

# Paris Junior College

- **BALLOT MEASURE**
  - There is an annexation measure on the **November 8 general election** ballot that is **crucial for the future of Paris Junior College** and of **critical importance to our region**.
- **WHAT PJC MEANS**
  - PJC **educates 5,000 credit and 1,800 non-credit students every year** on our three campuses.
  - PJC drives job creation in our region of Texas
  - PJC produces an **economic impact of \$141.7 million annually**.
  - PJC maintains an educated work force crucial for the region's economic development and job growth.
- **THE THREAT TO PJC**
  - PJC does not currently have a sustainable funding model.
  - In 1990, state funding for PJC was 75 percent of our budget; by 2015 it was just 40 percent.
  - Budget constraints at the state level could cause community colleges to close.
    - For the last two sessions, the legislature has looked to community colleges to get more funding locally, which means increased tuition and fees and taxes.
    - Interim hearings have been held by House Committees this year, to discuss the sustainability of community colleges.
    - In 2011, the state considered closing **four community colleges** in Texas, of the 50 that operate across our state.
    - According to tax base, PJC is the **fourth smallest** community college in the state, even though by enrollment we are larger than 18 Texas community colleges.
  - Without annexation, PJC would be ripe for closure, consolidation or purchase from an urban community college which would control our campuses and our curriculum.
- **WHAT WE'VE DONE**
  - PJC has been fiscally responsible and is operationally efficient.
  - We spend less per full-time equivalent student than our peer institutions in the following categories: Instruction, Public Service, Academic Support, and Institutional Support.
  - To date we have been able to maintain six months of operating funds.
  - I cannot guarantee that we can continue this practice.
- **CURRENT TAX BASE VS. SERVICE AREA**
  - We currently service six counties across 3,848 square miles, but only 2% of that area's residents pay taxes to support PJC.
  - Our current taxing district covers only 79 square miles in Lamar County alone.
- **WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT**
  - The **annexation ballot measure on November 8** would expand our current taxing district to the entire area that we serve. The tax rate will be \$0.085/\$100 valuation.
  - It would increase property taxes for the average resident by about \$7 per month
- **WHAT PASSAGE WOULD MEAN**
  - If the taxing district measure passes, it would:
    - Secure PJC's economic future
    - Ensure access to quality, affordable and accessible education
    - Allow access to lower in-district tuition
    - Expand workforce programs
    - Offer continuing education
    - Maintain local control
    - Put PJC safely in the top tier of community colleges in Texas and prevent the threat of closure.
- **CONCLUSION**
  - With a larger and more stable tax base, PJC will be able to **control its own future** and **continue to offer an excellent education at a good value** for our students.