

Cy-Fair ISD Votes on Homestead Exemption

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HOUSTON - Homeowners in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District are breathing a sigh of relief.

The school board voted Thursday night not to revoke the long-time optional homestead exemption to make up for a budget shortfall. Instead, the district will make major budget cuts.

Several weeks ago Superintendent Dr. David Anthony proposed using the money made from raising property taxes to offset the district's \$28 million shortfall.

His proposal was met with much opposition from homeowners. The move would've increased property taxes by hundreds of dollars a year.

At a special meeting Thursday night, the school board voted to keep the homestead exemption but cut \$14 million from the budget and layoff around 75 employees.

Also, there will be no new pay raises for staffers. The move is expected to keep the district in positive numbers for the next two years.

Texas Senator Dan Patrick has been helping Cy-Fair fight for money in the Texas Legislature. He says the fastest growing district in the state is underfunded.

Patrick was able to help secure about \$12 million for the district through a little-known state law, only if the district kept the homestead exemption.

Last year, Cy-Fair ISD cut 450 jobs while it made \$27 million in budget cuts.

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