County Clerk #21 CN

BURNET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
September 8, 2026
Public Comments on Agenda Item #21

Commissioners:

I'm Claire Nybro, I would like to speak on the budget and the tax rate.

The county's own budget notice says this budget will raise more total property taxes than last year by **$3,795,515 — 8.07 percent**. Of that, about **$1.2 million** is new property. The rest is a bigger bill for people already on the roll. On a typical homestead, the county piece goes up about **sixty dollars**, and that is only the county line. People pay a bill, not a rate.

A typical household in this county makes a little under **$79,000**. Many of those families did not get a raise and do not have a **$ 250-deductible** health plan. County employees do – plus TCDRS retirement. I am not asking you to starve the jail or the roads. I am saying a **4 percent COLA** on top of that package does not come back off. Salaries do not go down. More than a third of this tax increase is pay. That is the part that never reverses.

The published salary notice lists raises for elected officials, including the five of you. Leave the judge and the commissioners out of the COLA. The judge and the commissioners should not be voting themselves a raise the same morning they raise the levy by 8 percent.

In addition, this Court has not earned that raise. You sat on the bungled March primary and the Oakley demand letters instead of putting that in front of the public when it happened & where it belonged. If you want trust on an 8 percent tax increase, stop hiding the messy parts.

Tell us what the 4 percent actually costs. Adopt the no-new-revenue rate. You still get the $1.2 million from new property. Do not pile an 8 percent levy on top of that.

A raise is not a one-year fix. It becomes next year's base, and it follows people into retirement. If the 4 percent does not fit without raising taxes, cut spending or leave yourselves out of the COLA. Do not make homeowners cover a raise that stays on the books.

Thank you.