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## Bexar Facts poll finds majority support for all 3 propositions on November ballot in San Antonio

Voters will decide Pre-K 4 SA, workforce program, public transportation improvements



Those include the fate of Pre-K 4 SA, an early childhood program that launched eight years ago, and the introduction of a workforce

initiative to help impoverished residents amid an economic crisis exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. In a special election (which, in this case, falls on the same date as the presidential election), city residents will also vote on the relocation of the

1/8 cent sales tax that would go toward transportation improvements in 2026.

These issues will hit the ballot box for the General Election on Nov. 3. The deadline to register to vote is right around the corner, on Oct. 5,

and early voting begins Oct. 13. Each of the three propositions has support from a majority of registered voters in San Antonio,

according to a **Bexar Facts-KSAT-San Antonio Report Poll** released Tuesday. For Proposition A, the funding of Pre-K 4 SA, 66% of voters polled said they support the measure while 25% said they oppose. On Proposition B,

the workforce development initiative, 64% said they would support the ballot measure while 25% said they oppose. And 59% said they'd

support the special election measure to increase future transportation funding, while 30% said they would oppose. While the Bexar Facts poll generally surveys registered Bexar Facts voters, the questions for the city propositions were limited to registered voters who live in San Antonio. Overall, that was 70% of the 619 respondents of the survey, which was conducted from Sept. 17-21 by phone

**Proposition A — The funding of Pre-K 4 SA** 

## The continuation of Pre-K 4 SA, an early childhood program that serves 2,000 students, will be voted upon in the General Election.

San Antonio residents will decide if the city will move forward with the renewal of a 1/8 cent sales tax to fund eight more years of the program.

The issue was moved to the Nov. 3 ballot from its original May 2 election — approved by City Council in April due to the coronavirus

pandemic. Pre-K 4 SA initially wanted the matter to head to the polls in May along with other education-related items, plus activists worried it would become disregarded in November's hefty

as well as distributes grants that support students in other programs.

Voters would essentially renew the sales tax for the same purpose, as the sales tax that voters approved in November 2012 will expire in 2021.

"Without that funding, we could not continue on," said Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray told KSAT

More than three-quarters of Pre-K 4 SA's budget comes from the sales tax.

Results of a Bexar Facts-KSAT-San Antonio Report Poll show San Antonio voters are in favor of renewing the initiative, which is on the ballot as

Proposition A.

Nearly two-thirds would vote in support of renewing a one-eighth sales tax for PRE-K 4 SA.

SALES AND USE TAX FOR THE "PRE-K 4 SA" EARLY ■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM. Renewed adoption of a sales and use tax at the rate of 1/8 Democrats 84% of 1% for the purpose of continued financing of Independents authorized programs of the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development 40% Republicans Corporation for a maximum period of 8 years. 18-49 70% 46% Definitely yes Total Probably yes Yes 18% 60% 66% Undecided, lean yes 2% Whites 60% Undecided, lean no 72% Latinos Total Probably no No All Voters of Color 71% 25% Definitely no 18% 64% Men 67% Undecided Women 15 Q8. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this measure? Asked Only of Those Planning on Voting; Asked in City of San Antonio Only For Proposition A, the funding of Pre-K 4 SA, 66% of voters polled said they support the measure while 25% said they oppose, according to Bexar Facts-KSAT-San Antonio Report poll released Sept. 2020. (Bexar Facts)

Those results changed slightly since voters were asked the same question earlier this year. In poll results released in February, 68% of voters said they supported it, while 29% elected

Pre-K 4 SA launched in August 2013 under then-Mayor Julian Castro. At the time, the program had just two centers.

**Proposition B - 1/8 cent tax for workforce development** As the 1/8 cent sales tax for aquifer protection is expected to meet its maximum next year, voters will decide if that money will be diverted to fund a workforce training and education program.

in the spring or summer when it reaches the \$180 million limit voters approved.

The city wants to use the tax through Dec. 31, 2025, to help about 40,000 people obtain scholarships and better-paying jobs through the Ready to Work SA program. It's an effort to help locals break out of poverty — an issue punctuated by the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic.

separate voter approval. Ready to Work SA would distribute two- to four-year scholarships for up to 10,000 people a year and help place residents into careers, but it

It's considered an extension of the \$75 million for workforce development approved by City

Council in June in an overall \$191 million "Recovery and Resiliency" plan.

The tax, soon to be freed up for other uses, would bring in about \$36-\$40 million a year.

Citing high unemployment rates brought on by the pandemic, Mayor Ron Nirenberg said "we need action now" with helping residents in

vote no. About 38% stated definitely yes, while 19% said definitely no.

use tax resulting in no net tax increase.

Definitely yes

The Bexar Facts-KSAT-San Antonio Report Poll revealed 64% of voters surveyed said they would vote yes for the initiative, and 25% would

REALLOCATION OF AN EXISTING SALES AND USE TAX RESULTING IN NO NET TAX INCREASE. For the purpose of financing authorized programs related to job training and the awarding of scholarships of the San Antonio Early Childhood Education Municipal Development Corporation, an increase of 1/8 of 1% of sales and use tax not to extend beyond December 31, 2025 and commencing upon the full collection of the sales and use tax previously

Probably yes Yes 24% Republicans 64% Undecided, lean yes 2% 18-49 65% 50-64 65+ Undecided, lean no Total Probably no No Whites 25% Definitely no 19% Latinos All Voters of Color 70% Undecided Men Women Q10. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this initiative? Asked Only of Those Planning on Voting; Asked in City of San Antonio Only For Proposition B, the workforce development initiative, 64% said they would support the ballot measure while 25% said they oppose, according to Bexar Facts-KSAT-San Antonio Report poll released Sept. 2020. (Bexar Facts) The results skewed when canvassers asked participants how their views would change if the City Council was working to ensure that the About 47% of voters said they would vote yes for Proposition B, and 35% said they would vote against it. On Sept. 17, the city **passed a \$100 million plan** to fund the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program after the sales tax funding caps out next year. **Advanced Transportation District - Special Election** In a separate, but related, proposal to Proposition B, residents will be asked if the 1/8 cent tax for Ready to Work SA can be diverted to transportation after its funding expires at the end of 2025. Starting Jan. 1, 2026, the money would be used for the Advanced Transportation District, in

Over six-in-ten favor re-allocating sales tax funds for

job training and local economic stimulus.

READY TO WORK SA WORKFORCE PROGRAM FOR JOB TRAINING AND SCHOLARSHIPS, A

authorized by the voters for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project and the Parks

Development and Expansion Venue Project. This is a re-allocation of an existing sales and

Total

38%

Democrats

Independents

■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided

17

The item on the ballot states the proceeds would be used for "advanced public transportation services, operations, passenger amenities, equipment and other innovative, advanced public transportation purposes or public transportation mobility enhancement purposes."

systems. It would increase ATD's share of sales tax to 3/8 cents.

The majority of the funding, 45%, if approved, would go to expanding mobility options, according to a presentation from VIA staff.

Because funding from the tax would be handed off from the city to VIA, there would not be an increase in taxes.

Over half would also vote in favor of a one-eighth cent sales tax on improving local transportation in San Antonio. ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT - PROPOSITION A. Previously Created with Voter Approval by

> innovative, advanced public transportation purposes or public transportation mobility enhancement purposes. The District's local sales and use tax will increase by a rate of 1/8 of 1% (1/8 of 1¢) to a rate of 3/8 of 1% (3/8 of 1¢), with such increase to begin on January 1, 2026. This is a reallocation of an existing sales and use tax resulting in no net tax increase. The increase by 1/8 of 1% (1/8 of 1¢) of the local sales and use tax tare to 3/8 of 1% (3/8 of 1¢) to begin on January 1, 2026. ■ Total Yes ■ Total No ■ Undecided Democrats 74% Definitely yes 35% Total Independents Probably yes Yes 19% Republicans 39% 59% Undecided, lean yes 18-49 Undecided, lean no Probably no Whites All Voters of Color Q9. Do you think you would vote yes or no on this initiative? Asked Only of Those Planning on Voting; Asked in City of San Antonio Only

VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority. To provide enhanced public transportation and public transportation

mobility options, the Advanced Transportation District (known as the "District") will utilize a 1/8 of 1% (1/8 of 1¢) sales and use tax. The 1/8 of 1% (1/8 of 1¢) sales and use tax proceeds shall be used for

advanced public transportation services, operations, passenger amenities, equipment and other

For the special election measure to increase future transportation funding, 59% said they'd support, while 30% said they would oppose, according to Bexar Facts-KSAT-San Antonio Report poll released Sept. 2020. (Bexar

KSAT will publish more results from the poll — from approval ratings to the biggest issues facing San Antonio and evolving public opinion on

the coronavirus pandemic and policing — in the coming days in our **Bexar Facts section**.

can also take the survey for yourself (those results will be recorded but not reflected in the scientific results.)

Stay up to date with the latest election news and resources on our **Vote 2020 page**.

**SAN ANTONIO** – In a lengthy November ballot, San Antonio voters will be tasked to decide the outcomes of two 1/8 cent sales tax propositions.

and online

ballot. Pre-K 4 SA provides free or reduced-priced, full-day prekindergarten education and professional development for educators at its four centers,

12 News in February, a month before the **Keep Pre-K 4 SA campaign launched**.

About 66% of the poll respondents said they support extending the tax — 46% of those saying definitely yes. About 25% of those surveyed said they oppose the proposition. against.

The tax currently funds the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program and the development of Linear Creekway Parks, but it is expected to expire

On Jan. 1, 2026, the funds would then be used for transportation, but both initiatives need would not include stipends.

poverty.

city's general budget funded aquifer protection.

which **VIA Metropolitan would receive half the money** and fund improvements in its

VIA President and CEO Jeffrey Arndt previously told KSAT 12 News that it would increase bus service and options, as well as kick-off plans for an "Advanced Rapid Transit" system.

Voters polled by Bexar Facts leaned toward yes in this initiative — 59% said they would vote yes for the measure, and 30% voted against. This question was asked to voters in the City of San Antonio only.

See the full poll and find more information about it on the Bexar Facts website. There, you

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