

**Bexar County Green Party
Asks Voters to Reject the VIA
Advanced Transportation District Tax (ATD)**

By giving away half of the new revenue it generates, the ATD will limit VIA's ability to fund future expansion and improved service. By rejecting the ATD on November 2, the voters can tell VIA to present a different proposal that uses all VIA revenue to improve the VIA system.

The only taxing ability VIA has is the sales tax, and only up to 1%. Passing the ATD will permanently hamstring VIA with a limit of only 7/8%, in the face of rising fuel prices that will increase bus patronage and VIA's costs.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) and the City of San Antonio will be permanently endowed with half of this new revenue though both have various other revenue streams with which to build and improve roads. San Antonio will then be the only municipality in Texas that collects a local transit sales tax for state highway projects.

TXDOT has announced plans for a road project over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone using proceeds from raiding VIA's till. Ironically, this ATD vote has delayed until May the vote to renew the popular Proposition 3, that protects our water by buying land over the Recharge Zone.

ATD will not freeze bus fares. In fact, VIA has signaled its intent to raise fares in 2005. VIA should petition the legislature for the same relief that school districts get from the state's per-gallon fuel tax. The fuel tax VIA pays, 74% of which goes to build highways all over Texas, is passed on to bus riders.

Two of the key values of the Green Party are Ecological Wisdom and Community Based Economics. San Antonians should vote NO on this ATD proposal because it is neither environmentally wise nor economically sound.

Contact the Bexar County Green Party
210.804.4148
www.bexargreens.org

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