

Proposition A: Fact Sheet



What is Proposition A?

In the November 2, 2021 City of Austin Special Election, people can vote on ballot Proposition A:

“Shall a petitioned ordinance be approved to enhance public safety and police oversight, transparency and accountability by adding new chapter 2-16 to establish minimum standards for the police department to ensure effective public safety and protect residents and visitors to Austin, and prescribing minimal requirements for achieving the same, at an estimated cost of \$271.5 million - \$598.8 million over five years?”

What happens if Proposition A passes?

Proposition A would amend Title 2 of the Austin City Code and require that:

- Austin always employs at least two sworn police officers for every 1,000 Austin residents
- Police officers spend at least 35% of their time in community engagement
- The City holds enough full-term police cadet classes until the department returns to the numbers of police officers prescribed in the 2019-2020 city budget
- All sworn police officers spend an additional 40 hours each year in mandatory continuing education and in-service training (above the hours required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement), with an emphasis on training outside a classroom setting intended to equip the officers to handle evolving, fluid, dangerous situations and enhance their own safety and that of the public
- Increase pay or paid time off for police officers who speak one of the five most common non-English languages spoken in the city or who participate in a mentoring program for new police cadets; officers would also be eligible for added pay or paid time off every five years if they are in good standing

What is the cost of Proposition A?

Over the next five years, the estimated cost of Proposition A would be \$271.5 million - \$598.8 million. How much it would cost depends on how much Austin's population grows and how the community engagement requirement is met.

Scenario 1: \$271.5 million

If Austin's population grows by 1% each year and wages grow by 1% per year.

 **+12** More training personnel
+316 More officers in the first year
+403 More officers total over 5 years

 **+1** Buy or lease new training facility
+1 Construct new police substation to hold additional officers

 Buy vehicles and equipment for additional officers

Increase language stipend **+\$50/month**
Add Mentorship stipend **+\$175/month**
Add one-time honorable conduct stipend **+\$500**

Scenario 2: \$598.8 million

If Austin's population grows by 2% each year and wages grow by 2% per year.

 **+12** More training personnel
+680 More officers in the first year
+885 More officers total over 5 years

 **+1** Buy or lease new training facility
+3 Construct new police substations to hold additional officers

 Buy vehicles and equipment for additional officers

Increase language stipend **+\$175/month**
Add Mentorship stipend **+\$350/month**
Add one-time honorable conduct stipend **+\$1000**

How can I vote?

Election date: November 2, 2021

Where to vote and Early Voting dates:

- Travis County: Votetravis.com
- Williamson County: <https://www.wilco.org/Departments/Elections>
- Hays County: <https://hayscountytexas.com/departments/elections/current-year-elections/>