HB 103 COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE GUIDE

The Local Government Bond, Tax, and Project Database is established under Texas Government Code §§403.701–403.705 (HB 103, Acts 2025, 89th Legislature). The database collects information on: (a) ad valorem tax bond elections (only bonds secured wholly or partly by ad valorem taxes; not sales tax elections, venue elections, or revenue secured debt), (b) voter-approval tax rate elections (VATREs), and (c) school district maintenance & operations (M&O) tax elections under Education Code Chapter 45 (excluding VATREs). The purpose of the database is to improve statewide transparency regarding voter approved debt, tax rates, and projects funded through bond authorization.

2. Helpful Definitions

- **Taxing unit:** A political subdivision authorized to impose and imposing ad valorem taxes, including counties, incorporated cities or towns (including home-rule cities), school districts, junior college districts, hospital districts, and districts created by or pursuant to the Water Code (e.g., mosquito control, fire prevention, or noxious weed control districts).
- **County:** Primary county for the taxing unit. If a taxing unit spans multiple counties, use the county where its main business office is located.
- **Ballot language:** The text printed on the ballot (up to 2,500 characters). If longer, provide a concise summary. If the ballot language does not list a dollar amount, use the election order or authorizing resolution to determine the authorized amount.
- **Election date:** Uniform election dates typically occur on the first Saturday in May and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- **Proposition:** Each ballot measure on the ballot.
- **Series of bonds:** A specific issuance under an authorized proposition.

Clarifications for VATRE terms:

- **Preceding year tax rate:** The total tax rate (M&O + I&S) adopted by the governing body for the preceding tax year.
- **Voter approval tax rate:** The statutory rate that, if exceeded, requires voter approval.
- **Current adopted rate:** The rate adopted by the governing body prior to the election.
- **Current-year tax rate if VATRE did not pass:** The rate in effect for the current tax year if the VATRE fails.

3. How to Report Required Data

3.1 General Structure

Reporting is organized by proposition, with project and issuance details captured at the bond series level. Each series record includes: series name/title, closing/delivery date, amount of voted authority, and minimum current fiscal-year debt service estimate.

3.2 Bond Elections

A. **Ballot Purpose** — Select dropdown option; if unavailable select "Other".

B. **Debt Type** — Select "General Obligation."

C. **Amount Submitted to Voters** — Enter the authorized amount from the ballot resolution or ballot language.

D. **Ballot language**-language of the proposed ballot, include the proposition number in this field.

3.3 Financial Overview

A. **Projected I&S Fund Tax Rate** — the projected <u>impact on the</u> interest and sinking fund tax rate

B. **I&S Tax Rate Change** — Numeric field. May be "0.0000". Update annually, calculated by:

<u>The issuance of all bonds authorized by the election, based on market interest rates and the taxing unit's assessed value 30 days prior to the election date</u>

C. Minimum Current Fiscal Year Debt Service — an estimate of the average annual debt service resulting from the issuance of all bonds authorized by the election based on market interest rates and the taxing unit's assessed value 30 days prior to the election date this is a numeric field.

3.4 Projects

- **Project description** — Select from menu.
    - **If you receive an error when attempting to submit your project with one of the regular menu items, you can simply use the "Other" option and type it into the text box.**
- **Amount issued** — Dollar amount of voter authority for the series. This should be located in your ballot resolution or in the ballot language itself.
- **Bond title/series name** — e.g., "Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds, Series 2025A". If you don't have a series name at the time of submission use **TBD** in this field.
- **Closing/delivery date** — Enter if available. If you do not have a closing or delivery date at the time or submitting your report, enter the current date in the field and update once the closing/delivery date is finalized.

3.5 VATRE

- Preceding year tax rate
- Voter approval tax rate
- Current adopted rate
- Difference between adopted rate and voter approval tax rate
- Current-year rate if VATRE did not pass

3.6 School District M&O Elections

- Proposed tax rate
- Approved tax rate

4. Frequently Asked Questions

- Where do local governments report bond and tax data? Transparency pages: https://comptroller.texas.gov/transparency/local/hb103
  - Use the “Esystems submit or update your report button on the right hand side of the page”
- Is the data publicly available? Yes.
- Deadlines: May elections—Aug 7 same year; November elections—Aug 7 following year.
- Issuance updates: Within 30 days.
- Corrections: Currently available only during reporting period
- “No Election” notices: Voluntary for ten year history, for 2026 and afterwards Declarations of non-filing are required to be submitted in lieu of election results.

5. Enforcement

- Failure to file → Notice
- 30-day cure period
- $1,000 penalty may be assessed

6. Ongoing Reporting Obligations

- New bond series issued
- Annual tax rates adopted
- Projects updated
- Debt service updated

7. Recommended Issuer Practices

- Coordinate with financial advisor and bond counsel.

8. Contact Information

Transparency Team

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