

PARIS JUNIOR COLLEGE

FAQs

How is Paris Junior College funded?

- State reimbursement for student contact hours, currently funded at 29% of the cost of instruction
- Tuition and fees paid by students
- Property taxes (ad valorem taxes paid by property owners within the City of Paris and the old Cunningham ISD)

What are Paris Junior college's current in-district property taxes?

PJC district property owners pay taxes in support of comprehensive programs and services and supports the operation and maintenance of the Paris campus. The total tax rate is .1773 per \$100 assessed property value. The average Texas community college tax rate is \$0.17546 per \$100 assessed property value.

What are the current tuition rates for in-district (those paying taxes) and out-of-district students (those living outside the City of Paris and old Cunningham ISD)?

In 2016-2017, students residing within the taxing district pay \$55 per semester credit hour and students residing outside the taxing district pay \$100 per semester credit hour.

What would the tax rate be if the entire service area votes to join the community college district?

The tax rate in the Fall 2017 would be \$.085 per \$100 assessed property value. This means someone with a \$100,000 house would pay \$85 per year in taxes and a \$50,000 house would pay \$42.5 per year in taxes.

When will the new tax rate go into effect?

Property owners in the newly annexed territory will begin paying property taxes in Fall 2017 following the decision.

When the service area is annexed, what happens next?

After the voters approve the annexation, several actions must be completed in order for the territory to officially become a part of the district.

- Election results will be canvassed and the results "certified" via an order that the annexation issue is approved by the voters. This must occur no less than 8 days and nor more than 11 days after Election Day.
- The Board of Regents passes a resolution amending its boundaries.
- The Board of Regents changes tuition rates for the new in-district residents for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- The Board of Regents will begin implementation of the redistricting plan related to Board representation.

Once the election has been certified by the county, the new territory is considered part of the community college district, and students in the new territory can pay the lower in-district tuition effective in 2017-2018 academic year.

Property owners in the newly annexed territory will begin paying property taxes to the College in Fall 2017 following the election.

When the service area is annexed, who will represent the newly annexed territory? How will the Board of Regents be selected?

There are nine elected Regents on the current Board of Regents with seven from single member districts and two at-large positions. There would be a redistricting into single member districts based on the population of the areas within the taxing district. The Board would begin restructuring after the successful election. Elections would be held in each position in May of even numbered years over a six year period for a complete restructuring of the Board of Regents.

Will the college name remain?

There are two options for naming. The first would be to maintain the Paris Junior College District and allow each of the three campuses (Paris, Greenville and Sulphur Springs) to have naming rights. A second option would be to rename the Paris Junior College District and have a new district and the college name would be used at each college campus.

How will annexation impact senior citizens?

An educated population is important for all citizens – ensuring a vibrant economy and a safer community and assured continuation of a highly qualified workforce that benefit all citizens, especially our senior population. This workforce includes nurses, EMT/paramedics, health care providers, HVAC technicians, electricians, plumbers, hair dressers, and computer technicians, among many others.

Enhancing college programs in the community will make higher education more convenient and affordable, potentially increasing the neighborhood's appeal and stabilizing or increasing property values. The Board of Regents of the College provides a \$10,000 property tax exemption to homeowners 65 and over to help offset the possibility of property tax increases among those living on fixed incomes. With annexation, the college will enact a property tax freeze for those 65 and older.

The College will continue to make non-credit courses convenient and affordable to seniors, encouraging them to pursue lifelong learning while providing access to such programs. Current research shows that staying mentally active extends life expectancy and improves the quality of life.

What are the implications of successful annexation on the future of Paris Junior College?

- Secure long-term future of the College (move from 5th smallest tax base to 20th largest tax base out of the 50 community colleges)
- Expand offerings on the Greenville and Sulphur Springs campuses
- Generate revenue to support the operation of facilities in Greenville and Sulphur Springs
- Dual credit tuition reduction from out-of-district rates to in-district rates
- Expanded workforce programs offered on all campuses and as dual credit career and technical education for high school students
- Meet tax base requirement to offer Bachelors of Applied Technology

What are the implications of an unsuccessful annexation on the future of Paris Junior College?

Paris Junior College is committed to presenting fact-based information relevant to the annexation process. The certainty of the future of the college in the wake of an unsuccessful annexation

election is impossible to state. However, the following factual information is relevant to the future of the College if the annexation proposition does not pass:

- The existing revenue structure will not sustain the college over the long-term. State funding per full-time equivalent student has declined with the anticipation that more of the financial burden is passed on locally
- Without a tax base, this means increased tuition and fees to students that cannot bear the cost
- Without a tax base, there will be a reduction of services
- Possible closure by the Texas Legislature if they choose to close a number of community colleges

What has PJC done to be fiscally responsible?

- Board of Regents have established a policy to maintain six months of operating expenses in reserve
- Benchmarked expenditures with peer institutions and data shows operating efficiency
- Meets community college financial stability indicators set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Who can vote on the Paris Junior College annexation proposition?

All registered voters living in the following school districts who do not live in the current Paris Junior College taxing district may vote in the November, 2016 election: Bland, Boles, Caddo Mills, Campbell, Celeste, Chisum, Clarksville, Commerce, Cooper, Cumby, Detroit, Fannindel, Greenville, Honey Grove, Lone Oak, Miller Grove, North Hopkins, North Lamar, Prairiland, Quinlan-Ford, Rivercrest, Roxton, Sulphur Bluff, Sulphur Springs, and Wolfe City.

Will the vote be an all or none?

The vote will be a county by county vote. One or all of the counties included in the annexation election can vote to come into the taxing district.