

# **Collin County Commissioners Court Proposed Legislative Issues 82<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **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)**  
4/18 In Calendars
2. Update Local Initiative Project statutes to allow for more uses of the funding including replacing fleets and improving traffic flows.  
**Madden HB 2030 (5-0 endorsed)**  
04/13/2011 Pending in Environmental Regulation
3. 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) Deuell SB 420**  
03/09/2011 HB 655 In Calendars  
04/20/2011 SB 420 Passed Senate, in Calendars
4. Amend Section 25.0453 of the Texas Government Code to provide explicit authority to utilize electronic court reporting in a Statutory Probate Court  
**Paxton HB 3313 (5-0 endorsed) 3313** in Criminal Jurisprudence Committee
5. 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 (5-0 endorsed)**  
03/01/2011 Referred to Transportation & Homeland Sec.

6. Require TxDOT to adopt rules creating funding formulas for highway projects utilizing input from planning organizations, transportation officials and local government officials. The formula must include factors such as population, performance measures, safety, vehicle miles travelled, etc. **Shapiro SB 161 (5-0 endorsed)**  
03/09/2011 Left pending in Transportation and Homeland Security Committee
7. A constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from adopting any new unfunded mandates on local government. **HJR 56 Solomons (5-0 endorsed)**  
03/30/2011 in House Calendars
8. Prohibits the use of 4A and 4B funds to recruit or relocate a business from neighboring counties. **HB 3215 Button**  
03/18/2011 Referred to Economic & Small Business Development
9. Allow for the electronic service (delivery) of court documents. Will assist the court system in becoming entirely paperless. **HB 962 Hartnett (5-0 endorsed)** passed House, referred to Senate Jurisprudence
10. Require the NTTA to undergo a "Sunset Review" by a state agency. **HB 1577 Anchia (5-0 resolution)** pending in Transportation Committee
11. Provide for an annual audit of toll project entities by the state and increased financial transparency. **HB 1636 Paxton** Pending in Transportation Committee.
12. Expand the use of video conferencing in the court system. **HB 2847 Madden (5-0 resolution)** 5/3 Passed House in Senate
13. Expand the requirements for the filing of Personal Financial Disclosure Statements to appointees of various boards including Lifepath, NTBHA and NTTA. **HB 3784 Callegari** In Government Efficiency and Reform Committee
14. Expand the counting deadlines and move the primary runoff election date for overseas voters to match Federal requirements. If this bill passes, the County will be unable to conduct May elections for cities, ISD's, and special districts in even numbered years. **SB 100 Van de Putte** passed Senate and in House. **HB 111 Taylor** in committee

Those in red indicate the Commissioners Court has not taken a position or passed a resolution of support.