipment of school buildings for the College of the Mainland, and the purchase of the necessary sites for school buildings, and the levy and imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements.”

When casting your ballot, there are several important facts about the COM Bond 2023 proposition that voters should know:

- Property taxes are not affected for residents 65 and older (or disabled) if the appropriate homestead exemptions are filed with the Galveston County Appraisal District.
 - Tuition will not go up. College of the Mainland has not increased student tuition in more than 12 years, and the passage of this bond would not change that.
 - Bond funds will not be used in League City. All bond funding will go toward construction, renovation and development in Texas City. The League City campus is funded through out-of-district tuition, not by tax dollars.
- To learn more about the COM Bond 2023, visit www.compass2025.com/.