

September 13, 2023

A “Notice of Public Hearing” on tax increase is advertised for Bandera County, and the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District proposes to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

The hearings take place at two separate locations, on the same date, at the same time. Why would any government body and public servants choose to do this on such an issue as raising taxes?

Does this illustrate accountability to the people they serve? Does it provide citizens access to information maintained by these government bodies, so that citizens can obtain a more complete understanding of both tax increase proposals? Will citizens be able to attend both hearings to obtain and/or provide information to both government bodies on the proposed tax increase?

Furthermore, why would any hearing for the public be held at 10 a.m., when the public cannot attend because they are at work? I leave any reaction to these questions to you, but I will venture a couple opinions: the timing serves the public servants’ needs, and minimizes distractions to our public servants from the public’s participation.

R. Rodriguez