

Survey Results: Fireworks

 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Georgetown to the FlashVote community for Georgetown, TX.

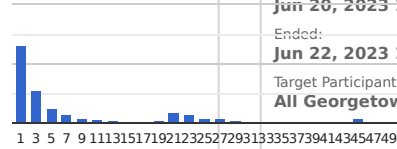
These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

657
Total
Participants

642 of 1018 initially invited (63%)
15 others
Margin of error: $\pm 4\%$

Applied Filter:
Locals only
Participants for
filter:
534

Response Time (hours)



Started:

Jun 20, 2023 11:56am CDT

Ended:

Jun 22, 2023 12:06pm CDT

Target Participants:

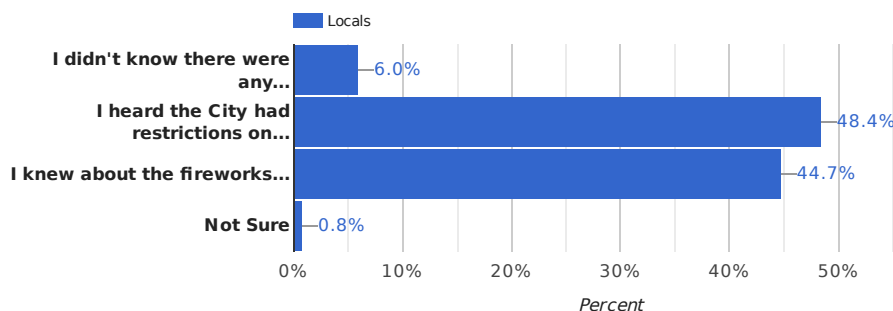
All Georgetown

Q1 Except for sparklers, smoke bombs, and snakes, fireworks are illegal in Georgetown and within 5,000 feet of the city limits (which includes the neighborhoods of Cedar Hollow, Crystal Knoll, Escalera, Fountainwood, Indian Creek, Logan Ranch Road, Lost Rivers, Oak Crest, Olde Oak Estates, Serenada, Shady Oaks, Turtle Bend, and Woodland Park, areas along D.B Wood Road and others). Illegal use of fireworks can lead to fines up to \$2,000 per firework against property owners, even if the property owner didn't set off the firework.

Prior to reading this which best describes what you knew about fireworks restrictions in Georgetown?

(533 responses by)

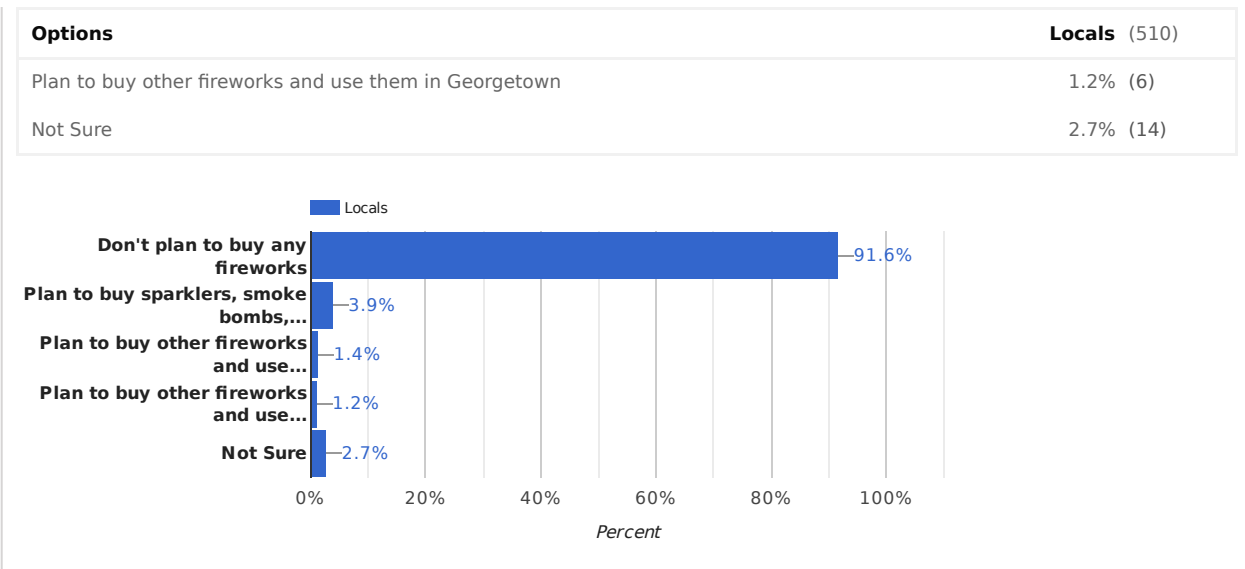
Options	Locals (533)
I didn't know there were any restrictions on fireworks	6.0% (32)
I heard the City had restrictions on fireworks, but didn't really know the details	48.4% (258)
I knew about the fireworks restrictions and the fines	44.7% (238)
Not Sure	0.8% (4)



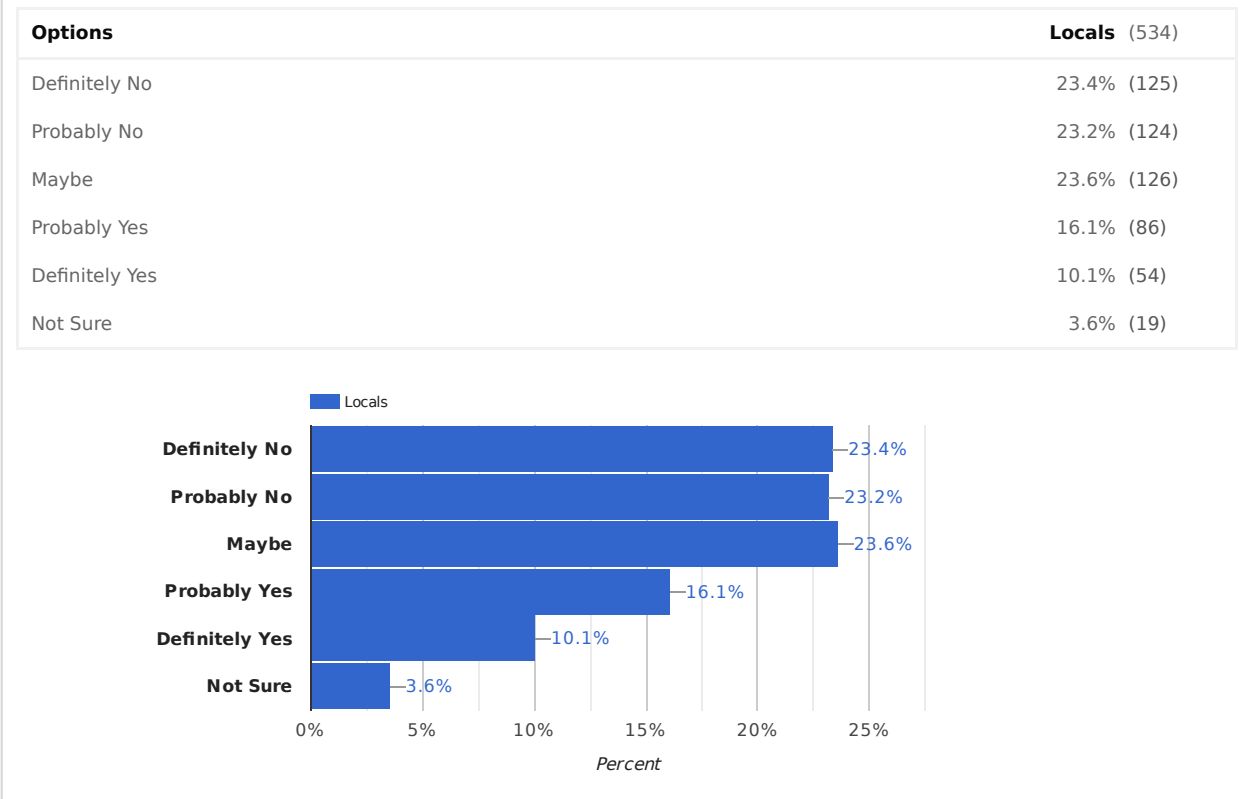
Q2 Do you or your family plan to buy fireworks this year? (Remember that your responses are completely anonymous, so choose all that apply)

(510 responses by)

Options	Locals (510)
Don't plan to buy any fireworks	91.6% (467)
Plan to buy sparklers, smoke bombs, or snakes	3.9% (20)
Plan to buy other fireworks and use them outside Georgetown	1.4% (7)



Q3 The City of Georgetown has a July 4th Celebration at San Gabriel Park with a professional fireworks show starting at 9:30 pm. Do you plan to watch that fireworks show?
(534 responses by)



Q4 Any other comments or comments or suggestions about buying and using fireworks in Georgetown?
(177 responses by)



Make all sales illegal!

A representative from the Fire Marshall's office should monitor, in person, the rearmost part of Woodland Park during the July 4th holiday, especially the night of the forth. Every year there are massive amounts of BIG fireworks set off in that neighborhood--just where it backs up to Sun City!

All fireworks should be banned due to fire hazards

Allow fireworks anytime.

Any firework displays (not only for the 4th of July but also high school graduations, etc) would be useful to know when they are planning on happening so that we can prepare animals, veterans with PTSD, etc.

Appreciate the fireworks show. Always fun to watch from an area outside the park.

Are these rules even enforced? If it is illegal but not enforced, what's the point? Similar to the 'no right on red' at North I-35 frontage road and Leander. There is a sign but everyone turns on red.

As a retired Fire Marshal, I know it is an impossible ordinance to enforce, especially in the ETJ. No municipality, county, or special district has enough law enforcement personnel (Police and Fire) to adequately enforce the prohibition of fireworks in their jurisdiction. The majority of citizens are aware of, or at least suspect there are regulations on fireworks. The majority of violators believe "it is their right" to celebrate the 4th of July with fireworks, regardless of the law. The fireworks industry has a powerful lobby at the legislature, and they are no help. State law should be amended to require fireworks stands on the outskirts of an AHJ prohibiting fireworks to post conspicuous signs, in English and Spanish, informing consumers about the law and potential fines. Fireworks retailers who fall to post such signs should be substantially fined. I could go on...

At my age, I've seen all the fireworks I'd ever want to see....

Based on what I see and hear in my neighborhood, it seems there are a lot of people who are unaware of the restrictions or ignore them. The more people see that others disregard the regulations without any consequences, the less people will take them seriously. If it's important to have these restrictions followed, then there needs to be more visible enforcement. I don't like people using fireworks near my house, but I'm also not going to report them for doing it.

Because so many violate this ordinance, it is unenforceable.

Continue current restrictions.

Current restrictions will work as long as they are enforced

Does the City of Georgetown use low-noise fireworks? If not, the city should consider it in order to make the holiday less stressful for veterans who suffer with PTSD as well as for pets that have negative reactions to the noise. This would help reduce lost pets as well, because some dogs panic and just start running when they hear fireworks.

Due to more population, a grand fireworks display is best and under planned supervision. Fireworks inside and around heavily populated areas can lead immature mistakes, especially in our world today.

Due to the risk of wildfires in the Hill Country, I think it is absolutely critical to ban fireworks in Georgetown and surrounding areas. If people want to see firework displays, they can attend the public celebration. I am all for individual freedom and liberty with minimal government interference; however, fireworks pose a very serious risk to human life, personal property, wildlife, and our community. We must have a zero tolerance policy.

Enforcement of the fireworks ordinances is understandably difficult, so thank you for your efforts to do so to prevent potential fires/contain noise pollution - in spite of likely loud voices complaining about it.

Enforcing the illegal fireworks in neighborhoods like Seranada seems impossible.

Every year in the United States hundreds (or thousands) are injured by unsafe fireworks. Let's keep Georgetown safe

Every year many people in the United States, some of them youngsters, are harmed by fireworks set off by people that don't really know what they are doing. Individuals should not be allowed to buy fireworks. I am OK with fireworks displays if they are authorized by local governments and put on by people that have been trained on how to use them.

Every year there are fireworks in my neighborhood...River Bend and Village 2 area. Why aren't the fireworks laws enforced?

Every year y'all say point this out and every year there is a commercial grade fireworks show happening in every neighborhood. There is no widespread enforcement, especially in the ETJ where the rules supposedly apply.

Every year, we deal with lots of people breaking the law in our neighborhood setting off fireworks and scaring out pets and us (some years when there is a drought, we are worried about fires) we never call the police because we feel it is a waste of resources and time for the police and we fear the neighbors could retaliate. There often is an attitude from firework people that they should be allowed to let off steam and people against it are ridiculous

Fireworks are dangerous and if not properly handled can cause fires. In the drought conditions when I'm only looked to water my yard once a week, no fireworks should be allowed that might cause a fire.

Fireworks are regularly discharged in Oak Crest and at times late into the morning. It's apparent that residents who discharge think that being in the ETJ allows for this. This survey is the first time we've personally seen it called out that fireworks are not allowed. Suggest making this more visible to the ETJ areas so as to control illegal use.

Fireworks belong outside the city where there's fewer structures.

Fireworks can ignite fires if they touch i.e. dry grass, cedar, etc. In these hot dry conditions we are now experiencing, fireworks may be a very bad idea.

Fireworks caught my house on fire when I lived in the Houston area so I wish they were more strict on enforcement of the laws!

Fireworks go off on July 4th and New Year's in my subdivision which is in the city limits. We moved from Houston, where EVERYONE knows you cannot have fireworks - everyone in GT doesn't seem to care about the laws here.

Fireworks must be banned except organized by the city because of all the veterans.

Fireworks should be controlled and maybe excessive use can be punishable but it's a great American tradition and should be honored as such.

Fireworks use and displays should be limited to one city-sponsored event. Otherwise, fireworks noise is in the neighborhoods and lasts for multiple days.

Folks have set off fireworks in the ETJ— Fountainwood and the Woods, for example—in the past. These communities are awfully close to the Georgetown city limits, and using fireworks poses the same fire hazard to adjacent Georgetown housing. What can be done about this?

Given drought ban all fireworks

Given the extreme heat and dryness fireworks use should be prohibited.

Good job controlling this problem!

Great question. Hope it raises productive awareness!

Having fireworks laws and enforcing them is two different things. Typically, this type of laws are seldomly enforced. I think they should be, but good luck.

How about enforcing the fireworks ordinance? No one in my neighborhood obeys!

How does Georgetown plan to enforce these limits? Turtle Bend residents consistently set off fireworks at all hours during the 4th and New Years (and whenever) regardless of these restrictions because I've never seen them enforced.

I agree that fireworks need to remain in the hands of trained pyrotechnics, especially in Texas where fires easily get out of hand. The current restrictions are appropriate.

I agree with the City's policy regarding fireworks restrictions and believe the City should continue fireworks shows on the national holidays, it's part of our American culture.

I am glad that Georgetown does not allow fireworks within city limits, and I hope that the police is out and about, writing tickets to those who ignore the law.

I am glad that city is Patriotic and will provide a show for young people and children. At my age I do not like driving after dark or crowds. Thank God I have had the opportunity to see beautiful fireworks all over the world. Even from the deck of a ship in

the harbor between Taiwan and mainland China during European occupation.

I am not opposed to professional firework displays. Like seeing them actually, but feel it is sensible to limit fireworks in general.

I am uncomfortable with the general population setting off fireworks. A careless and/or thoughtless act because of a lack of knowledge could prove to be disastrous for the community.

I don't like fireworks at all.

I don't like going to the San Gabriel fireworks display, because of the crowds, parking, dogs (which I love under other circumstances), and disruptive people.

I don't think we need more than the display at Garey Park. Not worth the pollution, stressed animals and accidents.

I don't think the restrictions are enforced.

I enjoy organized fireworks shows like the one in San Gabriel Park. The PROBLEM is all the "backyard fireworks" happening in the City and ESPECIALLY in the ETJ (Crystal Knoll Terrace neighborhood for example), often starting days before the event (July 4th, New Year's Eve, etc) and going well into the night of the event and beyond. Dogs and - more importantly - people with PTSD are often triggered by these continual pops & bangs. If there are going to be restrictions, they need to be actively enforced.

I generally think it's ok but selfishly my children are asleep before most registered fireworks shows so I don't like that they wake up

I know it is almost impossible to patrol all of Georgetown looking for violators, but, perhaps if a few were caught, fined and reported on social media each holiday where fireworks are prevalent people would start following rules a bit more.

I like the fact that GT has an annual fireworks display at the park each year for the families to watch and see no reason to have individual events which could be dangerous and cause a great deal of damage.

I like the idea of the City providing a fireworks show that serves everyone. You bringing in professionals to do the fireworks saves people from injuries, prevents damage to property...not even considering the drain on resources like the Police and Fire Departments, and local emergency rooms.

I like the sponsored show...

I love the San Gabriel fireworks!

I note that at no time did you solicit Georgetown resident opinions, perspectives or assessments regarding the restrictions in place, nor did you relate any restriction to drought conditions. If the drought conditions were the basis for the restrictions, then any cessation in the drought when it occurs should likewise relax or rescind the restrictions without the ability of bureaucrats to maintain in in perpetuity. Given the inevitable Austin creep that continues to infect Williamson county in general and Georgetown in particular, it appears that without citizens holding their bureaucrats to account, relentless bureaucratic creep will continue to force itself into every aspect of citizens' lives.

I shouldn't be fined if my neighbors are shooting fireworks in my yard and I am unaware. Please send out information to all citizens about the laws concerning fireworks well in advance of them going on sale. And remember not everyone is on social media. Snail mail still works.

I support Gtown fireworks restrictions.

I think most illegal use of fireworks is kids.

I think the fine for fireworks on your property if you didn't do it or had no knowledge of it, is wrong. It could be used by a neighbor who didn't like you to harass you.

I think the time for citizens to purchase fireworks has passed. TX weather has changed over the last many yrs and the month of July is too dry. The area is too populated to safely allow people to set off fireworks without worrying about damaging someone's home and property. Not all people have the good judgement and maturity to use fireworks properly. I think city planned firework displays are fine. I think it's time to ban sales to the public making them illegal.

I think they should be legal in areas like Serenada, since we're not within the City Limits. People will buy and set them off anyway.

I used to do it all. Too old now.

I want the restrictions to fireworks enforced. We have a dog that is undone by the fireworks illegally fired in our neighborhood.

I wish there was an easy way to stop unregulated fireworks. They hurt my dogs ears and disturb my peace

I will be out of town, otherwise I'd watch the show on Tuesday. I think it's reasonable to restrict the use of fireworks in the city.

I wish GPD and/or Wilco Sheriffs office would have mobile units near the city/county areas on July 4th where residents living in homes that abut city properties regularly shoot off fireworks during every holiday. Folks in Indian Creek (county) are notorious for shooting large fireworks every July 4 and January 1st. It's irritating, obnoxious and dangerous for the Meadows of Georgetown (city) residents who share common property boundaries with theirs.

I wish they were not available. People fire them off all night, regardless of the law.

I would like the opportunity to be able to light fountain related fireworks or provide a location (high school parking lot) where some fireworks could be used.

I've noticed other cities putting out signage at the main entrances of subdivisions stating No Fireworks within the City and wondered if G-town will be doing so too.

If there is a law enforce it. Stop the over zealous development until you can provide water.

If they are going to be illegal, the illegal fireworks should be illegal to sell.

Invariably Georgetown is very dry by July 4th. It seems irresponsible to allow more fireworks than Georgetown does now.

It is unconscionable that property is sometimes seriously damaged or destroyed, and lives put at risk, due to illegal use of fireworks. In a hot, dry environment such as ours there is no excuse for someone risking anyone's safety because of their momentary pleasure. Officers should be stationed throughout problem areas of the city and the law fully enforced.

It is very difficult to get in and out of San Gabriel park to view the fireworks. The roads are only 2 lane and it is discouraging trying to find a place to park and then to sit in traffic after the show. I don't think people would purchase and use fireworks in their neighborhoods if it wasn't so hard to get around in the park. I don't know how to solve this problem, other than providing traffic control assistance. We usually just park at the high school parking lot in order to get in and out easily. The show is not as good from there, though.

It never seems like the police patrol enough to stop people from using fireworks in city limits

It said "comments or comments" in that prompt lol. Also Whoever's reading this... Hiiiiii

It should not be allowed

It will be a really big show!!

It would be nice to have designated areas to pop fireworks if they are not legal, in town. Maybe consider that, or even making them legal. Fireworks are incredibly fun and can be practiced safely with a little training.

It's hot and dry. Keep us safe from fires set by fireworks.

It's really hard to control and always has been. I'd put increasing emphasis on after about 10 p.m. on July 4 and the days surrounding that.

It's said the police don't bother to go after people firing of illegal fireworks. They really should as the noise can cause traumatic flashbacks for Vets with PTSD. People just don't care.

I'm still waiting for the city to change its policy and let me set off fireworks.

Just a caution to anybody thinking of purchasing and setting off fireworks...be mindful of the conditions. It is dry and very hot. One spark can set off a fire that can burn everything in its path. Be careful of your actions and considerate of neighbors.

Keep current regulations. To dry to allow folks to randomly use fireworks.

Keep fireworks illegal. It keeps our citizens safe.

Keep the ban in effect

Keep the same restrictions.

Keep them illegal - save hands, save lives, save property. thanks!

Laws that can't be reasonably enforced and largely haven't ever been enforced in Georgetown are often passed by City Council because they expect a certain percentage of compliance, but like speeding, stop signs, turn signals, red lights, the lack of enforcement creates apathy among a greater number of citizens who say why should I comply if no one else is and there's little or no enforcement. The end result is more disorder and less compliance overall.

Let Tera Vista Golf Club have the fireworks show!

Limit to the hours they can be used inside the city limits. Maybe stop at 10 or at latest 11 pm.

Love the fireworks show, but parking and traffic control are a major game stopper. Stopped going just because of the traffic after the event.

More enforcement measures are needed. Multiple violations in River Bend over the past 5 years have been ignored or unenforced.

Most fireworks can be dangerous. They scare animals, and make a lot of noise. I approve of fireworks that are set off by professionals in a specific location, like the show in San Gabriel Park. But I do NOT like it when my neighbors set off fireworks. I'm glad there is a fine. I wish that it were enforced.

Most places I've lived have banned fireworks so assumed it was banned her. New resident. Fireworks are fun but dangerous.

Need better enforcement of illegal fireworks in Georgetown. A lot of people set them off in Old Town on and around the 4th of July.

No

No change to fireworks restrictions needed or desired.

No comments

No. I'm lucky because I can see the city's fireworks without leaving my house.

None at this time

None at this time.

None.

Nope

Not good except for sparklers. All should be at a professional show for fire safety.

Not sure if there is anything else that we can do but people need to stop using fireworks within the city.

Not worth the hassle when you have the Sertoma show at the park.

Parking is a concern

Part of the reason we selected Georgetown, was because you prohibit fireworks. We lived in Montgomery County and the days around July 4th were a nightmare for us and our dogs. I hope you will be patrolling the new neighborhood of Berry Creek Highlands as they have young families who historically (in our experience in both Harris and Montgomery Counties in the Houston Metro area) do not follow the fireworks prohibitions. Now they are next to us in Sun City and we are concerned that our usually quite July 4th will be ruined with fireworks from that new neighborhood!

Penalties on fireworks seem harsh. Other than very dry years fireworks should not be a high priority

Please Enforce all laws regarding fireworks! I would like to see a law for forbidding all fireworks in the city, and the county, except for professional shows. Fireworks should not be used by individuals! We would like to see a ban on fireworks by the general public effective immediately

Please do have patrols before and after the 4th. It is really hot and dry and some folks really like to let the artillery fly at the risk of starting a fire. God Bless America!

Please enforce the ordinance!

Please help with the water restrictions, my grass is dying...

Please keep the ban. There are too many stupid people who would accidentally start a wild fire if a ban was lifted.

Police need to enforce fireworks policies vigorously particularly in etj areas.

Safety first... which is why we're not allowed to use fireworks as described by GT law. Right on!

Sending out surveys that say "hey you know the rules right?" is not really gathering feedback from the community. So here's some feedback: "Illegal use of fireworks can lead to fines up to \$2,000 per firework against property owners, even if the property owner didn't set off the firework." The way this is written, if some rando wanders into my yard and sets off a firework i get stuck with a \$2000 fine. That doesn't make any sense. Do I need to build a giant wall around my yard then?

Spray for mosquitoes!!

Stop trying to restrict Freedom on Americas Birthday. Illegal or not we will be putting on our own show for the neighbors.

Suggest higher drought level , higher fines.

Thanks for doing these surveys to solicit community input.

Thanks for getting the message out and thanks for Fire, EMS & PD for all they do!

Thanks for keeping us safe.

The City does a really good job on the 4rh.

The City need to work with Williamson County to ban fireworks sales near the city or ETJ. The fire danger in a heavily populate suburban area is to high for non-professional fireworks

The city definitely needs to do a better job enforcing these restrictions. We hear illegal fireworks all the time.

The enforcement is extremely lax, the cops either don't show up or don't do anything about it. Selective enforcement of laws is a problem

The lack of enforcement regarding illegal fireworks is frustrating. I know it's a challenge for law enforcement, but it seems like something like drones would help identify illegal fireworks being shot off in residential neighborhoods.

The only reason I didn't know the specifics on firework restrictions is that I don't plan buy any or set any off. Hope there is good enforcement of these restrictions! Thanks.

The owner gets charges regardless is a bit stiff. Is it not I sincerely wish a time was set on the use of any fireworks eg 10PM 12PM ...something.

There are numerous violations. If you don't enforce the restrictions, people just ignore them.

There have been fireworks set off in our neighborhood in the past. Not only a fire threat during dry weather, it also upsets our dogs and causes them distress.

There is not enough parking to go watch the city fireworks show.

They are illegal, but the restrictions are ignored in neighborhoods in and around Sun City

They go off everywhere and often. I rarely if ever have seen anyone get caught or fined. I think that once a year and away from wildlife is fine but it's all too much and it freaks the dogs out and all the wildlife. They should ban them at graduations also.

They should be restricted. My dog does not appreciate them at all.

This is a little different than the survey focus, but it's about fireworks - I live near Georgetown High School and San Gabriel Park. So being near fireworks shows a few times a year is expected, and I'm okay with it. But I would love if the city gave advance notice to residents living near a planned fireworks show, so we're aware ahead of time. The 4th of July is a given, but events at GHS stadium, or the Step Inn Festival, etc - a heads-up would be much appreciated. Then we can bring pets inside, crank up a white noise machine for sleeping babies, etc. Thank you!

Too dry in TX. Keep the policy the same.

We agree with the city ordinance as it is currently written.

We are out of town

We are out of town over the 4th. That's the only reason we wouldn't be there.

We don't see a need for any fireworks outside of the city sponsored events like San Gabriel, especially considering the extreme heat we are experiencing and its fire danger and the impact the explosions have on dogs and others.

We don't go to firework shows as we have to stay home with a dog that is terrified of all the illegal fireworks in the neighborhood. I wish we had more policing of illegal fireworks in residential neighborhoods.

We usually just try to find a spot where we can see several of the public fireworks displays which get above the trees and watch the elaborate fireworks on TV

We're out of town for 4th of July, otherwise we would attend the show.

What is the point of having laws on the books banning fireworks in Georgetown if they are not enforced? Every year my neighborhood sounds like a war zone. Mortars being launched over houses and dry fields with zero repercussions? Reporting it to GPD appears to be useless unless you have an exact address AND the police witness it themselves. I wonder how many of those \$2000 fines have actually been handed out.

Why sell fireworks within the city if not allowed to use ???

Will the police actually respond to calls for fireworks inside Georgetown?

With our water situation and the heat index being so high for this period....I'd be canceling fireworks all the way around.

Without the ability to enforce the regulations, everyone that wants to will STILL buy and shoot them off. Until you are able to crack down on the offenders, I don't see a reason to even have the law to be honest. I don't plan on using but just my feelings on how many others probably feel.

Would legalize. Small firecrackers on private property except when fire ban is in effect. Time limit to. Afternoon and evening before 9 PM

You got it right now

city needs to stay out of my business.

i am OK with the current rules.

none, waste of money.

not at this time

unnecessary government intrusion. raise taxes on them if you must to offset increased fire department calls during the holiday.

The city doesn't enforce this law. I hear and see fireworks all around my neighborhood in Katy Crossing.

Any fireworks regulations in Georgetown would be great. These regulation, though, should be enforced!

Continue the ban and actively enforce it.

Fining property owners for someone else setting off fireworks just seems lazy. Why not ban the sale of fireworks county wide?

I do not agree with Georgetown's firework restrictions. It is too much government overreach.

I know for a fact I live outside the 5,000 ft but you are saying I live within. I have lived here for over 30 years and it's always been legal to use fireworks here. The distance of a foot doesn't change. These are just made up rules just for the city's monetary gain.

I think complete bans of larger fireworks are somewhat unfair. Ground ones for kids only, really? Where's the fun in that? Have people pay to get a license to fire them and provide allotted spaces for them to use possibly, maybe empty parking lots, baseball fields. Fine them if they don't clean up after or if they cause any damage. People will fire them regardless, but providing a way to do it more safely would be an idea to at least try. Just a thought.

It's not unusual to hear random fireworks around Blue Hole, either before or right after the 4th and New Year. Wish the police could monitor the area more closely during those holidays.

Regardless of the statute, neighborhood fireworks are commonplace. Another instance in which ability to police or Hugh enough consequence renders the rule void.

Sometimes I can see the fireworks from my home, but now, due to my early work schedule, I am usually in bed before the fireworks in the park starts.

The increasing number of fireworks stands near Williams/Jim Hogg intersection is very alarming. Also, we feel certain there are people firing off guns instead of, or in addition to, fireworks on July 4th and New Years Eve. It seems to be coming from the Woodland Park area.

The ordinances against non-authorized fireworks within the city are obviously not working. At every "celebration evening" (I.e., New Year's, Fourth of July, etc.) Georgetown looks and sounds like a war zone. On just about every street there are multiple violations and calling in to the police department is useless. Unless the officer personally witnesses the offense no charges are filed. Has ANYONE ever been fined? If so, it should be publicized as the attitude of the offenders is that they won't be "caught" and even if they are they wouldn't be held accountable. To allow such blatant violations just encourages those who have little respect for the rule of law to push the limits and run stop signs, throw litter out of their vehicles and otherwise flaunt their violations and whine about the loss of their freedom to do as they please.

The people who have no regard for others are incredibly disappointing. I know you're doing all you can to cut down on the number of violations, so thank you for that. I also know you get a lot of 911 and other calls reporting fireworks. It might be beneficial to set up a fireworks hotline specifically for the few days a year people set them off. I am sure you could get volunteers to staff it. The city wouldn't necessarily use it to send out a unit for each call, but to map the locations where complaints are coming from the most, to help aid for future holidays with pinpointing where units should be dispatched to. Just an idea! Thank you for everything you do for the city.

Went to last year's show and it was awesome! My granddaughter really liked it

have there been any investigations/considerations regarding nesting birds in the park and along Gabriel rivers?

[Additional survey reports](#)