

**MINUTES of the Board Workshop**  
**of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of VICTORIA COLLEGE**  
**August 4, 2025**

V. Bland Proctor, <i>Chair</i>	Luis A. Guerra, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	John Zacek, <i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Daniel Cano	Catherine McHaney	Dr. Estella De Los Santos	Ron Walker
√	√	√	√ (334pm)	√	√ (339pm)	√

**Also in attendance:** VC Staff: Dr. Jennifer Kent, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Keith Blundell, Matt Wiley, Cindy Buchholz and Darin Kazmir.

The Victoria College Board of Trustees met for a board workshop on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 3:30 PM in Corporate Training Room 101 in the Academic Building of Victoria College located at 2200 E. Red River, Victoria, TX. Mr. Bland Proctor, Chair, presided over the meeting.

**A. Call to Order:**

**1. Quorum Call:**

Mr. Bland Proctor called the workshop to order at 3:30 p.m. and announced that a quorum of board members was present.

**2. Certification of the Posting of the Notice of the Agenda**

Dr. Jennifer Kent certified that the agenda had been properly posted per Texas statute also in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 and 551.127 of the Texas Government Code.

**B. Citizen Communication:**

**1. At this time, the public is invited to address the Board of Trustees.**

No members of the public spoke to the Board.

**C. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**1. DISCUSS No-New-Revenue Tax Rate and Voter-Approval Tax Rate Calculations Performed by Ashley Hernandez, Victoria Tax Assessor-Collector for 2025**

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He reminded the board that in July, they approved Ashley Hernandez to calculate the no-new-revenue rate (NNR) and voter-approval rate (VAR) for the college. The appraisals were completed by the VCAD and Ms. Hernandez has performed those calculations. The taxable values increased by 1.42%. New improvements are exempted from the NNR calculation and were at \$104,386,262. The NNR assessment of \$0.1710 per \$100 valuation would generate \$1,103,665 less than what has been budgeted. The proposed rate of \$0.1832 per \$100 valuation would generate \$2,292 more than the proposed budget. The voter-approval rate of \$0.1833 per \$100 valuation would generate \$9,046 more than the proposed budget. Attached is a ten year history of tax rates, a worksheet with scenarios for tax planning and an analysis of the change in appraisals. Land decreased 2.04%. Homesites increased 6.10% while Non-Homesites increased 13.55% and Personal Property increased 1.34%. Minerals decreased 31.04%, but only represent 0.96% of the total appraisals for the County.

The proposed rate of \$0.1832 per \$100 valuation is a 7.2% increase from the prior year. The Debt Service rate includes the second payment on the new \$10 million tax bond issue and the college applied \$200,000 from its reserves to reduce the amount required for the new bond payment. During the bond presentations the goal was to keep the Debt Service rate below \$0.0341 per \$100 valuation for the first three years. The new Debt Service rate would decrease to \$0.0283 per \$100 valuation, which is below the goal of \$0.0341 per \$100 valuation. Instead of staying flat or slightly increasing, the new Debt Service rate decreased by 0.01%.

## **2. DISCUSS Proposed 2025-26 Operating Budget**

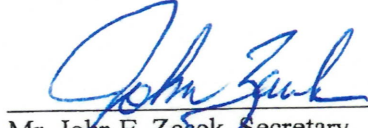
Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He shared a 30-page updated handout with the board. He went over it in detail, answering questions as the workshop went on. This was presented and discussed in the Board Workshop on August 4th. The total budget increased \$1,301,000 or 3.6%. State Appropriations decreased \$238,000. In accordance with the Governor's rider in SB1 freezing tuition and fees for Texas community colleges, there were no changes to the required tuition and fee rates, which were approved in May. As a result, there is a decrease in tuition and fee revenues of \$271,000. There was an increase in staff benefits of \$210,000 because of an 8% increase in health insurance rates. This budget includes a cost-of-living increase of 2%. It does not fund the normal 1.5% pay scale step increase this year. After netting added employees, retirements and terminations, the cost of salaries increased \$317,000. The budget funds the payment on a new revenue bond to be used on the SSC construction project of \$453,000. The Board is recommending the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.1832/\$100 which would be a \$0.0123 increase in the tax rate (7.2%). There was an increase in property tax revenues of \$1,398,000. The budget includes an increase of \$214,000 for technology and deferred maintenance to assist in maintaining technology replacement costs and the increasing costs of roofs and HVAC equipment.

## **3. DISCUSS Proposed College Tax Rate for 2025**

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He stated that the proposed rate of \$0.1832 per \$100 valuation is a 7.2% increase from the prior year. The Debt Service rate includes the second payment on the new \$10 million tax bond issue and the college applied \$200,000 from its reserves to reduce the amount required for the new bond payment. During the bond presentations the goal was to keep the Debt Service rate below \$0.0341 per \$100 valuation for the first three years. The new Debt Service rate would decrease to \$0.0283 per \$100 valuation, which is below the goal of \$0.0341 per \$100 valuation. Instead of staying flat or slightly increasing, the new Debt Service rate decreased by 0.01%.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 4:06 PM

  
Mr. V. Bland Proctor, Chair

  
Mr. John E. Zacek, Secretary