

...Dove season

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“This spring was about as perfect as it could be, with steady rains and cool weather,” said Owen Fitzsimmons, TPWD Dove Program Leader. “Given the population increases this year and the excellent breeding season conditions that persisted through the first half of the summer, hunters should expect to see a lot more birds on the landscape this September.”

As daily temperatures top 100 degrees with no relief in sight, hunters will likely find larger concentrations of birds at watering holes, and doves may be feeding earlier and later than normal to avoid the mid-day heat. In areas where agriculture has suffered from the heatwave, look for stands of common sunflower, croton and other native annual forbs and grasses.

Texas is home to seven species of native doves and pigeons, including the three legal game species- mourning, white-winged and white-tipped doves. Texas accounts for 30 percent of the total mourning doves and 85 percent of the total white-winged doves harvested in the U.S. each year, far more than any other state.

TPWD officials remind hunters to prepare for the extreme heat and make sure they are packing all the essentials for a day in the field. They should bring plenty of water to stay hydrated and take measures to stay cool in a shaded area. The same is true for canine hunting partners.

“If this extreme heat persists, think twice about bringing your dog out in the early season,” Fitzsimmons said. “Temperatures this high can be dangerous for dogs, particularly when they’re excited and running hard after birds. If you do bring them, try to limit the hunts to early mornings or late evenings.”

The regular dove seasons:

North Zone: Sept. 1-Nov. 12, resuming Dec. 15-Dec. 31, 2023

Central Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 29, resuming Dec. 15, 2023-Jan. 14, 2024

South Zone: Sept. 14-Oct. 29, resuming Dec. 15, 2023 -Jan. 21, 2024

For the third straight year, there will be six Special White-Winged Dove Days, Sept. 1-3 and 8-10.

The aggregated bag limit in South Zone’s regular season is 15 with no more than two white-tipped doves. During the Special White-winged Dove Days in the South Zone, hunting is allowed only from noon to sunset and the daily bag limit is 15 birds, to include not more than two mourning doves and two white-tipped doves.

All updated hunting regulations for this year’s hunting season can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app or online at OutdoorAnnual.com.

In addition to a hunting license, anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education training course to hunt legally in Texas. The TPWD Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. Hunters can find more information or print a replacement at no cost online.

A Migratory Game Bird Endorsement (Stamp) and

Harvest Information Program required to hunt dove. HIP survey of previous year’s and is conducted at the time (HIP) certification are also certification involves a brief migratory bird hunting success licenses are purchased.

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.290458 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.290458 per \$100
NO-NEW REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.280306 per \$100
VOTER APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.290460 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A second public hearing on the proposed tax rate will be held on August 28, 2023, at 5 PM at 900 South State Street, Bronte Health and Rehab Center, Bronte, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

The members of the governing body voted on the proposed tax increase as follows:

FOR: Michael Bohensky, Everett Bedford, Jerita Taylor, Gina McCutchen, Kevin Tinney

AGAINST the proposal: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.293609	\$0.290458	decrease of -0.003151, or -1.07%
Average homestead taxable value	\$83,652	\$83,964	increase of 312, or 0.37%
Tax on average homestead	\$245.61	\$243.88	decrease of -1.73, or -0.70%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$617,144	\$686,562	increase of \$69,418, or 11.25%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT or visit www.brontehealthcenter.net for more information.