

# PLANO'S FORMULA for SUCCESS

**I** WAS RECENTLY HELPING MY DAUGHTER with her algebra homework and it reminded me about some of the immutable and unchanging features of algebraic formulas. That got me thinking about Plano's Formula for Success:

*Quality city services + Economic growth = Low property tax rate!*

On September 12, 2016, my fellow city council members and I unanimously approved the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget. We continue to have the best city services and the lowest city tax rate of any comparably sized city in North Texas. Highlights of the new budget include: the first property tax rate cut in 15 years and the allocation of significant resources for street repair and traffic mobility. We also used funds to absorb increased costs for water instead of raising consumer water rates.

Our formula for keeping Plano's property tax rate low is straightforward. It begins with years of investing in neighborhood quality of life and setting high standards for our city services. In turn, this attracts new companies and businesses to Plano, which helps diversify our tax base. This past year, businesses contributed 50% of our property tax revenue, and yet, these same businesses use significantly less than 50% of the services their taxes pay for—hence the excess is enjoyed by us, the residents.

Meanwhile, more than 70,000 people come into Plano to work every day. When these people spend money, a healthy portion of our sales tax revenue is generated from out-of-town visitors and non-resident employees—further diversifying our tax base.

## Let's look at the numbers:

- \$750 Million—The amount of new property value growth, over 80% of which is derived from new businesses.
- \$326,000—The median (average) home value in Plano. Our citizens pay the lowest tax rate in the Metroplex and on average just \$1,245 per year for city taxes.
- 73—new Public Safety Officer positions.
- \$81 Million—For improving streets, roads intersections, lights, medians and screening walls. **A 123% increase from the \$36.5 million we budgeted five years ago.** Remember, whenever you see “Construction Signs,” each and every one is a sign of progress.
- \$39 Million—For improvements to our Plano Parks and Recreation sites ranging from the Senior Center to our trails, including the addition of a warm water pool and a multi-use recreation park for our youth.
- \$1.5 Million—The Great Update Rebate, this neighborhood renovation program has resulted in over \$8.7 million dollars being invested by homeowners in the revitalization of some of our more mature neighborhoods.
- \$49 Million—Funds to maintain and improve our water and sewer infrastructure systems.

The full budget is available on [plano.gov](http://plano.gov).

I once heard the quote, “Show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value.” In Plano, it is clear: *We seek to deliver excellence in city services at the lowest cost to our citizens—it's our formula for success.* 📍

**HARRY LAROSILIERE**

Mayor of Plano



“Show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value.”