

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

The Deadline to Complete your 2020 Census Form is September 30, 2020

The City of DeSoto continues to encourage residents to complete their 2020 Census forms to ensure that an accurate resident count is conducted. Recent data shows that DeSoto has a response rate of 71.8%, which is higher than the State average of 61.0% and the nationwide rate of 65.5%, but we would like to see a 100% completion rate.

HOW DOES THE CENSUS IMPACT ME AND MY COMMUNITY?

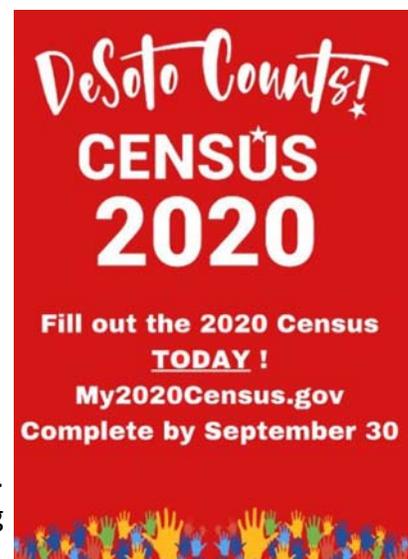
It's about DeSoto getting its share of \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. Census data determines how these funds are spent, supporting your state, county and community.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which creates jobs. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats Texas receives. After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries (redistricting) of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

YOUR DATA IS CONFIDENTIAL

Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits. The data is protected for 72 years.

DeSoto's allotment of money for federal programs and its government representation are dependent on the count of its residents. So as the deadline of September 30th approaches, we ask that if you haven't completed your census form to please do so. It can be accomplished by completing the paper form and returning it in the mail or by going online to [My2020Census.gov](https://www.My2020Census.gov).



City Calendar

September

1 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm
3 Library Board Meeting 7 pm
7 City Facilities Closed - Labor Day
12 Virtual Latin Concert
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm
19 Document Shredding Event - Service Ctr.
19 Virtual Latin Concert 7pm
21 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 7 pm
25 O.T. & Funk Connection - virtual concert
28 DEDC Board Mtg. - virtual 9 am
29 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm

October

5 Arts Commission virtual - 6 pm
5 Park Board Meeting - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
6 City Council Mtg. - City Hall 6 pm
8 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
13 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall -7 pm
20 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 6 pm
23 Domestic Violence Awareness Concert
26 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
27 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - Civic Ctr. -7 pm

A Message from DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee:

DeSoto's monthly in-person Benefit Forums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. But we will continue providing information to our Veterans **VIRTUALLY** so please watch for our Virtual Veterans Benefit Forums on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 am on the City of DeSoto Facebook Page @desototx, on the city's website at www.desototexas.gov and on Government Channel 16 for Spectrum Cable subscribers and 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. We also have access to knowledgeable professionals and would be happy to assist you in connecting with them for assistance. Just give us a call at 972.230.9648 and we will do our best to connect you to someone who can help.

Important Information Regarding the Upcoming General Municipal Election

On November 3, 2020, the City of DeSoto will hold a General Election to elect a City Councilmember for Place 2 and a City Councilmember for Place 4. The candidates are as follows:

Candidates for Councilmember Place 2

Jean Green-Frazier
Kay Brown-Patrick

Candidate for Councilmember Place 4

Andre Byrd, Sr.

In addition to the General Election, the City will hold a Special Election to consider the following Propositions:

Proposition A: The authorization for the abolition of the sales and use tax within the City of DeSoto for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises pursuant to Section 504.251, Texas Local Government Code, as amended currently at the rate of 0.375 percent; and the adoption, in the place of such abolished tax, of local sales and use tax in the City of DeSoto at a rate of 0.375 percent to be used for the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprises and all other public purposes pursuant to Section 505.251, Texas Local Government Code; all of which would result in no net increase in the sales and use tax collected by the City of DeSoto.

Additional information: *A 0.375% local sales tax is currently collected in DeSoto to fund economic development programs that support primary job creation, known as a Type A sales tax. The City of DeSoto is asking voters to expand the list of economic development programs that can be funded with this local Type B sales tax to include primary job creation as well as projects considered to be community development initiatives such as land, buildings, equipment, facilities, expenditures, and improvements for professional and amateur sports facilities, park facilities and events, entertainment and tourist facilities as authorized by the Texas Local Government Code. The expanded use sales tax is known as a Type B sales tax.*

Proposition B: Shall Article II: Section 1 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the Mayor receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,250.00 monthly and Council Members receiving compensation in the amount of \$1,000 monthly for their duties effective January 1, 2021 and further requiring the Council to adopt in the Council Rules and Procedures a minimum attendance policy for such compensation.

Additional information: *Annual financial impact is as follows:*

Mayor	\$20,000.00
City Council	\$90,000.00
Total Wages:	\$110,000.00
Employer Share SS/MEDI	\$4,975.00
Workers Comp	\$254.00
Total Cost:	\$115,229.00

Continued on Page 3

General Municipal Election Information (contd.)

Continued from Page 2

Proposition C: Shall Article II; Section 7 of the City Charter be amended to provide for the selection of the Mayor Pro Tem from among six (6) Councilmembers shall occur at the first regular meeting following either the general city election or run-off election if such occurs.

Early Voting by personal appearance will begin on October 13, 2020 through October 30, 2020 and be conducted at Disciple Central Community Church (DC3) located at 901 North Polk Street, Suite 101, DeSoto, Texas 75115.

On Election Day (November 3, 2020), the following Vote Center locations are available in DeSoto (visit www.dallascountyvotes.org for all other Dallas County locations):

Faith Bible Church – 1437 W. Pleasant Run Road (Gym)
Ruby Young Elementary – 707 Young Blvd. (Gym)
DC3 – 901 N. Polk Street, Suite 101 (Classroom 104)
The Meadows Elementary – 1016 The Meadows Parkway (Gym)
Cockrell Hill Elementary – 425 S. Cockrell Hill Road (Gym)
DeSoto High School – 600 Eagle Drive (Gym)
Belt Line Conference Center – 200 E. Belt Line Road (Conference Room)

The deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the November 3, 2020 election is October 5, 2020. Voter registration applications can be obtained at the Action Center in City Hall, the Library and the Recreation Center. You can also complete the application online by visiting the Secretary of State's website at: <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp>. For more information regarding the upcoming municipal election, please call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.



After seeing an uptick of trash and litter around the City and in her neighborhood, Elma Goodwin brought forward the idea of creating a volunteer group to help with trash pickup. Her neighbors agreed and the SCE (Silver Creek Estates) Trash Avengers were born. This group has more than 20 volunteers who have committed to pick up trash in their neighborhood and they challenge other local HOAs and neighborhood groups to do the same.

Town Hall Meetings

The City of DeSoto will host two virtual Town Hall Meetings to provide information and answer questions regarding Propositions A, B, and C, on the ballot for the November 3rd Municipal General Election. (See Proposition descriptions on page 2 and 3.)

The first virtual meeting will take place on:

- Tuesday, September 29 from 6 to 7 pm

The second virtual meeting will take place on:

- Thursday, October 8 from 6 to 7pm

The public is invited to view these meetings to receive information on what each Proposition covers and what they mean for DeSoto voters.

The meetings will be broadcast live on the City's Cable Channel 16 for Spectrum Subscribers and 99 for AT&T U-verse Subscribers. It will also be available for viewing on the City's Facebook Live page @desototx and the City's website. Look for a link to join the Zoom meeting on the homepage of the City's website at www.desototexas.gov.

If you have any questions, please call the City Secretary's office at 972.230.9646.

Document Shredding Event Scheduled for Saturday, September 19th is Cancelled



We are sorry to report that the Document Shredding Event rescheduled to September 19th was canceled on September 1st due to concerns about the health and safety of our workers and volunteers who were scheduled to operate the event. While we have made substantial progress in the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 within our community, it's continued presence and the amount of close contact that this event would produce made the decision to cancel this event necessary. We will make every effort to reschedule this event for Spring 2021.

TWO VIRTUAL CONCERTS FOR THE CITY OF DESOTO

4TH ANNUAL
Latino Heritage
VIRTUAL CONCERT
WITH: HAVANA NRG BAND
SEP 19 | 7PM
LIVE ON @DESOTOREC

DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION PRESENTS:
FOURTH FRIDAY MUSIC SERIES
LIVESTREAM
DESOTO ARTS COMMISSION
FOURTH FRIDAY

9.25
8:00 PM
O.J. +
THE FUNK CONNECTION
FT. KENYA C
 artsdesoto.com