

Collin County Commissioners Court Proposed Legislative Issues 82nd Legislature

Legislative Policy Statements:

1. Electronic circulation of Court records including electronic signatures and acknowledgements.
2. Commissioners Court approval prior to the creation or expansion of a special district.
3. Put a higher priority in the State Budget on transportation spending.
4. Redistricting, Congress, State Senate, State Rep. Fair to Collin County residents without splitting constituencies.
5. With the exception of constitutionally required diversions, appropriate 100% of gas taxes to transportation infrastructure improvements and maintenance.
6. Support mental health services and funding for Collin County residents.
7. Require elections to fill vacancies for 3 year terms within 180 days or the next available uniform election day to result in more consistency on election dates.
8. Update section 240.082 of the Local Government Code regarding the authority of a county to regulate certain communications facility structure. Current statute limits this authority to counties with a population greater than 1.4 million.
9. Amend Chapter 213 of the Transportation Code to give Commissioners Court authority to adopt a fee to offset the impact of utility construction that crosses county roads.
10. Update Chapter 1956 of the Occupations Code to require a recycler to maintain customer identification information on all purchases. Currently, a collector is not required to keep this info.
11. Provide special districts with the explicit authority to contract and collect taxes for law enforcement.
12. Amend section 152.0007 of the Human Resource Code to transfer budget approval authority for the Juvenile Probation and Detention funds from the County Juvenile Board to the Commissioners Court. With the exception of

the Auditor's Office, all other property tax supported funds are under the authority of Commissioners Court. The Juvenile Board consists of the elected District Judges having authority over juvenile cases and the County Judge. The Juvenile budgets total \$10,790,000.

13. Reduce or eliminate any state mandated staffing ratios for juvenile detention facilities. Determination of detention staffing needs for facilities should be determined by the county.
14. A constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from adopting any new unfunded mandates on local government. **HJR 56 SOLOMONS**

Specific Legislative Proposals:

1. Update section 234.032 of the Local Government Code regarding the authority of a county to regulate certain aspects of slaughter operations to include Collin County. Current statute limits this authority to counties containing two or more municipalities with populations of 250,000 or more.
Laubenberg HB 141 (5-0 endorsed)
2. Various updates to TCDRS statutes:
 - a) Allow a County to fund and operate a two tier/class (ex. existing employees and new employees) retirement system within TCDRS.
 - b) Ability to withdraw a tier/class of employees from TCDRS.
 - c) Ability for a participating entity to adjust the guaranteed rate of return on employee contributions.
 - d) More transparency in investment and accounting reporting.
 - e) More conservative, less risky investments.**Taylor DRAFTED**
3. Update Local Initiative Project statutes to allow for more uses of the funding including replacing fleets and improving traffic flows.
Madden DRAFTED
4. Amend section 157.021 of the Local Government Code to require unbudgeted overtime to be paid from an office's adopted budget.
No Sponsor DRAFTED

5. Amend section 61.006 of the Health and Safety Code by deleting (d) to remove the requirement that DHS adopt rules governing county indigent eligibility rules linked to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Medicaid (TANF) rules. Functionally, this section requires the County to cover resident aliens in the indigent program even though Federal Law generally prohibits their eligibility. Federal Law generally requires the person who sponsors the resident alien to guarantee or accept liability for health insurance coverage.

Taylor HB 655 (5-0 endorsed)

6. Amend Section 25.0453 of the Texas Government Code to provide explicit authority to utilize electronic court reporting in a Statutory Probate Court
Added 12/2/10 per Judge Copeland **PAXTON DRAFTED LOCAL BILL**
7. No statutory assignment of primacy for the development of toll road projects. The first entity that executes a CDA for a project shall have the exclusive right for that project. **DRAFTED**
8. Regional Toll Revenues (RTR funds) should be considered locally generated transportation funding and not included in state transportation funding formulas or budgets. **Davis SB 814**