



To: Faculty and Staff

From: Steve Kinslow

Date: May 5, 2005

Subject: MAY 7 ALL-OF-AUSTIN ANNEXATION ELECTION

This Saturday, May 7, is your final opportunity to vote on the ACC Board of Trustees' proposal to annex portions of the City of Austin not already within the ACC taxing district. This entails those portions of the Eanes, Pflugerville, and Round Rock ISDs that are within the city limits of Austin – not the entire ISDs. Voting locations will be open Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For information on voting locations, you may go to: http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election/20050507/polls.asp

The following information is provided to ensure you have all the facts about the election:

- Current taxpayers may vote, as well as those in the areas within the City of Austin which are proposed for annexation and whose property owners would subsequently also be taxed in support of ACC.
- If voters approve the annexation, it will not increase the tax of current ACC taxpayers – those who reside within Austin, Del Valle, Leander, and Manor ISDs.
- If voters approve the annexation, those in the areas affected will be eligible immediately for in-district tuition – less than half the out-of-district tuition rate.
- State law established more than 20 years ago allows this type of annexation election.

Additional information also is available on the ACC web site at www.austincc.edu/future.

The following FAQ is provided to help you answer any questions about the election and its impact.

Frequently Asked Questions ACC All-of-Austin Annexation Election

What is this election about?

The ACC item on the May 7 ballot asks voters to decide on a proposal for ACC to annex into the College's taxing district portions of Round Rock, Eanes, and Pflugerville ISDs that are located within the City of Austin. If approved, they would join other residents in the City of Austin who are already part of the ACC taxing district.

To view a sample ballot, go to: http://www.austincc.edu/future/news_40705-2.php

By what authority can ACC call this election, and who pays for it?

Texas Election Code Section 130.071 provides the authority for a community college district already located within part of a city to expand its district to that city's limits, by a majority vote of **all qualified voters in the district as proposed**.

Does this election affect current ACC taxpayers?

No – there will not be an increase in ACC taxes for property owners in the Austin, Leander, Dell Valle and Manor ISDs who currently support ACC with their property taxes; however, these residents are allowed to vote to extend the tax to the portions of the City of Austin not currently in the ACC taxing district.

Who can vote in the election?

Registered voters in the ACC taxing district and in the areas proposed for annexation are eligible to vote. The current ACC taxing district includes the Austin, Leander, Manor, and Del Valle ISDs.

How would approval of this initiative affect residents in the areas to be annexed?

Tax impact

- If the measure passes, property owners in the affected areas will become part of the ACC taxing district and will begin paying a property tax to support ACC in 2006. The ACC property tax is 9 cents per \$100 property valuation, plus an additional 1 cent approved by voters in 2003 to retire general obligation bonds. So the total for taxpayers is 10 cents per \$100 valuation.
- ACC offers residential taxpayers a \$5,000 homestead exemption. Senior homeowners receive an additional \$75,000 exemption.
- ACC property taxes are capped at 9 cents and can be increased only with voter approval.

Tuition Impact

- Residents of the annexed areas would also be **eligible immediately beginning with the Summer 2005 semester to pay in-district ACC tuition**. Currently these residents are required to pay out-of-district tuition, which is about twice the cost of in-district.

How would approval of this initiative affect Austin Community College?

- The annexation of these areas would increase ACC's net revenue by about \$6.46 million annually.
- The additional revenue would be available to the district to expand programs, sustain instructional and technological competitiveness, maintain and upgrade facilities, and retire bonds.
- ACC enrolls about 29,000 students per semester and expects to enroll an additional 10,000 in the next decade.

How can I get more information?

Call ACC's Public Information & Media Relations Office, (512) 223-7596 or (512) 223-7611 or e-mail dcox2@austincc.edu or vobregon@austincc.edu.