

Office of Councilman John Courage, District 9

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We crossed the goal line. At Thursday's City Council meeting the Council approved the City of San Antonio FY2021 Budget.

The new budget is \$2.9 Billion, and the General Fund portion is \$1.28B which provides the vast majority of all City services. This year

has been a very trying year for everyone and for your City Government. The actual loss of nearly \$200 Million dollars of revenue and the continuing outlook for economic difficulties going forward challenged the City Staff and the City Council to find ways for continuing to provide the services and improvements the citizens of San Antonio and District 9 deserve and expect. Every year we spend countless hours seeking citizen input, reviewing, critiquing, and trying to perfect a balanced budget. I am pleased to say we have accomplished that goal.

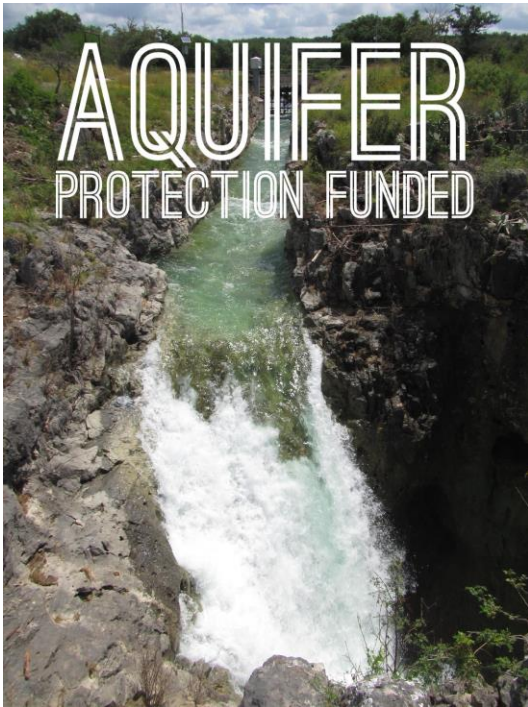
We balanced the budget while not raising our property tax rates. We will provide the same level of service and support whether it's for streets, parks, libraries, health, or public safety, (there is no defunding of our police department.)

Besides passing a balanced budget Thursday we approved a \$100 Million dollar program to continue to protect the Edwards Aquifer from over development and contamination.

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Sacrificing neighborhood safety was never an option for us. I served as an Air Force Police Officer and respect the job our men and women in blue do every day. I'm grateful the majority of my Council colleagues felt the same way. There is a major divide in our country today and we must hear each other's calls for help. I recognize that there are issues we have to address but **defunding our police will never be the answer.**

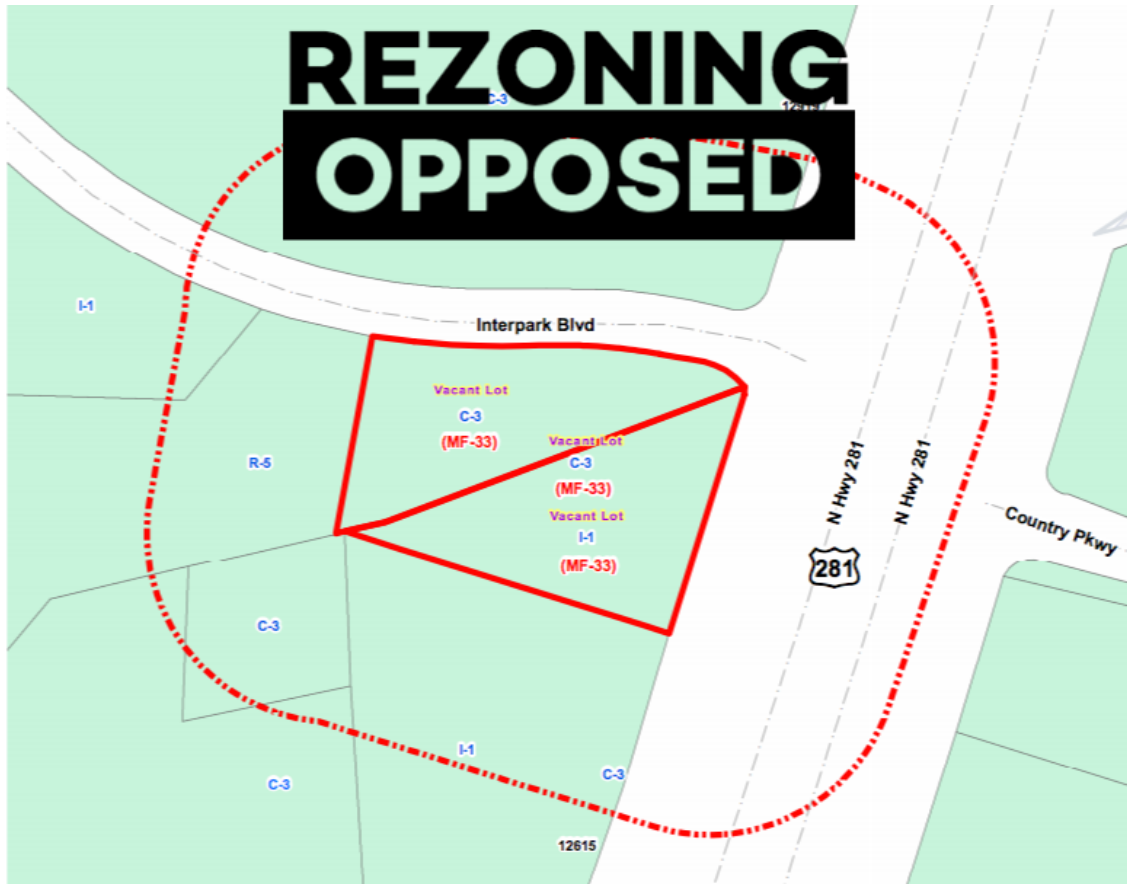




**Ensuring the Edward's Aquifer is protected has been critical since day 1 of my term.** Despite the immediate need to support our community with the Coronavirus pandemic, we have committed to long-term Aquifer protection. We could not have foreseen the budget shortfall that COVID would bring but we persevered. I feel very confident that this is a solid plan that will continue to protect the Aquifer today and for years to come.

**Download a Summary on the Edward's Aquifer Protection Plan**

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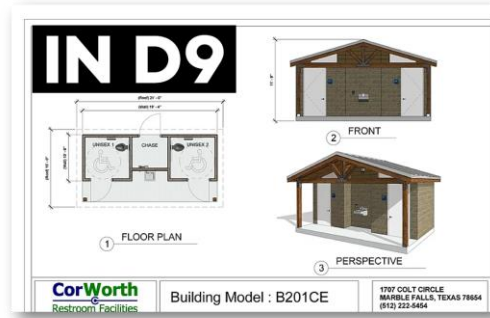
I want to thank the many residents and organizations that reached out to me and voiced your stance. While we understood the affordability merits of this project, we primarily focused on the land use aspect and how that would have impacted the surrounding area. This is what was most concerning to me. The site is less than two acres which will result in a relatively small multi-family project and will provide very few options for amenities including green space. If this project did not secure a favorable zoning vote yesterday, another 9% tax credit deal would move up in the ranking. One project, located in Councilman Perry's District, would probably move up in the process. Practically speaking, by voting against this project, we would be supporting more affordable housing,

providing 500% more affordable units, within a neighborhood that is supportive and a site that is more appropriate for a multi-family project. Unfortunately, a majority of the Council did not see our rationale and the project was ultimately approved. Regardless, **I will continue to vote for our community in District 9. We move onward.**

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**Among all we secured for D9, we wanted to highlight these enhancements:**

- **A new roof and AC for Brookhollow Library**
- **Funding for restrooms at Walker Ranch Park, and Blossom Park**
- **A new playground at Encino Library**
- **Design funding for Sonterra to 1604 Extension**
- **Obtained \$10,000 dollars worth of school supplies for students at Harmony Hills, Larkspur, and Eisenhower schools**



**Tuesday, November 3 - General Election**

**OCTOBER 5** Last day to register to vote

**OCTOBER 12** Last day to turn in Application for Ballot by Mail **in person** at Elections Office (see below for mailed applications)

**OCTOBER 13-30** Early Voting

**OCTOBER 23** Last day for Elections Office to receive **mailed** Application for Ballot by Mail (earlier is better)

**ANY TIME- NOVEMBER 3** Voters can turn in the completed Ballot by Mail **in person** at the Elections office as soon as they complete it, through 7 p.m. on Election Day, during business/polling hours. Acceptable ID must be shown

**NOVEMBER 3** Last day (7 p.m.) for Elections Office to receive a ballot by mail if NOT postmarked

**NOVEMBER 4** Last day (5 p.m.) for Elections Office to receive a ballot by mail if postmarked by 5 p.m. November 3 at San Antonio post office (except for certain military and overseas voters)

**Bexar County Elections | 1103 S. Frio Street, Ste 100 | San Antonio**

**78207**

**210-335-8683**



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