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500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

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www.cuc.org

Policy Committee Meeting

Travis County Building | 700 Lavaca Street Austin, Texas 78701
June 6, 2019

9:30 AM Convene.

1. Welcome, Introductions.

2. Consider the minutes from the May 8, 2019 meeting.

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a. Administrative items. Next meeting: At 9:30a.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at the Travis County Building 700 Lavaca Street, Austin Texas.
[Veronikah Sanford]

b. Policy Committee Attendance Record 2019.

Policy Committee Attendance Record 2019		01/09/19	02/13/19	03/13/19	04/17/19	05/08/19	06/06/19	08/01/19	11/07/19
Policy Committee Members	County								
Judge Matt Sebesta (Chair)	Brazoria County	V	V	V	E	V			
Judge David Blackburn	Bell County	V	V	E	V	V			
Commissioner Kevin Wolff	Bexar County	P	V	V	P	V			
Judge Eddie Treviño	Cameron County	E	V	V	V	V			
Commissioner Susan Fletcher	Collin County	V	V	P	V	V			
Commissioner Theresa Daniel	Dallas County	V	V	P	V	P			
Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell	Denton County	E	V	P	V	E			
Commissioner David Stout	El Paso County	V	V	V	V	V			
Commissioner Andy Meyers	Fort Bend County	X	V	V	V	X			
Commissioner Ken Clark	Galveston County	V	V	V	V	V			
Judge Bill Magers	Grayson County	V	V	P	V	V			
Judge Lina Hidalgo	Harris County		V	P	V	P			
Judge Richard Cortez	Hidalgo County			X	X	X			
Commissioner Brent Weaver	Jefferson County	V	V	V	V	V			
Judge Hal Richards	Kaufman County		X	V	V	V			
Commissioner Bill McCay	Lubbock County	E	E	V	V	V			
Commissioner Robin Donnelly	Midland County	V	E	V	V	E			
Judge Barbara Canales	Nueces County		V	X	P	X			
Judge Glen Whitley	Tarrant County	V	V	V	V	V			
Judge Sarah Eckhardt	Travis County	V	V	V	V	V			
Judge Bill Gravell	Williamson County	V	V	X	X	V			
Commissioner Kevin Burns	Wise County	V	V	P	V	X			

V - Present | P - Present by Proxy | X - Absent | E - Excused Absence

3. Policy Director's Report. [Adam Haynes]

a. Review Bills of Interest List

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b. Review Bills of Interest Related to the Platform

[pg. 9]

c. CUC Activity Summary – 86th Regular Legislative Session

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d. Discussion of Property Tax Reform Legislation

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- e. Discuss SB 2's Indigent Defense Provision [pg. 29]
- f. Discuss School Finance Legislation [pg. 30]
- 4. Discuss Judicial Pay Increase [John Dahill] [pg. 32]
- 5. Discuss Appropriations for 2020/21 [Windy Johnson]
 - a. HB 1 – General Appropriations Act [pg. 33]
 - b. SB 500 – State Supplemental Funding [pg. 47]
- 6. Discuss Flood Control and Resilience Legislation [Gabriela Villareal] [pg. 50]
- 7. Interim Strategy Discussion [Adam Haynes]
- 8. New business.

11:30 AM Adjourn.

Policy Committee Meeting

Travis County Building | 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, TX 78701

May 8, 2019

Minutes

Members Present

Judge Matt Sebesta, Brazoria County
Judge David Blackburn, Bell County
Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Bexar County
Judge Eddie Treviño, Cameron County
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Collin County
Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Dallas County (Proxy Charles Reed)
Commissioner David Stout, El Paso County
Commissioner Ken Clark, Galveston County
Judge Bill Magers, Grayson County
Judge Lina Hidalgo, Harris County (Proxy Joe Madden)
Commissioner Brent Weaver, Jefferson County
Judge Hal Richards, Kaufman County
Commissioner Bill McCay, Lubbock County
Judge Glen Whitley, Tarrant County
Judge Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County
Judge Bill Gravell, Williamson County

Others Present

Melissa Shannon, Bexar County
Charles Reed, Dallas County
Donna Warndorf, Harris County
Joe Madden, Harris County
Chandler Merritt, Tarrant County
G.K. Maenius, Tarrant County
Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County
Deece Eckstein, Travis County
Peter Einhorn, Travis County
Julie Wheeler, Travis County
John Dahill, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Adam Haynes, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Windy Johnson, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Gabriela Villareal, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Veronikah Sanford, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Angelo Zottarelli, Texas Conference of Urban Counties Consultant
Fred Hill, Texas Conference of Urban Counties Consultant

9:39 AM Convene.

The Committee considered agenda item 2, Consider the minutes from the April 17, 2019 meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Susan Fletcher and a second by Judge Hal Richards the Minutes were approved as amended.

The Committee discussed agenda item 2a. the next meeting date of 9:30am on Thursday June 6, 2019 at the Travis County Building 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, TX 78701.

The Committee discussed agenda item 2b. the Policy Committee Attendance Record 2019. On a motion by Commissioner Fletcher, and a second by Commissioner McCay the record was approved as amended.

The Committee discussed agenda item 3, Policy Director's Report.

The Committee discussed agenda item 3a., Review priority bills of interest list.

The Committee discussed agenda item 3b., Review bills of interest to date.

The Committee discussed agenda item 3c. Property Tax Reform Legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM.

Judge Matt Sebesta
Vice Chairman of Policy

Date

Bills of Interest List

Passed

Revenue Caps

Lowers the “voter-approval” (rollback) tax rate to 3.5% for a vast majority of counties and cities with an automatic election to exceed the rate. Maintains an 8% cap for hospital districts, junior college districts, and smaller taxing units with a required election to go above the cap. Allows counties and cities that adopt rates below the voter-approval tax rate to “bank” the unused increment for a three year period. Exempts from the voter-approval tax rate calculation the amount paid to assigned counsel for indigent defense cases. Preserves additional transparency measures and reforms to the appraisal system. [SB 2, by Bettencourt](#)

Unpaid Taxes

Currently, if a taxpayer has an unpaid tax obligation at conclusion of tax appeal, penalties & interest apply to that balance beginning on original delinquency date. Bill gives taxpayer an opportunity to pay the balance by a new due date before those penalties & interest would apply. Concern is that the bill creates a loophole for deferral of tax payments by removing incentive to pay. [HB 861, by Anchia](#)

Contingency Contracts

Imposes a slew of requirements before a political subdivision may enter into a contingency fee contract for legal services, including getting approval of the contract from the AG. AG may decline to approve the agreement if the subject matter is something the state has already addressed or is pursuing, or if AG determines pursuit of the matter by the political subdivision will not promote the just and efficient resolution of the matter. [HB 2826, by Bonnen](#)

Liability for Defects

Applicable to tolling entities, absolves contractors from liability for defects in plans and specifications prepared by the governmental entity or a third party retained by the governmental entity. [HB 2899, by Leach](#)

Peace Officer Benefits

Adds peace officers to provisions previously applicable only to firefighters and emergency medical technicians which establish rebuttable presumptions that certain illnesses are the result of on-the-job exposure. Includes tuberculosis and stroke. [SB 1582, by Lucio](#)

Fines and Fees

When assessing fines and costs, would require a court to consider only the defendant's present ability to pay. Would permit defendants to avoid payment of obligations if payment poses an “undue hardship” without regard to whether the defendant is indigent. [SB 346, by Zaffirini](#)

Lobbying Expense Disclosure

Requires an "interested party" disclosure form to be filed with the Ethics Commission for any contract for services that would require a person to register as a lobbyist. Another provision requires a political subdivision that has ever had a contract with a state agency for consulting services to post information regarding lobbying contracts on the political subdivision's website and to include lobbying expenses as a line item in the political subdivision's budget. [SB 65, by Nelson](#)

Failed:

Peace Officer Employment

For any city or county that does not have a civil service system, prohibits discharging, suspending or firing a peace officer, detention officer, county jailer, or firefighter due to their inability to perform duties because of on-duty injury before the person is certified as having reached maximum medical improvement. Exception if a designated doctor certifies the employee is unable to return to work. Waives sovereign immunity for a lawsuit for damages and reinstatement under this provision. Caps the damages payable by an employer at \$100,000. [HB 359, by Moody](#)

Political Subdivision Lobbying

Prevents any political subdivision from directly lobbying or joining a group that directly lobbies the legislature to influence the outcome of pending legislation. Allows a citizen to challenge an entity in court and recoup attorney fees if they win the challenge. [HB 281, by Middleton](#)

Local government cannot spend money to influence legislation unless requested by member of the legislature. Local governments cannot join any association unless it does not lobby and only if it is for the benefit of all local officials. [SB 29, by Hall](#)

Eminent Domain

Property acquired by eminent domain is subject to repurchase if the government cannot show "actual progress" on the public use of the land within 10 years of acquisition. The bill would make showings of "actual progress" more difficult. Instead of showing compliance with at least 2 of 7 factors, government would have to show compliance with at least 3 of 5 factors. The 2 repealed factors are arguably the easiest to meet. [HB 1253, by Leman](#) and [SB 554, by Schwertner](#)

Contingency Contracts

Prohibits public entities from entering into a contingency-fee contract with an attorney unless it is pre-approved by the Attorney General. Provides an exception for debt collection. [HB 2003, by Leach](#) and [SB 970, by Creighton](#)

Elections Omnibus Bill

Omnibus elections bill that will require the purchase of voting machines that produce a paper receipt. Requires in a county of 1m or more, for participation in the countywide polling place program, the polling locations be based on the requirements prior to converting to a countywide polling place. [SB 9, by Hughes](#)

Polling Places

Provides that moving a temporary branch polling place for a county with a population of 100k or more may only be moved once during a voting period and after half the voting period has concluded. [SB 966, by Bettencourt](#)

Fireworks

Removes all of the sales period restrictions and allows sales of fireworks at all time during the year. [HB 2748, by Perez](#)

Ballot Language

Requires all local debt proposition ballots to include aggregate amount of debt at the beginning of the fiscal year, the ad valorem debt service tax rate at the time the election is ordered, expressed as a percentage of the adopted tax rate. [SB 462, by Campbell](#)

A governing body may not authorize a certificate to pay contractual obligations if a bond proposition to authorize the bonds for the same purpose failed voter approval during the preceding six years (rather than 3 years in current law). [SB 652, by Campbell](#)

Bond elections must be held on the November uniform election date, exception for an emergency declaration by the governor. [SB 2219, by Bettencourt](#)

Authority for Political Subdivision to Regulate

Prohibits a political subdivision from adopting any ordinance, order, rule, or regulation requiring an occupational license or requiring a person to meet any requirement or precondition to engage in an occupation. Exempts the authority of a political subdivision to adopt and enforce a zoning regulation, a restriction on the location where an occupation may be engaged in, or an ordinance that regulates a credit access business. [SB 1209, by Hancock](#)

Zero Based Budgeting

Requires cities and counties with a population of 225,000 or more to prepare and post (internet website) a zero-based budget every 12 years starting in 2021. [SB 1315, by Bettencourt](#)

Temporary Building Inspections

Prohibits a county from requiring a building permit to construct, improve, or occupy a structure used for retail sale of seasonal goods if structure is portable and smaller than 500 sq. ft. [SB 2318, by Campbell](#)

Public Defender

Permits Indigent Defense Commission to encourage the creation of public defender offices. TIDC to issue policies and procedures for operation and administration of all PD offices. TIDC to annually review fees paid to appointed attorney to ensure the fees are fair and consistent. [SB 1649, by Kolkhorst](#)



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

June 6, 2019

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: Adam Haynes, Policy Director

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **Bills of Interest Related to the Platform**

TAXATION

Support the significant reduction of property tax rates by measures to reduce the cost of government and by replacing property tax revenue with revenue from other sources.

HB 3, by Huberty – School finance and property tax reform bill that increases public education funding by \$4.5 billion and earmarks more than \$5 billion for school property tax compression. Basic allotment increased to more than \$6,160; K-Grade 3 early education allotment for economically disadvantaged students and English language learners that can be used to fund full-day prekindergarten for eligible students; state compensatory education funding that provides additional resources to children living in more severe poverty; increased funding for students with dyslexia, receiving special education services, and being served in residential treatment facilities; outcomes-based funding program for high school students; increased facilities funding; updated transportation funding (\$1/mile); and professional development for early education teachers to get kids reading on grade level by third grade. \$5 billion in property tax relief, lowers property tax rates by an average of 8 cents in 2020 and 13 cents in 2021; 2.5 percent tax compression starting in 2021; \$2 billion for educator compensation. 30 percent of allotment increase must be used to increase compensation for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses (with no provisions for equal or across-the-board increases); recommendation to prioritize compensation for teachers with more than five years of experience; funding for incentive pay programs; and funding for locally developed merit pay programs. — **Passed.**

HB 705, by Geren – Allows a local government to add 2% to sales tax rate in order to buy down 100% of property tax. The sales tax must be equal to the lost property tax as a replacement. — **Failed.**

Require sales price disclosure on sale or transfer of real property.

HB 1841, by Thompson– Limits the appraised value of a housing unit subject to an eligible land use restriction to the amount of the sales price of that unit as recorded in property records. — **Failed.**

Member Counties
*Bell · Bexar
Brazoria · Brazos
Cameron · Chambers
Collin · Comal
Dallas · Denton
Ector · El Paso
Fort Bend · Galveston
Grayson · Harris
Hays · Hidalgo
Jefferson · Johnson
Kaufman · Lubbock
McLennan · Midland
Nueces · Potter
Randall · Rockwall
San Patricio · Smith
Tarrant · Travis
Webb · Williamson
Wise*

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Oppose any expansion of the pollution control property tax exemption that would include property used to produce goods or services.

Oppose expansion of tax exemptions for property owned by a taxpayer to include leased property other than property leased to a charter school for one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 12.

HB 388, by Murphy – Exempts real property used by a Charter School. Owner of the property has to pass along the amount of the tax savings to the charter organization to qualify. — **Failed.**

Support allowing local taxing units to set a residence homestead exemption as a percentage, a flat-dollar level, or a percentage with a minimum or maximum individual value.

Support reforms to process for equity appeals of appraisals.

Oppose reducing the penalty when land that was previously appraised as agricultural or other open space property is converted to another use.

HB 1743, by King – Reduce the number of years for a rollback tax bill for changing timber land to a nontimber use three years and lowers the interest rate imposed on a rollback tax bill from 7% to 5%. — **Passed.**

Oppose all new property tax exemptions, expansion of existing exemptions, or any other narrowing of tax base unless approved by the Urban Counties.

HB 1254, by Murphy - allows land secured by a home equity loan to receive an agriculture exemption – **Passed.**

HB 1409, by Ashby - Allows land qualified as timber open-space exemption to qualify as such even if that land is used for oil and gas production over which the Railroad Commission of Texas has jurisdiction on the land. – **Passed**

HB 2441, by Wray –Authorizes an eligible disabled person who is 65 or older to receive both a disabled and an elderly residence homestead exemption in the same year if the person receives the exemptions with respect to taxes levied by different taxing units. — **Passed.**

HB 2859, by Capriglione – Prohibits taxation of precious metals a person owns and is held in a precious in a precious metal depository. - **Passed**

HB 639, by Springer - Adds land used as an ecological laboratory at a college or university to the definition of 'open space' to qualify for an ad valorem tax exemption. – **Passed.**

HB 3348, by Guillen - Allows a land owner to maintain agriculture exemption on land that is subject to a temporary quarantine activity because of a tick eradication program. – **Passed.**

SB 58, by Zaffirini - Exempts vehicles leased by all political subdivisions or non-profits from subsequent property taxes on the vehicle. – **Passed.**

HB 1313, by King - Changes the evidence threshold on changing appraised value of a property lowered the previous year through a court challenge from 'substantial' to 'clear and convincing'. Makes it harder to increase these values. Prevents an appraisal board from charging a fee to a property owner to protest valuations. **Passed.**

HB 160, by Raymond - Expands the disabled homestead exemption to include the parent or guardian of a minor who is disabled and resides with the parent or guardian. — **Failed.**

HB 275, by Miller - Expands property tax exemption for surviving spouse of armed services member who is killed or fatally injured in the "line of duty." — **Failed.**

HB 384, by Bohac - Provides for the total exemption from property taxes of the homestead of an elderly homeowner who is 80 years or older and has received homestead exemptions on the homestead for at least the preceding 10 years. — **Failed.**

HB 716, by Leach - Creates a new exemption for "Severely Disabled Veteran" or the surviving spouse. — **Failed.**

HB 827, by Rose — Allows a governmental entity to exempt the assessed value of all property and improvements used to preserve an historical or archeological site. — **Failed.**

HB 948, by Metcalf — Changes the property tax exemption for land of a religious organization from 6 years to 10 years. — **Failed.**

HB 1201, by Raymond — Exempts property owned by a charitable organization for purposes of renting at below-market rates to low-, moderate-income people. — **Failed.**

HB 2958, by VanDeaver — Adds property owned by a nonprofit corporation performing functions of a public purpose are exempt from ad valorem taxes. — **Failed.**

SB 129, by Hinojosa — Expands who is eligible as a first responder for a full tax exemption on their residence homestead to include United States Special Investigators; Customs and Border Protection officers, and immigration and deportation officers. Allows qualification for the expanded list if the surviving spouse remarried. — **Failed.**

SB 443, by Hancock - Extends from two year to five-year period for homestead exemption without living on the premises for property rendered uninhabitable or unusable due to disaster. — **Passed.**

Support a significant increase in the school homestead exemption and ensure adjustments are made in state funding to schools to account for the exemption.

Support property tax transparency and information proposals, including but not limited to:

- a. **Removing projected tax assessment information from the central appraisal district (CAD) notice of assessed value;**
- b. **Requiring proposed tax rates and hearing information be provided to the CAD where they would be made available to taxpayers online;**
- c. **Renaming the "effective" tax rate as the "no-new-revenue" tax rate;**
- d. **Improving training and education requirements for appraisal review board members;**
- e. **Establishing a property tax administration advisory board to help with uniformity of appraisal forms, systems, and reports across districts; and**

- f. **Streamlining notice procedures for taxpayers, including separation of individual taxing entities' rates and respective tax amounts.**

Support allowing school districts to increase their tax rate to a previously approved level after a decrease rather than having to hold a second increase ratification election;

Support protections for innocent and unwitting taxpayers that acquire property subject to governmental errors in previous tax years from having to pay back taxes due to those errors.

HB 1885, by Bonnen –Allows the governing body of a taxing unit to waive penalties, interest on a delinquent tax if the property is subject to a mortgage that doesn't require the owner to fund an escrow account for payment of taxes; tax bill was mailed electronically but the mortgagee failed to mail a copy of the bill to the owner as required; and the taxpayer paid the tax by the 21st day after the taxpayer knew or should have known about delinquency.— **Passed.**

Oppose arbitrary limits on local governments to undermine fiscal resources that enable officials to meet their obligations and local priorities.

SB 2, by Bettencourt – Caps the vast majority of counties and cities at 3.5% with an automatic election is required to exceed the cap. Reforms the appraisal system and increases information to taxpayers. — **Passed.**

Other Bills of Interest in Taxation:

SB 1943, by Watson – Defines “heir property” as inherited property and to allow an heir who claims the property as a residence homestead to qualify as if the owner were the sole owner of the property. Provides that grant of a homestead exemption does not operate to transfer title to property and provides that the chief appraiser may not be made party to any action over the title. Requires the comptroller to prepare a pamphlet describing heirs' rights. — **Passed.**

HB 861, by Anchia – Currently, if a taxpayer has an unpaid tax obligation at conclusion of tax appeal, penalties & interest apply to that balance beginning on original delinquency date. Bill gives taxpayer an opportunity to pay the balance by a new due date before those penalties & interest would apply. The result will be that taxpayers will just pay \$0 until appeal is decided. — **Passed.**

HB 3086, by Cole – Limits sales tax exemption from all audio and video recording equipment used in motion pictures to just the equipment used for master recording. — **Passed.**

HB 3143, by Murphy –Extension of Chapter 312 for economic development agreements. Adds reporting requirements and notice disclosures and extend the Act to 2029. Requires commissioners court agreement. — **Passed.**

HB 2993, by Geren – Establishes a specific tax appraisal method for calculating property tax levies on property used for low-income and moderate-income housing. — **Failed.**

SB 1771, by Bettencourt – Real property owned by government is tax exempt, except the property is subject to tax if leased to a private entity. However, leases in certain enumerated facilities are not subject to taxation. The bill says a lease in a convention center, sports facility, etc. owned by a city is subject to tax by other

taxing jurisdictions unless the governing bodies of those taxing jurisdictions vote to approve the exemption. — **Failed.**

SB 1772, by Bettencourt – Provides for a temporary exemption on tangible personal property and improvements to real property damaged at least 15% during a disaster. Requires property owner to apply for the exemption but would not be required to re-apply in subsequent years. — **Failed.**

SB 1280, by West - lowers the interest rate from 8% to 5% for the deferral or tax abatement agreement for taxes on an appreciating homestead value. The rate change applies to interest that accrues on or after the effective date. Interest that accrued before the effective date does not change. **Failed.**

SB 955, by Bettencourt - provides that taxing units may no longer challenge the level of appraisals in a category or a territory before the ARB. Other grounds for challenges remain. **Failed.**

CRIME AND COURTS

HB 1, by Zerwas – The State appropriated grant funding of \$248m for criminal justice efforts including; drug courts, prostitution prevention, truancy courts, and GPS monitoring for family violence crimes.

Support full state funding for all mandatory JJAEP placements in an amount adequate for year-round programs.

Support an increase in state funding for indigent defense purposes to cover increased costs incurred by local county taxpayers since the passage of the Fair Defense Act in 2001.

SB 1649, by Kolkhorst – Requires Indigent Defense Commission to prioritize assistance to counties under 100,000 in establishment and oversight of public defender offices. TIDC to issue policies and procedures for operation and administration of all PD offices. TIDC to annually review all criminal defense fees - private and appointed - to ensure fees are equitable, fair and consistent. — **Failed.**

HB 1812, by Murr – As Filed: Permits TIDC to issue indigent defense grants directly to an entity that assists counties in improving indigent defense. — **Failed.**

Support additional state funding for juvenile probation departments if the age of criminal responsibility is raised to 18.

HB 344, by Dutton – Raises the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18. — **Failed.**

HB 1364, by Wu – Juveniles between 10 and 12 subject to juvenile system for 2nd degree felony and above. Must not be held in custody unless poses a risk to community. Court may waive jurisdiction after hearing and dismiss charges. — **Failed.**

Support state payment to counties for costs of detaining in county jails technical parole violators and new-offense violators held solely for parole revocation purposes to end the practice of the state pushing costs associated with state prisoners onto local county taxpayers.

HB 2559, by Bowers – Bill mandates that TDJC issue a summons instead of a blue warrant for certain parole violators. Blue warrants can only be used if a violator fails to appear. — **Failed.**

Oppose changes in court costs in criminal cases that are expected to have a negative fiscal impact to counties.

SB 346, by Zaffirini – Consolidates court costs. OCA has calculated \$0 impact to state and local governments.

Support changes to pre-trial release to require the use of locally verified evaluation tools to determine a criminal defendant's risk of flight or danger to the community. Promote: (1) establishing pretrial risk assessments; (2) the elimination of bond schedules; (3) greater discretion for magistrates regarding pretrial release; and (4) rebuttable presumptions in favor of personal bond.

HB 1323, by Murr– Pretrial reform bill. Permits denial of bail in any case if judge or magistrate determines that bail and conditional release are insufficient to protect community and secure defendant's appearance in court. Prohibits bond schedules. JPs required to have training regarding appropriately setting bail. Mandates use of pretrial risk assessment to be completed by personal bond office or other trained person. Sheriff cannot be forced to complete the assessment. OCA to make an automated risk assessment tool available at no cost. A defendant denied bail must be given review hearing not later than 10 days after the denial. — **Failed.**

HB 2020, by Kacal (Governor's bill) – Will require a district judge or associate judge appointed by district judge to magistrate all arrestees for felonies and sex offense misdemeanors. Governor to create a Bail Advisory Program to create a risk assessment tool that must be used, and to make recommendations on best practices for pretrial release. — **Failed.**

Maintain current fee structure for the district court records and archives fee, the county court records management and preservation fee, and the records archive fee through 2029.

SB 658, by Zaffirini – Currently the increased amount for records archive, management and preservation fees expire this year. This bill would make permanent that increased amount. — **Passed.**

Support granting counties authority to judicially designate as uncollectible certain fees and costs of court.

HB 435, by Shaheen – Permits courts to declare fees and costs over 15 years old in civil cases as uncollectable. Will permit all counties to write off uncollectible costs and fines from criminal cases. — **Passed.**

Other Bills of Interest in Crime and Courts:

SB 346, by Zaffirini – Late floor amendments in House added provisions stating criminal courts may only consider a defendant's present ability to pay when assessing fines and costs. Will permit convicted persons to petition court if payment of fines and costs imposes an undue hardship, and court may order community service in lieu of payment or may waive payment. — **Passed.**

HB 1651, by Gonzalez – Specifies the care a pregnant woman must receive in jail, including restraint and labor procedures. New annual reporting requirement on use of restraints on pregnant inmates. — **Passed.**

HB 2580, by Wu – Requires county jails to provide inmates awaiting trial free telephone calls up to 20 minutes per month with attorney and one 10-minute call per month to anyone else. — **Failed.**

HB 1653, by White –CJD must create pretrial diversion database. Counties receiving grants for pretrial diversion must report data. Creates separate funding line for probation depts supervising pretrial diversion participants. - **Failed.**

SB 2191, by Whitmire – Requires inmates (adults and juveniles) awaiting trial be held in Texas. Prohibits kids certified as adults to be sentenced to post-adjudication secure facilities; they must be sent to TJJD secure facility in Texas. — **Failed.**

SB 2091, by Hughes - require appointment of attorney ad litem for parent and if the parent is found not to be indigent the attorney cannot be discharged until after a hearing that is required to be held no later than 14 days after filing of a petition by DFPS. Current law permits delay in proceedings while parent retains attorney, but that section is being repealed. - **Failed.**

SB 1293, by Zaffirini – Authorizes counties to create public defender positions to represent persons in commitment proceedings in lieu of private appointed counsel. — **Failed.**

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1, by Zerwas – Appropriates \$225m for transportation infrastructure grants for oil and gas impacted roads.

Oppose eliminating local tolling options.

HB 1951, by Krause –Places limits on future toll projects that can be initiated. Only allows a toll project on a project costing \$1B or more if TxDot certifies there are no funds for the project. Mandates voter approval. — **Failed.**

Support enhanced funding for freight transportation infrastructure projects to address economic growth and an ever-increasing population.

HB 4280, by Morrison – Amends the formula for TIF grants to apply to overweight permits for vehicles operating oil and gas. (\$250m appropriated) **Passed.**

Support current weight requirements for vehicles operating on county roads, except for localized proposals supported by the local commissioners court.

HB 1493, by Krause – Excludes from overweight requirements over-the-road-busses. — **Failed.**

Support local option fees for road improvements/additions if the fees are approved by the county's commissioners court.

HB 642, by Raney – Lowers the population threshold for an optional registration fee from 1.5 M to 190,000. — **Failed.**

HB 924, by Zedler – Allows Commissioner's Court to require a surety bond by concrete plant operators to repair road damage caused by the plant operations. — **Failed.**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1, by Zerwas – Appropriates \$40m for community mental health grants; \$60m for grants for programs for justice involved individuals; \$20m for veterans' mental health grants; funding for increased access to LMHA services, to avoid waitlists, in the amount of \$29m; substance abuse treatment services \$5m; and recovery focused clubhouses \$6.6m.

Support increased funding for mental health and substance abuse services state-wide.

SB 1, by Nelson/by Zerwas – State Appropriations Act. — ***Passed.***

HB 10, by Thompson – Creates the Texas Mental and Behavioral Health Research Institute to create best practices, leadership, and vision for addressing child and adolescent behavioral health needs and to fund research for behavioral health issues. — ***Failed.***

HB 1669, by Lucio – Requires HHSC to develop and implement a plan to increase mental health workforce. — ***Failed.***

SB 10, by Nelson – Establishes the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium to enhance the state's ability to address mental health care needs. The TMHCC would be composed of 12 health-related institutions of higher education in Texas. Requires parental consent. — ***Passed on SB 11.***

Support state action related to state participation in the funding of indigent health care to maximize access to available federal funds.

HB 25, by Gonzalez– Women's Medicaid coverage for 12 months after giving birth. — ***Passed.***

HB 342, by Cortez– Allows children to remain covered for a year once they are deemed Medicaid eligible. — ***Failed.***

HB 870, by Price – Provides that services provided via telemedicine are covered for reimbursement through Medicaid. Repeals a provision that requires a health professional is present with the patient during treatment. — ***Failed.***

HB 4289, by Coleman - Authorizes local jurisdictions to establish health care provider participation programs. Local jurisdictions include hospital districts, counties, and municipalities. — ***Passed.***

Expand capacity of both forensic and civil beds in the state hospital system.

SB 500, by Nelson – State supplemental appropriations bill. — ***Passed.***

Support the continuation of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver.

Support state action related to state participation in the funding of indigent health care to maximize access to available federal funds.

Support the repeal of the Drivers Responsibility Program and the replacement of State funding for trauma care.

HB 2048, by Zerwas– Drivers Responsibility Program repeal. Increases a fee on auto insurance policies by \$2, 60% allocated to the trauma fund. Raises the state portion of traffic fines on certain moving violations from \$30 to \$50, Lowers the city/county portion from 5% to 4%; however, 30% to trauma fund and 70% to GR. First-time Class B DWI offenders pay a fine of \$3,000 over three years; \$4,500 for second offenders; \$6,000 for third. 30% trauma and 70% to GR.— ***Passed.***

Other Bills of Interest in Health and Human Services:

SB 822, by Nelson - Currently the veterans grant program is administered by the Meadows Institute, this legislation transfers it to HHSC. – **Failed.**

HB 601 by Price – Cleanup bill for last session for jail inmates who have a mental illness or intellectual disability be assessed by a mental health professional. Amended to require commissioners court to reimburse the LMHA or LIDD for the cost of the assessment. – **Passed.**

HB 2755, by Price - Amends the amount a county can charge for a food or health permit to the actual county costs from the current fee of \$150. **Passed.**

ENVIRONMENT/DISASTER RELIEF, RECOVERY, AND RESILIENCE

SB 500, by Nelson - The supplemental appropriations bill provides \$3.5 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund to fund a number of significant initiatives that address damage to the state due to Hurricane Harvey, provide state participation and facilitation of the draw-down of federal aid programs for local government recovery efforts, and invest in longterm infrastructure projects intended to lessen the effects to Texas from future disasters. Funding includes the following areas: Hurricane Harvey relief to public schools through the Foundation School Program \$806.5; Hurricane Harvey-related facilities damage recovery at institutions of higher education \$1.68 billion in funding for the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund and the Flood Infrastructure Fund; \$840.0 million to the Water Development Board to develop and fund projects under the State Flood Plan; and \$150.0 million to the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board to fund the repair and improvement of earthen dams.

HB 1, by Zerwas – Appropriates \$4.5m for air quality-planning activities to reduce ozone in near nonattainment areas; and \$159m for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan for clean air purposes.

Support full funding for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) and maintain the integrity of the TERP program.

HB 3745 by Bell - Takes the TERP funds out of legislative appropriations. Redefines the TERP fund and account in a manner that permits TCEQ to spend all monies raised by TERP fees to carry out the plan without specific legislative appropriation. Extends TERP fees until the last day of the fiscal biennium which TCEQ publishes in the register that the state is in attainment – **Passed.**

Use the TERP funds only for programs that will assist nonattainment and near nonattainment areas in meeting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ozone standards.

Support local administration of the LIRAP and LIP programs to ensure funds collected in the county are used in the county.

SB 1070 by Watson – Converts the LIRAP program to emphasize the LIP options. — **Failed.**

Support using state funds for financing disaster mitigation, disaster prevention, disaster recovery, and resilience projects as long as local decision making is preserved to ensure local priorities are met.

SB 7, by Creighton – Revamps the Floodplain Management Account as a special fund, administered by TX Water Development Board, used for grants, loans, data collection for flood control planning and renames it the TX Infrastructure Resiliency Fund (TIRF). Creates four subaccounts: Floodplain Management (continues to be used for grants, data collection, stream gaging, and outreach), Harvey Recovery, Flood Plan Implementation, Army Corps Projects. Prioritizes projects based on TDEM recommendations, emergency need, funded partially by federal matching funds, increase water supply. Defines flood project as drainage, flood mitigation, or flood control project. Establishes TIRF Advisory Committee (existing members of SWIFT and TDEM). Requires quarterly reports from state agencies that disburse fed dollars for flood-related activity. Adds TWDB transparency requirements. — **Passed.**

SB 8, by Perry – Creates an official state flood plan to include a statewide, ranked list of ongoing and proposed flood control projects; evaluation of flood control infrastructure; analysis of development in the 100-year floodplain areas and legislative recommendations; and incorporate regional plans. Creates a “regional flood planning” process in which a regional flood planning group jointly plans for overall regional priorities. The planning group is composed of representatives of governing body of each county located wholly or partially in the flood planning region. In voting on final version of regional flood plan, entitles each county to one vote. — **Passed.**

HB 13, by Phelan/HJR 4, by Phelan – Appropriates \$3.26B from the Economic Stabilization Fund and creates the flood infrastructure fund as a special fund outside of the general fund to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to award or loan state dollars to political subdivisions in cooperation with others in a region to encourage development of nonstructural and structural flood mitigation. — **Failed.**

HB 2300, by Morrison – Creates a disaster recovery loan program under TX Division of Emergency Management for political subdivisions located wholly or partly in a declared disaster area by Gov or President for damaged infrastructure greater than 50% of the political subdivision's total revenue for current year. Establishes application procedures and loan guidelines. Appropriates \$60m from GR. — **Failed.**

Other Bills of Interest in Environment:

HB 7, by Morrison - Requires TX Division of Emergency Management, in consultation with the other state agencies, to develop a plan to assist political subdivisions with executing contracts for services that political subdivisions are likely to need post-disaster. — **Passed.**

HB 137, by Hinojosa - Requires TCEQ to notify the emergency management director of a political subdivision of a dams hazard classification, high hazard within 48 hours and of significant hazard within 30 days of the designation. **Passed.**

SB 970, by Creighton/HB 2003, by Leach – Says any "public agency" - entity with authority to operate waste facilities - may not enter into a contingent fee contract with a lawyer unless the attorney general reviews and approves the contract. — **Failed.**

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Oppose efforts to require local governments to pay penalties, including an opposing party's attorney fees and court costs in eminent domain proceedings.

SB 552, by Schwertner – Adds additional language to the statement provided to a property owner when surveying a property for potential eminent domain authority purposes, including the entity has the right to sue to enter the property, the owner has the right to seek to negotiate the terms of the survey and the entity is responsible for any actual damages while surveying. Any written survey permission form provided to a landowner must contain those rights. — **Failed.**

Oppose changes to the criteria governments must meet to show “actual progress” on projects to prevent real property acquired through eminent domain to be subject to repurchase.

SB 554, by Schwertner / HB 1253 by Leman – Property acquired by eminent domain is subject to repurchase if the government cannot show "actual progress" on the public use of the land within 10 years of acquisition. The bill would make showings of "actual progress" more difficult. Instead of showing compliance with at least 2 of 7 factors, government would have to show compliance with at least 3 of 5 factors. The 2 repealed factors are arguably the easiest to meet. — **Failed.**

Other Bills of Interest in Development and Infrastructure:

HB 2529, by Leach – Permits a county to appoint at least one commissioner to a county housing authority or a regional housing authority who is a recipient of housing assistance administered through the authority's choice voucher program or project-based rental assistance. — **Passed.**

HB 1999, by Leach – Requires governmental entity alleging a construction defect to give the alleged responsible contractor, architect, or engineer a written report of the alleged defect and the opportunity to correct the defect before being eligible to bring a lawsuit. — **Passed.**

HB 2135, by Shine – Caps retainage at 5% of a contract for a public works project of \$1 million or more. — **Failed.**

HB 3167, by Oliverson – Amends timeline for approval or disapproval of a plat to 30th day after application is received. Considers application to be approved unless application is disapproved within the 30-day time period. Allows for extension of 30-day period for a period not to exceed 30 days. — **Passed.**

SB 175, by Perry – Exempts cities, counties and ISD's from filing ED annual reports with the Comptroller. **Failed.**

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Support giving all counties the option to adopt a fire code and rules necessary to administer and enforce the fire code.

Oppose creation of a new fireworks season unless commissioners courts are granted discretion over the sale of fireworks in that county for the new season.

HB 2748, by Perez – Removes all of the sales period restrictions and allows sales of fireworks at all time during the year. — **Failed.**

SB 2318, by Campbell - Prohibits a county from requiring a building permit to construct, improve, or occupy a structure used for retail sale of seasonal goods if structure is portable and smaller than 500 sq ft. — **Failed.**

HB 581, by White – Allows the sale of fireworks five days before and up to Labor Day if permitted by commissioners court. — **Failed.**

HB 582, by White – Permits fireworks sales five days before Juneteenth with commissioners court approval. Clarifies Texas A&M Forestry is the determinant of drought conditions. — **Failed.**

HB 915, by Shaheen – Allows fireworks on Diwali Day. Typically, in October/September. No commissioners court approval required. — **Failed.**

HB 2063, by Stickland – Authorizes sale of fireworks on and before Texas Independence Day (beginning February 25 and ending at midnight on March 2); San Jacinto Day (beginning April 16 and ending at midnight on April 21); and expands sale on and before Cinco de Mayo statewide without approval of commissioners court. — **Failed.**

Protect county authority to restrict or ban the sale and use of fireworks during drought conditions and when included in a local disaster declaration.

Support the current role of local emergency management authorities and the county judge in responding to potential and actual emergencies and disasters.

Support efforts to maintain the long-established prohibition of guns in any portion of a building used by court participants.

Support additional funding for DPS crime labs provided it does not negatively impact existing local crime labs.

ELECTIONS

HB 1, by Zerwas – Funding for the Secretary of State is increased by \$16m from the 2018–19 biennium, largely due to the receipt of a federal grant and increased funding for primary election reimbursements and information technology projects.

Support the creation of an online voter registration system.

HB 1897, by Dutton – Requires a voter registrar to adopt procedures to allow completion of a voter registration application online. — **Failed.**

Expand the Countywide Polling Place Program for all counties.

SB 1255, by Bettencourt – Stipulates that a countywide polling place must have the same % of polling places as the % of voters in each precinct. In counties of 400k and

more, the % of polling places must be equal to the % of voters in each state representative district in the county. — **Failed.**

Support state funding to counties for the purchase of new election equipment, including reimbursement for purchases made within the last 3 years.

HB 362, by Israel/SB 2353, by Hall – Creates a GR funded grant for counties/cities to apply to replace voting system equipment for up to 50% of the actual cost, machines must use a paper record or produce a paper receipt. Eligibility criteria shall include number of voters, the age and condition of current equipment, need in both rural and urban areas and whether the governing body has adopted a long-term plan to address needs. – **Failed.**

Support grandfather provisions for all counties that purchased election equipment, in the last five years, that does not produce a paper audit trail.

Retain the current option to hold elections on uniform election dates.

Other Bills of Interest in Elections:

HB 1888, by Bonnen G. - Requires that each early voting location be open for voters on each and every day that voting is conducted at the main early polling place, and that each location remain open for at least eight hours a day, for all elections held on the November uniform election date. **Passed.**

HB 3965, by Bohac - Requires each countywide polling place to post a notice of the four nearest countywide polling places by driving distance. If a court orders any polling place to remain open after 7pm they all must remain open. **Passed.**

HB 88, by Swanson – Requires the order of candidate names in a tie vote and/or runoff election to be the same order as on the original ballot. - **Passed.**

HB 273, by Swanson – Changes the vote by mail mailout deadline from 45 days to 38 days. **Passed.**

HB 831, by Huberty – Clarifies that relocation as a result of a disaster does not impair the continuous residency requirements needed to hold an elective office. **Passed.**

HB 1048, by Guillen - Require polling locations for municipal elections to be the same as those of county elections so voters do not need to travel to multiple locations. **Passed.**

HB 1067, by Ashby - Provides that if a candidate dies after the second day of the deadline to file an application for a place on the ballot, the authority may omit the candidate on the ballot. **Passed.**

HB 1241, by Bucy – would require a notice of a polling place location to include the building name, if any, and street address of the polling place. **Passed.**

SB 9, by Hall – Omnibus elections bill. Would require, for the 2024 election, voting machines that must use a paper record or produce a paper receipt. In a county of 1 million or more to use the same methodology for polling locations as prior to using a county wide polling place. \$36m rider provided in SB 1 to retrofit machines purchased between 2014 and 2019. — **Failed.**

HB 3578, by Klick – Requires a judge upon conviction of a person for a felony offense, order the persons voter registration cancelled and send the order to the SOS. Prohibits cancelling a person's order on the grounds of a felony without the court order. — **Failed.**

SB 966, by Bettencourt – Provides that moving a temporary branch polling place for a county with a population of 100k or more may only be changed once during a voting period and after half the voting period has concluded. — **Failed.**

SB 323, by Huffman - Mandates that political subdivisions (with more than 120,000 pop) submit ballot proposition language to regional presiding judge of administrative judicial region for review of clarity 123 days before election day. — **Failed.**

SB 1190, by Bettencourt - Prohibits a person from establishing residence for purpose of influencing outcome of an election; at any place the person has not inhabited. For purposes of a voter response to a confirmation notice sent by voter registrar, requires voter to submit a sworn affirmation of voter's current residence and evidence of address. Allows for the use of copy of document to confirm residence. Clarifies that a voter enrolled as a full-time student living on campus at higher ed institution may use address of PO Box on campus or in a dorm. — **Failed.**

SB 1613, by Hall – Void a bond election if 25% or less registered voters of the political subdivision vote. — **Failed.**

SB 2219, by Bettencourt – Bond elections must be held on the November uniform election date, exception for an emergency declaration by the governor; must go to the voter for an imposition, increase or reduction of a tax to state specific language and may not exceed 5,000 characters or one voting screen. — **Failed.**

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Ensure commissioners court authority over county budgeting and contracting decisions.

Protect local taxpayers from unfunded state mandates, which drive local property tax increases, result in reductions in critical services, and infringe local control.

Support local control over compensation and benefits paid by the county.

Establish that any increase in the fees to be paid to attorneys appointed to represent indigent criminal defendants may not take effect until the adoption of the next county budget and require at least 90-day notice of the proposed increase to be provided to the commissioners court.

Support full state funding for representation of indigent parties in child welfare cases.

SB 560, by Kolkhorst – Requires the Judicial Council to collect information on manner and costs of court-appointed attorneys CPS cases. Report to be submitted to Legislature. — **Passed.**

Support financial transparency requirements that permit the use of existing reports and other documents and that minimize the need to express the same information in different manner or reports that are duplicative of reports already required.

SB 470, by Kolkhorst – Requires every county child welfare board to submit a report of the amount and source of funds received/expended in the preceding fiscal year, including the purpose of expenditures. — **Failed.**

Support legislation that permits counties to post public notices electronically in lieu of print publication.

Oppose requirements to include on bond propositions information other than the total amount of bonds to be issued if approved and the proposed uses of the bonds.

HB 440, by Murphy – Would require internet posting of sample ballot for bond proposition if county has website. Maturity date of general obligation bonds for improvements or personal property cannot exceed 120% of expected average economic life of the improvements/property. Unspent bond proceeds can be used for other purposes only after an election approving the new use. ISDs would not have to have an election to spend excess proceeds for other purposes. — **Passed.**

HB 477, by Murphy – Local governments with 250 or more registered voters are required to create a voter information document that includes info on existing debt and impact on taxes on proposed bond issuance. Must post to website if local gov has website. Additional information also required by all counties publishing notice to issue COs. No additional language on ballots. — **Failed.**

SB 462, by Campbell – Requires all local debt proposition ballots to include aggregate amount of debt at beginning of that fiscal year expressed as a percentage of the adopted tax rate, and the ad valorem debt service tax rate at the time the election is ordered. — **Failed.**

HB 4408, by Middleton - Prohibits a political subdivision from issuing a public security for a purpose previously rejected by voters. **Failed.**

Establish that the earliest effective date for any increase in salary budgets outside the control of commissioners court shall be the first day of the next county fiscal year following 90 days notice of the proposed increase to be provided to the commissioners court.

Support continued federal funding for local communities to help cover operational costs for holding undocumented criminal aliens in the criminal justice system and the costs to house them.

Oppose restrictions on the ability of local governments to effectively and efficiently communicate with the legislature and other state and federal entities.

SB 29, by Hall – Local government cannot spend money to influence legislation unless requested by member of the legislature. Local governments cannot join any association unless it does not lobby and only if it is for the benefit of all local officials. — **Failed.**

HB 281, by Middleton – Prevents any political subdivision from directly lobbying or joining a group that directly lobbies the legislature to influence the outcome of pending legislation. Allows a citizen to challenge an entity in Court and recoup attorney fees if they win the challenge. — **Failed.**

HB 433, by Shaheen – Political subdivisions must disclose in any required comprehensive annual financial report the total amount spent to compensate lobbyists. — **Failed.**

SB 702, by Bettencourt –Permits a political subdivision to spend money to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature only if expenditure is authorized by a majority of the governing body in an

open meeting of governing body. Requires the political subdivision or entity to report to TX Ethics Commission and publish on the subdivision's website amount of money authorized, name of any person required to register, and copy of contract for services, amount of public money spent for membership fees and dues of any nonprofit state association or organization. Requires Ethics Commission to create a public database concerning such reports. If political subdivision does not comply, entitles any taxpayer to sue for injunctive relief to prevent further activity in violation. Bill does not apply to government officer or employee who is requested to appear by a legislator so long as person does not take a position for or against legislation. - **Failed.**

Support proposals to permit public access to public information on the personal devices of public officers and employees that include reasonable provisions to guard against frivolous and abusive lawsuits against public officers and employees.

SB 944, by Watson – Requires all officials and employees to forward public information on private devices to the PIA officer for the governmental body. Requires governmental bodies to make reasonable efforts to obtain such information if there is a request covering the information. Governments can designate specific mailing and email addresses for PIA requests. — **Passed.**

Other Bills of Interest in Governance & Finance:

HB 1294, by Davis – Expands current requirement of elected law enforcement, county judge, or appointed public officer to an officer, employee, or volunteer of the state or a political subdivision who is a supervisor and whose position includes emergency management responsibilities to receive emergency management training. — **Failed.**

SB 1582, by Lucio – Adds peace officers to those who are presumed to have contracted certain diseases in the line of work. Covers smallpox, tuberculosis, heart attack or stroke. — **Passed.**

HB 1652 by Huberty – If directed by commissioners court, a tax auction of real property must be conducted using online bidding and sale. — **Passed.**

HB 3834, by Capriglione – Requires, annually, a local government to identify employees who have access to a local government computer system or database and requires those employees and elected officials to complete the training program. – **Passed.**

SB 652, by Campbell – Currently local governments may not issue COs for same purpose as proposed bond issuance rejected by voters for period of at least 3 years. Bill extends moratorium to 6 years. Adds new requirement to post intent to issue COs continuously on government's website for at least 30 days before approval of the issuance (and website is mandatory). — **Failed.**

SB 1640 by Watson—Addresses walking quorum. Violations require proof that meeting participant knew the series of communications would include a quorum and would constitute a “deliberation.”— **Passed.**

SB 22, by Campbell – Governmental entities may not contract with abortion provider or affiliate for any goods or services. — **Passed.**

HB 2840, by Canales – Requires a governmental body (includes commissioners court) of a political subdivision to allow each member of the public to address the

governing body before or during the body's consideration of an agenda item. Allows the body to adopt reasonable rules to implement. If a governmental body does not use simultaneous translation equipment, requires at least 2x the amount of time provided to the member of the public. Forbids a governmental body from prohibiting public criticism of the governmental body unless otherwise prohibited. — **Passed.**

HB 2953, by Moody – Creates a grant program to supplement peace officer salaries in counties/cities where the salary is less than \$32.5k CLEAT Bill. — **Failed.**

HB 1927, by Herrero - Requires a county judge to fill a county commissioner vacancy by the 60th day after the date of vacancy, in counties over 300k. — **Passed.**

HB 2826, by Bonnen, G – Imposes a slew of requirements before a governmental entity may enter into a contingency fee contract for legal services, including getting approval of the contract from the AG. AG may decline to approve the agreement if the purpose is one the AG can pursue. This is aimed at stopping local enforcement of environmental regulations. — **Failed.**

HB 2503, by Kacal – Extends lifetime survivor benefits to surviving spouse of elected or appointed peace officer who dies in the course of employment, even if the spouse remarries. Currently limited to first responders. — **Failed.**

HB 359, by Moody – Prohibits discharging, suspending or firing a peace officer, detention officer, county jailer, or firefighter due to their inability to perform duties if the person was injured in the course and scope of duty before the person is certified as having reached maximum medical improvement. Waives sovereign immunity for a lawsuit for damages and reinstatement under this provision. "unless the report of the designated doctor indicates the person is unable to return to work." Caps the damages payable by an employer at \$100,000. Excludes counties that have civil service. — **Failed.**

HB 1929, by Noble – Prohibits contracts of any kind between governmental entities and abortion providers. — **Failed.**

SB 2104, by Zaffirini – Creates a Texas Veterans County Service Officer task force that consists of House Defense chair, Senate Veterans affair chair, Texas Veterans Commission, Officers from various regions, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations to review the role and duties of officers in each county, identify areas in need of officers, determine state assistance needed and submit a report by 2020. — **Passed.**

SB 1261, by Bettencourt - A person may not be employed as the chief appraiser if the person is an elected or appointed officer of a taxing unit located wholly or partly in the appraisal district. — **Failed.**



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

June 6, 2019

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: Adam Haynes, Policy Director

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **CUC Activity Summary – 86th Regular Legislative Session**

Background:

The Texas Conference of Urban Counties monitored legislation and engaged in the legislative process on behalf of our members during the 86th Regular Legislative Session. The following is a summary of our activities this past session.

Vice-Chairmen
Comm. Kevin Wolff
Bexar County
Judge Matt Sebesta
Brazoria County
Judge Eddie Treviño
Cameron County
Comm. Andy Meyers
Fort Bend County
Comm. Robin Donnelly
Midland County
Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County

A total of 7,851 bills were filed this session, 3,718 of which CUC tracked. 19.8% (1,554) of bills filed this session were passed and sent to the Governor, 7.5% (590) of which we were tracking.

The veto deadline is on June 16th.

Executive Director
John B. Dahill

Member Counties
Bell · Bexar
Brazoria · Brazos
Cameron · Chambers
Collin · Comal
Dallas · Denton
Ector · El Paso
Fort Bend · Galveston
Grayson · Harris
Hays · Hidalgo
Jefferson · Johnson
Kaufman · Lubbock
McLennan · Midland
Nueces · Potter
Randall · Rockwall
San Patricio · Smith
Tarrant · Travis
Webb · Williamson
Wise

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.476.6174
www.cuc.org



June 6, 2019

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Austin, TX 78701

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To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: Adam Haynes, Policy Director
Re: **Discussion of the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019**

Background:

The Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019, SB 2, caps the revenue of counties at 3.5% with an automatic election to exceed the rate. The bill contains additional tax rate provisions, transparency measures, and reforms to the appraisal system. SB 2 does the following:

TAX RATE

Renames Tax Rate Terms

- Renames the “rollback” rate to “voter-approval” rate;
- Renames the “effective” rate to “no-new-revenue” rate;

Voter-approval Tax Rate

- Reduces the voter-approval rate to 3.5% for a vast majority of counties and cities with an automatic election to exceed the rate;
- Maintains an 8% cap for special taxing units with a required election to go above the cap. Defines a special taxing unit as a taxing unit — other than a school— with a proposed M&O rate at 2.5 cents or less per \$100 of taxable value; hospital districts, and junior college districts;

Indigent Defense

- Exempts from the voter-approval tax rate calculation the amount paid to assigned counsel for indigent defense cases, not to exceed 5%;

Declared Disasters

- Permissive that in a declared disaster area, a taxing unit, other than a special taxing unit, may use the 8% voter-approval rate for two years if values return to pre-disaster levels or three years have elapsed;

Public Hospitals

- Excludes increased expenditures for indigent health care for county hospitals from the voter-approval rate;

Uniform Election Date

- Applies the uniform November election date for a vote to approve a proposed tax rate;

Taxing Unit Responsibilities

- Requires a taxing unit to adopt a tax rate before the later of September 30 or the 60th day after receiving the certified appraisal roll — unless the proposed rate will exceed 3.5% in which case the rate must be set by the 71st day before the next uniform election date that occurs in November;
- Prohibits a taxing unit, other than a school district, from holding a public hearing on a proposed tax rate or a public meeting to adopt a tax rate until the fifth day after the voter-approval rate and no-new-revenue rate have been calculated and placed on the central appraisal district's database and other provisions regarding the database and required notifications have been met;
- Mandates that all counties maintain an internet website and requires certain tax hearing notices and tax information be posted on the website;
- Requires all tax notices to include the statement: "The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.";
- For the FY 2021, prohibits the governing body of a taxing unit from adopting a budget or taking any other action that has the effect of decreasing the total compensation of a first responder from the previous FY;

APPRAISAL REFORMS

Appraisal Review Board (ARB) Training

- Requires eight-hour minimum training for ARB members and a four-hour minimum training course for continuing education;

Central Appraisal District (CAD) Public Database

- Requires each CAD to maintain database of property tax-related information;
- Creates a new section, 26.17 of the Tax Code, specifying a host of information that must be included in the CAD's database;

Appraisal Review Board Size

- For counties with 1m+ population, requires the CAD board to increase the size of the ARB to the number of members considered appropriate;

Special Appraisal Review Board Panels in Districts Located in a County of 1m or More

- Requires specialized ARB panels for properties valued above \$50m for the 2020 tax year with an inflation multiplier for subsequent years; and
- Permits a property owner to request a protest to be heard by a special panel.

The bill was sent to Governor Abbott.

Recommended Resolution:

None.



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

June 6, 2019

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: Adam Haynes, Policy Director

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **Discussion of SB 2's Indigent Defense Provision**

The final version of SB 2 includes a provision that expressly exempts from the no-new-revenue tax rate calculation up to a 5% increase in the amount paid for "appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings *in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure...*"

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Tarrant County

With the inclusion of the highlighted phrase, the exemption does not apply to expenditures for a public defender office or expenditures for a managed assigned counsel program. Likewise, the exemption does not apply to appointed counsel in civil matters, such as Child Protective Services cases.

Finally, a county must subtract from any applicable increase in costs for appointed counsel the amount of any grant received from the state meant to cover such expenses.

Executive Director
John B. Dahill

Member Counties
Bell · Bexar
Brazoria · Brazos
Cameron · Chambers
Collin · Comal
Dallas · Denton
Ector · El Paso
Fort Bend · Galveston
Grayson · Harris
Hays · Hidalgo
Jefferson · Johnson
Kaufman · Lubbock
McLennan · Midland
Nueces · Potter
Randall · Rockwall
San Patricio · Smith
Tarrant · Travis
Webb · Williamson
Wise

Recommended Resolution:
None.

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

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THE TEXAS HOUSE & SENATE PRESENT: **THE TEXAS PLAN** FOR SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

PROPERTY TAX **RELIEF**. RECAPTURE **REDUCTION**. EDUCATION **REFORM**.



\$4.5 BILLION

**FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL
EDUCATION REFORMS**

PUTS MORE MONEY INTO CLASSROOMS TO ACCELERATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Significantly increases the Basic Allotment per student
- Funds full-day Pre-K for low income students
- Adopts high-quality K-3 reading standards so students read at grade level by 3rd grade
- Creates the first dyslexia identification program in Texas history
- Accelerates student achievement via College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR) outcomes bonuses, dual-language programs, and extended year summer programs for students
- Creates a "Do Not Hire" registry to protect children in the classroom
- Funds transportation at a rate of \$1.00/mile and quadruples funding for building and equipping new facilities
- Directs more funds to schools with higher concentrations of under-served students, including dropouts, students in special education, and residential treatment facilities
- And more!



OVER \$5 BILLION

IN PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

INCREASES THE STATE'S SHARE OF EDUCATION FUNDING TO LOWER PROPERTY TAXES

- Provides over \$5 billion in statewide property tax relief
- Lowers school property tax rates by an average of 8 cents in 2020 and 13 cents in 2021
- Provides an additional 2.5% tax compression starting in 2021
- Ensures taxpayer dollars are used responsibly by requiring districts to conduct efficiency audits before going to voters with a tax increase
- Increases the state's share of education funding from 38% to 45%



\$3.6 BILLION*

RECAPTURE REDUCTION

MODERNIZES OUTDATED SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULAS TO REDUCE RECAPTURE

- Reduces recapture payments by \$3.6 billion, a 47% reduction this biennium
- Increases equity within the school finance system
- Gives ISDs the ability to keep more of the money they earn from their local property taxes

**Not an appropriation. The reduction in recapture is a cumulative effect of the \$11.6B investment made in HB 3 to buy down property taxes and reform school finance formulas.*



\$2 BILLION

**FOR DYNAMIC TEACHER
COMPENSATION**

ENERGIZES TEACHER PAY & INVESTS IN PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE TEACHER QUALITY

- Compensates educators as true professionals by unleashing over \$2 billion in dynamic pay raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses
- Creates a merit/incentive pay program for high-quality educators to receive additional pay
- Increases the minimum teacher salary schedule
- Invests in professional development and mentoring programs for new teachers

HOUSE BILL 3:

Meeting the educational needs of today's students and tomorrow's workforce.

THE TEXAS HOUSE & SENATE PRESENT: THE COMPENSATION COMPROMISE

INCREASING COMPENSATION FOR EDUCATORS

TYPE OF COMPENSATION	INVESTMENT PER BIENNIUM
Dedicated Funds for Raises	\$1.6 Billion
TRS Contributions from House Bill 3	\$510/educator
TRS Contributions from Senate Bill 12	\$412/educator

INVESTING OVER \$2 BILLION THIS BIENNIUM TO INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR
TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, COUNSELORS, AND NURSES,
PRIORITIZING VETERAN EDUCATORS

DIRECTING FUNDS FOR EDUCATOR PAY INCREASES

- Over **\$1.6 billion** per biennium dedicated to providing raises for teachers, librarians, counselors, and nurses, with an emphasis on retaining our veteran educators

WORKS WITH ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A SECURE RETIREMENT

- **\$510 per educator** in average retirement benefits through House Bill 3
- **\$412 per employee** in average new retirement benefits through Senate Bill 12

INCENTIVIZES EDUCATORS & PROMOTES TEACHER QUALITY

- **\$140 million** for a merit/incentive pay program that allows educators to earn additional money based on performance, experience, and merit
- **\$30 million** annually for an extended year program that rewards teachers who work an additional 30 days in the summer
- **\$8 million** for mentoring new teachers
- **\$6 million** toward professional development for teachers in blended learning instruction

Judicial Pay Increase

District Judge	State Salary	Longevity Pay	Max County Supplement	Total Max Comp
Base Salary (0-4 yrs)	\$140,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$158,000
4-8 years	\$154,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$172,000
8+ years	\$168,000	\$0	\$18,000	\$186,000
12+ years (longevity)	\$168,000	\$8,400	\$18,000	\$194,400
COA Justice				
Base Salary (0-4 yrs)	\$154,000	\$0	\$9,000	\$163,000
4-8 years	\$169,400	\$0	\$9,000	\$178,400
8+ years	\$184,800	\$0	\$9,000	\$193,800
12+ years (longevity)	\$184,800	\$9,240	\$9,000	\$203,040
SC/CCA Justice/Judge				
Base Salary (0-4 yrs)	\$168,000	\$0	\$0	\$168,000
4-8 years	\$184,800	\$0	\$0	\$184,800
8+ years	\$201,600	\$0	\$0	\$201,600
12+ years (longevity)	\$201,600	\$10,080	\$0	\$211,680

CCAL Judge	Min County Salary (assuming max DJ supplement)*	Max County Salary
Base Salary (0-4 yrs)	\$157,000	\$193,400
4-8 years	\$171,000	\$193,400
8+ years	\$185,000	\$193,400
12+ years (longevity)	\$185,000	\$193,400

* Consistent with current law, CCAL minimum salary is \$1,000 less than district judge salary from state and county sources.

SPC Judge	Min County Salary (assuming max DJ supplement)*	Max County Salary
Base Salary (0-4 yrs)	\$158,000	\$194,400
4-8 years	\$172,000	\$194,400
8+ years	\$186,000	\$194,400
12+ years (longevity)	\$186,000	\$194,400

* Consistent with current law, SPC minimum salary is equal to district judge salary from state and county sources.



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

June 6, 2019

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: Windy Johnson, Program Manager

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **HB 1 – General Appropriations Act**

Background:

Vice-Chairmen
Comm. Kevin Wolff
Bexar County
Judge Matt Sebesta
Brazoria County
Judge Eddie Treviño
Cameron County
Comm. Andy Meyers
Fort Bend County
Comm. Robin Donnelly
Midland County
Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County

The Texas Legislature approved a two-year budget of \$250.7b, in addition to the \$9.8b supplemental approved. The approved budget is a 16% increase over the 2018-19 session.

Funding contingent upon the enactment of House Bill 3 include: \$6.5 billion for increased school funding, including: an increase to the Basic Allotment to \$6,160, funding to provide salary increases to teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses and other school employees; full-day prekindergarten for eligible students; and major structural reforms to the school finance system. \$5.0 billion for property tax relief through the compression of school district tax rates. Tier 1 tax rates are compressed to at least 93.0 percent, with additional compression beginning in fiscal year 2021 in districts where property value growth exceeds 2.5 percent.

Executive Director
John B. Dahill

In addition, the supplemental includes funding from the ESF for the following items: \$100.0 million for school safety infrastructure enhancements, \$10.9 million for school districts that experienced mass shootings, and \$636.0 million in 2020–21 biennial costs attributable to Hurricane Harvey.

Member Counties
Bell · Bexar
Brazoria · Brazos
Cameron · Chambers
Collin · Comal
Dallas · Denton
Ector · El Paso
Fort Bend · Galveston
Grayson · Harris
Hays · Hidalgo
Jefferson · Johnson
Kaufman · Lubbock
McLennan · Midland
Nueces · Potter
Randall · Rockwall
San Patricio · Smith
Tarrant · Travis
Webb · Williamson
Wise

The Texas Department of Transportation was allocated a total of \$31.1b including \$27.2b for highway planning and design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and maintenance. Additionally, there is \$125m for transportation infrastructure grants for county roads impacted by oil and gas, and an additional \$125m in the supplemental.

Throughout the 6 agencies, there is \$7.8b provided for behavioral health. Included is \$4.4b for children's mental health services and \$2.5b which includes funding for community mental health services; mental health services for veterans; inpatient mental health services at state-owned and community hospitals; and substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services. The supplemental also includes \$447m for new state hospital construction.

All Funds for the Judiciary agencies total \$892.3 million, which is an increase of \$35.3 million, or 4.1 percent, from 2018–19. Funding of

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\$34 million provides for judicial compensation based on a tiered, tenure-based structure for district judges, appellate court judges, the state prosecuting attorney, and professional prosecutors.

Funding for the Secretary of State totals \$84.4 million for the 2020–21 biennium, which is an increase of \$16.3 million from 2018–19, largely due to the receipt of a federal grant and increased funding for primary election reimbursements and information technology projects. Funding provides \$94.4 million, an increase of \$28.0 million from current levels, for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission for grants to counties for indigent defense services. This includes \$5.0 million for grants to public defender offices to develop a pilot project for the early identification and specialized representation of indigent defendants with mental illness.

Funding for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department for the biennium totals \$656 million, a decrease of \$5.1 million, or 0.8 percent. The decrease is attributable primarily to decreases in population projections, offset by increases in funding for juvenile correctional officers and regional diversion alternatives.

Recapitulation HB 1

	85th	86th	% Change
General	\$106,663,236,326	\$118,859,218,717	11%
General - D	\$6,295,367,471	\$6,189,628,689	-2%
Federal	\$71,854,658,298	\$86,438,477,739	20%
Other	\$31,795,002,390	\$39,164,809,585	23%
All Funds	\$216,608,264,485	\$250,652,134,730	16%

	85th All Funds	86th All Funds	% Change
Article I - General Government	\$6,243,090,661	\$7,429,998,621	19%
Article II - Health and Human Services	\$78,871,657,229	\$84,368,690,053	7%
Article III - Agencies of Education	\$80,998,025,878	\$83,006,839,311	2%
Article IV - The Judiciary	\$830,594,100	\$892,336,130	7%
Article V - Public Safety and Criminal Justice	\$12,305,654,059	\$16,040,281,191	30%
Article VI - Natural Resources	\$4,454,841,820	\$9,013,014,955	102%
Article VII - Business and Economic Development	\$31,841,630,980	\$37,057,123,775	16%
Article VIII - Regulatory	\$675,252,755	\$647,393,962	-4%
Article IX - General Provisions	\$0	\$11,804,380,599	
Article X - The Legislature	\$387,517,003	\$392,076,136	1%
	\$216,608,264,485	\$250,652,134,733	16%

SB 500	GR	Coastal Protection Acct.	Federal Funds	ESD
2019	\$ 1,685,898,982	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,146,518,960	\$ 4,967,741,593.00
2020				\$ 899,000,000.00
2021				\$ 261,000,000.00

Percentage Change from current biennium funding

Article I General	85th GOA	Final HB 1	% Change
◆ Lateral Roads	14,600,000	14,600,000	0%
Local Continuing Education Grants	12,000,000	12,000,000	0%
Veterans Exemptions Assistance to Counties	6,500,000	20,000,000	208%
Gross Weight Axle Reimb	33,905,550	34,000,000	0%
911 Operations and Equip. Reimb	124,849,610	125,822,281	1%
Disaster Funds	126,828,288	100,000,000	-21%
◆ Criminal Justice Grants	699,872,187	600,925,466	-14%
◆ County Essential Services Grants	4,644,964	2,340,666	-50%
Economic Development and Tourism	429,041,476	534,159,759	25%
◆ Courthouse Grants	21,531,921	26,160,126	21%
Historic Development Assistance Grants	3,533,218	3,512,718	-1%
◆ Aid to Local Libraries	7,221,409	8,890,039	23%
◆ Elections Process	8,555,022	11,849,700	39%
◆ Voter Registration Postage Reimb.	15,911,666	19,147,600	20%
HAVA Election Equipment Funds / Security	8,379,954	17,243,589	106%
Voter Registration	5,777,500	5,777,500	0%

Article II Health & Human Services

CPS Prevention Delivery Staff	1,445,087,834	1,626,112,004	13%
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention	209,944,506	214,176,598	2%
Mental Health Svc. Adults	714,901,392	764,100,202	7%
Mental Health Svc. Children	166,081,934	184,635,596	11%
Mental Health Crisis Svc.	321,413,746	343,263,746	7%
Behavioral Health Waivers	103,351,235	104,599,388	1%
Mental Health State Hospitals	875,536,372	898,738,275	3%
Mental Health State Hospitals Construction	300,000,000	676,260,139	125%
Mental Health Community Hospitals	243,830,476	270,620,452	11%
Substance Abuse and Prevention	517,618,303	464,363,294	-10%
EMS and Trauma Care	253,743,171	282,269,959	11%
◆ Indigent Health Care	1,758,251	1,758,251	0%

Article IV Judiciary

Judicial and Court Personnel Training	23,878,485	27,383,764	15%
◆ Indigent Defense	66,435,712	94,435,712	42%

Article V Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Jail Standards	1,885,207	2,092,306	11%
TDCJ			
Community Corrections	86,360,909	86,360,909	0%
Alternatives to Incarceration	21,547,951	21,547,951	0%
Court Diversion Program	246,569,016	250,569,016	2%
TJJD			
Prevention and Intervention	6,024,354	6,024,354	0%
Basic Probation Supervision	71,693,924	73,603,421	3%
Community Programs	88,859,791	89,359,791	1%
Pre and Post Adjudication Facilities	49,564,314	49,564,314	0%
Regional Diversion Alternatives *	18,585,963	21,585,963	16%
Probation System Support	5,898,993	5,775,234	-2%

Article VI Natural Resources

◆ Local Park Grants	37,356,848	36,132,685	-3%
◆ Boating Access and Recreational Trails Grants	35,024,624	17,674,686	-50%
TERP	154,739,737	154,739,737	0%
Solid Waste Management Planning Grants	19,355,380	19,550,442	1%

Article VII Business & Economic Development

Automobile Burglary and Theft Grants	25,671,702	25,671,702	0%
◆ TxDot Contracted Planning and Design	1,528,921,601	956,919,344	-37%
TxDot Right of Way Acquisition	1,698,665,034	1,713,687,748	1%
Transportation Infrastructure Fund	-	125,000,000	100%

1 - LIRAP/LIP funds were vetoed by the Governor in the 85th.

◆ Budget strategies with direct impact on county budgets

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
Art. I - General Government					
Fiscal Programs - Comptroller of Public Accounts	Lateral Road Fund Districts: These funds are allocated from the state motor fuel tax. The funds are to be used for improvements or construction on county lateral roads (Transportation Code 256.002).	\$ 14,600,000	\$ 14,600,000		0%
	Gross Weight/Axle Fee Distribution: This fund is dedicated to counties for partial reimbursement for overweight truck road damage. (Transportation Code 621.353) Estimated. Strategy A.1.10	\$ 33,905,550	\$ 34,000,000		0%
	Disabled Veterans Assistance Payments: Property tax relief for disabled veterans; offset payments to eligible cities and counties. Strategy A.1.12	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 20,000,000		208%
	Mixed Beverage Tax Reimbursement: Reimbursements to counties and incorporated municipalities from mixed beverage tax collections (Tax Code 183.051). Estimated. Strategy A.1.2	\$ 445,467,000	\$ 492,855,000		11%
	County Taxes - University Lands: Payment of county taxes on university lands. Estimated. Strategy	\$ 14,434,483	\$ 15,747,708		9%
	Law Enforcement Education Funds: These funds may be used to pay for continuing education for law enforcement personnel. The funds are allocated to the county based on the number of law enforcement personnel. Strategy A.1.7	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 12,000,000		0%
Commission on State Emergency Communications	9-1-1 Services: Grants and assistance to local governments via RPCs as they develop and implement regional plans and maintenance for 9-1-1 services. Includes NEXT Gen 9-1-1 Implementation. Strategy	\$ 124,849,610	\$ 125,822,281		1%
Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (TESRS)	TESRS: TESRS was created to administer the pension fund by SB 220 during the 83rd Legislature. TESRS previously existed as a pension fund under the auspices of the Office of the Firefighters' Pension Commissioner. Goal A	\$ 4,091,420	\$ 4,091,420		0%
Trusted Programs within the Office of the Governor	Disaster Funds: Helps cover the cost of the 25 percent match required for FEMA local disaster grants. Strategy A.1.1	\$ 126,828,288	\$ -	\$ 100,000,000	-21%
	Criminal Justice: Grants to local entities, non-profit organizations, and independent school districts for a variety of criminal justice related projects. Strategy B.1.1	\$ 699,872,187	\$ 600,925,466		-14%
	County Essential Services Grant: Funds for counties with unanticipated and extraordinary expenses, generally criminal justice related. Strategy B.1.2	\$ 4,644,964	\$ 2,340,666		-50%
	Drug Court Grants: Funding for those counties that would like to implement a drug court. Rider 12; Dedicated Acct. No. 5174 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants]	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000		0%
	Border Security Operations: For border prosecution grants. Rider 18 [Strategy B.1.3, Homeland	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 15,126,000		26%
	Internet Crime Against Children Task Forces: Grant funds to prevent and stop internet crimes against children, with priority given to local government programs that prevent technology-facilitated exploitation. [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants] Rider 19	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,600,000		0%
	Grants for Local Border Security: To fund grants to local law enforcement agencies to support Operation Border Star. The grant funds may also be awarded for the humane processing of the remains of undocumented migrants. [Strategy B.1.3, Homeland Security] Rider 20	\$ 10,200,000	\$ 10,200,000		0%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
	Truancy Prevention Court Cost: Grants to justice, municipal, and constitutional county courts to establish a new juvenile case manager in a jurisdiction that does not already have a juvenile case manager. Dedicated Acct No.5164 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants] Rider 21	\$ 6,193,872	\$ 6,193,872		0%
	Anti-Gang Programs: Grants for anti-gang activities. Rider 23 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants]	\$ 10,200,000	\$ 14,200,000		39%
	Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit: Operating costs for the Unit, and victim service grants. Rider 24 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants]	\$ 5,668,300	\$ 4,408,300		-22%
	Grants for Technology Infrastructure: To provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for upgrading technology infrastructure to implement incident based reporting. Rider 26; Dedicated Acct No. 5153 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants]	\$ 11,300,000	U/B		
	Bullet Resistant Vests: To fund grants to local law enforcement agencies and/or to DPS for the purchase of bullet-resistant personal body armor compliant with the National Institute of Justice standard for rifle protection. Rider 27 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants]	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 5,000,000		-80%
	Evidence Testing : Grants for local law enforcement agencies or counties for testing evidence collected for sexual assault or other sex offenses. Rider 29; Dedicated Acct. No. 5170 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants]	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,200,000		0%
	Grants to Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)-Ready Facilities: Not to exceed (NTE) \$50,000 per facility in any FY. Rider 30 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants] NEW	\$ -	\$ 6,000,000		
	Grants to Border Zone Fire Departments: Grants in FY 2020 to professional fire departments in the border region to assist in the acquisition of specialized equipment, maintenance and medical supplies to support emergency services associated with deterring crimes in the border area (as defined in Art. IX, Sec. 7.11). Rider 32 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants] NEW	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000		
	Grants for Testing of Forensic Evidence: Grants to reimburse District Attorneys for costs associated with the testing of forensic evidence. Rider 33 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants] NEW	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000		
	Grants for County Jail Medication-assisted Treatment for Opioid and Alcohol Dependence: for a pilot project with the purpose of providing inmates in Texas county jails access to Federal Drug Administration-approved, evidence-based medication assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol dependence. Rider 34 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants] NEW	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000		
	Prostitution Prevention Programs: Grants to counties for the implementation of prostitution prevention programs. Rider 35 [Strategy B.1.1, Criminal Justice Grants]	\$ 2,921,000	\$ 3,500,000		20%
	Economic Development/Tourism: Loans to local economic development corporations that assist local regions and communities with economic growth and development through job creation and capital investment. Strategy C.1.1	\$ 429,041,476	\$ 534,159,759		25%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
Historical Commission	Courthouse Preservation: Grants to counties for the renovation and rehabilitation of historic courthouses. Strategy A.1.3	\$ 21,531,921	\$ 1,160,126	\$ 25,000,000	21%
	Development Assistance Programs: Grants to cities and counties that promote economic development through historic preservation. Strategy A.2.1	\$ 3,533,218	\$ 3,512,718		-1%
Library and Archives Commission	Aid to Local Libraries: Funding for the Loan Star Libraries grants for public library service enhancements, including the Texas Reads Grants for literacy programs and Library System Negotiated Grants for regional library system initiatives. Strategy A.1.2	\$ 7,221,409	\$ 8,890,039		23%
Secretary of State	Elections Administration: Maintain Uniformity & Integrity of Elections; Oversee Election Process. Strategy B.1.1	\$ 8,555,022	\$ 11,849,700		39%
	Primary Funding/VR postage Election financing; VR Postal Payment services. Strategy B.1.2.	\$ 15,911,666	\$ 19,147,600		20%
	Elections Improvement (HAVA): Provides for elections improvements for equipment that meets voting systems standards; provisional voting; statewide voter information for election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers. Strategy B.1.4 (Federal Funds/restrictions on use - match required)	\$ 8,379,954	\$ 17,243,859		106%
	Financing Voter Registration: Payments to Counties for Voter Registration. Strategy B.1.5.	\$ 5,777,500	\$ 5,777,500		0%
Veterans Commission	Veterans Assistance Grants: Provides grants to non-profits or local governments to provide direct services to TX veterans and their families. Strategy B.1.1	\$ 28,006,589	\$ 26,157,438		-7%
	Housing for Texas Heroes: Provides grants to non-profit or local governments providing temporary or permanent housing to TX veterans and their families. Strategy B.1.2	\$ 10,832,000	\$ 12,132,000		12%
	Veterans Treatment Courts: The FVA provides grants to units of local government that provide veterans, with services through Veteran Treatment Court programs with funds from the Fund for Veterans' Assistance and other funding provided by the legislature. Strategy B.1.3	\$ 4,755,000	\$ 5,000,000		5%
Art. II - Health & Human Services					
Department of Family & Protective Services	CPS Direct Delivery Staff: Child Protective Investigations (CPI) investigates reports of child abuse and neglect to protect children from harm now and in the future. CPI and Child Protective Services (CPS) work to strengthen and stabilize families so they can safely care for their children at home. Strategy	\$ 1,445,087,834	\$ 1,626,112,004		13%
	Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program: Prevention and Early Intervention Programs, Goal C	\$ 209,944,506	\$ 214,176,598		2%
Health and Human Services Commission	Mental Health Svcs-Adults: Contracts with Community Mental Health Centers to deliver MH services in communities across Texas. Strategy D.2.1	\$ 714,901,392	\$ 764,100,202		7%
	Mental Health Svcs-Children: Funding for children in need of MH services. Strategy D.2.2	\$ 166,081,934	\$ 184,635,596	\$ 2,000,000	12%
	Mental Health Crisis Svcs: Funding to address mental health and substance abuse crisis. Strategy D.2.3	\$ 321,413,746	\$ 343,263,746	\$ 5,500,000	9%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
	Mental Health State Hospitals: Demand for inpatient psychiatric treatment is greater than existing capacity for services, specifically related to forensic services in maximum security units. This has led to growing waiting lists for forensic services. Additionally, state hospital infrastructure is aging and, at times, has led to reductions in capacity. Strategy G.2.1	\$ 804,133,888	\$ 898,738,475		12%
	Mental Health Community Hospitals: These facilities provide an alternative to persons leaving their local community for inpatient treatment at a state hospital. Some community hospitals are teaching hospitals. In some of these hospitals, the involvement of medical schools is essential to the provision of svcs. The availability of local community beds addresses the demand for both civil and forensic inpatient state hospital treatment. Strategy G.2.2	\$ 243,830,476	\$ 270,620,452	\$ 33,700,000	25%
	Behavioral Health Waivers/Amendments: The NorthSTAR program provides behavioral healthcare svcs (mental health and chemical dependency) to persons in Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, and Rockwell counties. Strategy D.2.5	\$ 103,351,235	\$ 104,599,388		1%
	Substance Abuse Services: Providing effective and timely substance use treatment mitigates various social challenges, such as involvement with the criminal justice system, avoidable hospitalizations, and potential involvement with Child Protective Services. Strategy D.2.4	\$ 517,618,303	\$ 464,363,294		-10%
	Indigent Health Care Reimbursement (UTMB): Health care for the uninsured and indigent in Texas. Strategy D.3.1	\$ 878,886	\$ 878,886		0%
	County Indigent Health Care Svcs: Counties are required to offer basic health services to indigent residents as the payers of last resort. Once a county spends 8% of its General Revenue tax levy (GRTL) on indigent care, the county can then request state matching funds. Strategy D.3.2	\$ 1,758,251	\$ 1,758,251		0%
	New Construction of State Hospitals and Other Inpatient MH Facilities: Capital Budget Item. [Strategy G.4.2, Facility Capital Repairs & Renovation]	\$ 300,000,000	\$ 230,905,776	\$ 445,354,363	125%
	MH for Veterans Grant Program - Community mental health programs for veterans. (Rider 61)	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 20,000,000		100%
	MH Grant Program for Justice Involved Individuals - Grant program to reduce recidivism, arrest, and incarceration among individuals with mental illness. (Rider 62) (SB 292 85th Session)	\$ 37,500,000	\$ 50,000,000		33%
	MH Jail Diversion Program in Harris County (Rider 62)		\$ 10,000,000		
	Community Mental Health Services - Eliminate the waitlist for children and adults (Rider 63)	\$ 62,673,000	\$ 59,055,770		-6%
	Substance Abuse Treatment Services - Reduce substance abuse treatment for pregnant women and women with children. (Rider 64)		\$ 28,634,844		
	Recovery Focused Clubhouses -The goal of the program is to improve a person's ability to function successfully in the community through involvement in a peer-focused environment. (Rider 65)	\$ 10,844,184	\$ 12,964,051		20%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
	Mental Health Grant Program - The purpose of the grant program is to provide matching grants to support community mental health programs providing services and treatment to individuals experiencing mental illness. - (Rider 68) (HB 13 85th Session)	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 40,000,000		33%
Department of State Health Services	EMS and Trauma Care Systems: Provides EMS certifications, including funding for local project grants. Strategy B.2.1	\$ 253,743,171	\$ 252,269,959	\$ 30,000,000	11%
Art. III - Education					
Texas Education Agency	FSP - Equalized Operations: Foundation School Program - Equalized Operations	\$41,579,400,000	\$42,050,428,623		1%
	Rider 3: assumed increases in property values, and the estimates of local tax collections on which they are based, as estimated by the Comptroller of Public Accounts, of 5.76 percent for tax year 2019 and by 4.01 percent for tax year 2020.				
Sam Houston State University	Law Enforcement Management Institute Acct No. 581: Estimated Appropriation Authority Strategy	\$6,948,255	\$7,309,546		5%
	Correctional Mgmt. Institute of TX Acct No. 5083: Estimated Appropriation Authority Strategy C.2.4	\$2,800,224	\$4,569,000		63%
Texas A&M Forest Service	Volunteer Fire Dept. Acct 5064: Grant programs to local volunteer fire departments (cities and counties) – providing them with equipment and training. Strategy B.1.2	\$48,103,097	\$38,459,293		-20%
	Wildfire Emergency Funds: Emergency Wildfire Reimbursement - Supplemental Appropriation. Strategy B.1.4			\$ 54,909,580	
UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth	Forensic Laboratory: Conducts blood and DNA tests associated with paternity testing for the Office of Attorney General, and services for other entitles approved by the UNT Health Science Center. [Strategy	\$5,791,292	\$5,791,292		0%
	Texas Missing Person and Human Identification Program: [Strategy D.2.3]	\$2,122,664	\$2,122,664		0%
Art. IV - Judiciary					
Court of Criminal Appeals	Judicial and Court Personnel Training: Provides for the continuing legal education of judges & court personnel. Strategy B.1.1	\$23,878,485	\$27,383,764		15%
Office of Court Administration	Indigent Defense: State funding to assist counties in providing quality legal representation in a cost-effective manner. Strategy D.1.1	\$66,435,712	\$94,435,712		42%
Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department	District Judges: State-funded salaries for approx. 472 judges in courtrooms across the state. Estimated. Strategy A.1.1	\$134,134,524	\$135,114,524		1%
	Constitutional County Judge: A county judge is entitled to an annual salary supplement from the state of \$15,000 if at least 40 percent of the functions that the judge performs are judicial functions (Govt. Code 26.006). Estimated. Strategy C.1.1	\$11,255,594	\$11,255,594		0%
	Statutory County Judge 573 Supplement: Govt. Code 25.0015. Estimated. Strategy C.1.2	\$41,080,490	\$41,374,490		1%
	Statutory Probate Judge Supplement: Govt. Code 25.0021. Estimated. Strategy C.1.3	\$2,739,572	\$2,739,572		0%
	District Attorney - Salaries: Help defray the salaries and expenses of the office (Govt. Code 41.013). Estimated. Strategy B.1.1	\$1,483,454	\$1,483,454		0%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
	Professional Prosecutors Salaries: Govt. Code 46.002, 46.003, 46.005 Estimated Strategy B.1.2	\$43,595,937	\$43,595,937		0%
	Felony Prosecutors Salaries: Govt. Code 44.220, 45.175, 45.280 Estimated Strategy B.1.3	\$681,070	\$681,070		0%
	Prosecutors, Subchapter C: Govt. Code 43.180 (Harris), and 41.201(1) Strategy B.1.4	\$272,046	\$272,046		0%
	Asst. Prosecutor Longevity Pay: These funds are used to supplement the pay of assistant district attorneys that have at least four years of lifetime service credit as an assistant prosecutor. Strategy	\$8,769,700	\$9,365,246	\$ 546,589	13%
	County Attorney Supplement: Govt. Code 46.0031, Strategy D.1.2	\$12,066,669	\$12,066,669		0%
	Special Prosecution Unit - Walker County: Strategy D.1.4	\$10,453,757	\$10,855,663		4%
	Juror Pay: Used to reimburse counties for the cost of juror services. Estimated. Strategy D.1.7	\$21,763,400	\$21,763,400		0%
	Indigent Inmate Defense: Code of Criminal Procedure 26.051(i). Estimated. Strategy. D.1.8	\$108,895	\$108,895		0%
	Cost of Extraordinary Prosecution: Strategy D.1.9	\$1,306,750	\$10,000		-99%
Special Provisions - Judiciary	Sec. 9 Contingent on House Bill 2384 (Judicial Salary Increase). Funding of \$31.3 million provides for a 10.0 percent increase for judges and those statutorily linked to state district judge pay contingent on the enactment of House Bill 2384, or similar legislation relating to judicial compensation by the Eighty-sixth Legislature, 2019. If House Bill 2384, or similar legislation, is not enacted, all judicial salaries will continue to be funded at the same level included in the Eighty-fifth Legislature, General Appropriations Act. 2018–19 Biennium. The last judicial salary increase was provided during the 2014–15 biennium.		See Attached		
Art. V - Public Safety & Criminal Justice					
Department of Criminal Justice	Basic Supervision: State aid to the local community supervision and corrections department (CSCD) to pay for misdemeanor probation funding - primarily staff and departmental operations. (Health Insurance is now accounted for separately) Strategy A.1.1	\$140,142,048	\$136,912,473		-2%
	Probation Insurance: Insurance Contributions for Local CSCD employees. Estimated (Art. I, Employee Retirement System, Strategy B.1.2)	\$129,495,204	\$143,136,883		11%
	Diversion Program: Residential treatment and rehabilitation programs for offenders in lieu of incarceration in jail or prison. Strategy A.1.2	\$246,569,016	\$250,569,016		2%
	Community Corrections: Treatment and rehabilitation of offenders in the community, including some special needs programs and restitution programs. Strategy A.1.3	\$86,360,909	\$86,360,909		0%
	Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration: Community based programs targeted to treating offenders in community in lieu of revoking to jail or prison. Without funding to TAIP (Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program), counties are likely to experience increased recidivism, unemployment, child support arrears and probation revocations. Strategy A.1.4	\$21,547,951	\$21,547,951		0%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
	Special Needs Projects Programs and Services: The Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments coordinates with the Department of State Health Services, county and municipal jails, and community mental health and mental retardation centers to establish methods for the continuity of care for pre- and post-release activities of defendants who are returned to the county of conviction after the defendant's competency has been restored. Strategy B.1.1	\$50,732,173	\$55,172,545		9%
	Academic/ Vocational Training: Provides TDCJ inmates with education and skills training so they will be better qualified in the workforce upon release from prison. Strategy C.2.2	\$3,838,088	\$5,838,088		52%
	In-Prison Treatment: Provides treatment to incarcerated offenders, including drug/alcohol and special needs programs. Strategy C.2.5	\$65,419,087	\$65,419,087		0%
	Substance Abuse Felony Punishment: The Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFP) program is an intensive 6-month (9-month for special needs offenders) program with 3 phases for offenders with crime related substance abuse problems. Strategy C.2.4	\$99,441,070	\$99,996,966		1%
	Operate Parole: (Goal F) Without adequate funding for parole supervision, department operations and programs, counties can anticipate increased crime and parole revocation proceedings, increased jail populations and increased demands on the court system.	\$364,573,703	\$366,179,188		0%
	Payments to District Clerks: Payments to District Clerks in counties with 4 or more TDCJ correctional facilities are allocated \$12,000 per fiscal year in equal monthly installments for costs incurred in filing TDCJ inmate correspondence.[Out of appropriated funds] Rider 52	\$24,000	\$24,000		0%
	Harris County Community Corrections Facility: Rider 53 [Strategy A.1.2, Diversion Programs]	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000		0%
	Pretrial Diversion Grant Programs: Grant preference for CSCDs that expand pretrial programs to state jail felony offenders - no specific dollar allocation. Rider 65 [Strategy A.1.2, Diversion Programs]	\$6,341,305	\$6,341,305		0%
Commission on Jail Standards	Jail Standards: (Goal A) The inspection and enforcement of county jails.	\$1,885,207	\$2,092,306		11%
	Prisoner Safety Grants: Grants to county jails for capital improvements associated with prisoner safety . Strategy C.1.1 [GR-Dedicated Acct No. 5172]	\$1,128,390	\$129,290		-89%
Texas Juvenile Justice Department	Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program: The Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) funding provides reimbursement to the juvenile board of counties with a population of 125,000 or greater who are required to operate a JJAEP per Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code (TEC). Counties are reimbursed at the rate of \$96 per day for each mandatory student attendance day (as defined in TEC 37.007). Also \$3 million is eligible for summer school, if sufficient funds are available at that time of the fiscal year. Strategy A 1.6	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000		0%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
	Prevention and Intervention: Section 203.0065 of the Texas Human Resources Code specifies that TJJD will provide prevention and intervention programs and services intended to prevent or intervene in at-risk behaviors that lead to delinquency, truancy, dropping out of school, or referral to the juvenile justice system. Strategy A.1.1	\$6,024,354	\$6,024,354		0%
	Basic Probation Supervision: This strategy is the foundation of the state's financial aid to 166 juvenile probation departments across the state per Human Resource Code Chapter 223. This strategy ensures basic probation services are provided to all Texas counties. Strategy A.1.2	\$71,693,924	\$73,603,421		3%
	Community Programs: This strategy contains funding for a range of community-based programs, as well as three specific programs within Probation and Community Services: (1) the Mexico Border program, providing funding for specialized programs and services along the Texas-Mexico border, (2) funding for the Title IV-E (Federal Foster Care) of the Social Security Act reimbursement, covering approximately half the cost of residential placement and related administrative expenses for programs meeting strict guidelines and providing services to eligible children referred to juvenile probation departments; and (3) the Special Needs Diversionary Program (SNDP) providing specialized treatment	\$88,859,791	\$89,359,791		1%
	Pre and Post Adjudication Facilities: County or contracted post adjudication beds and programs are used to provide rehabilitative services to youth. These programs allow the youth to remain closer to home. Strategy A.1.4	\$49,564,314	\$49,564,314		0%
	Commitment Diversion: Provides funding to local juvenile probation departments to ensure well-structured and innovative community-based alternatives to the committing of juveniles to state-operated secure correctional facilities. This strategy also is designed to provide external placement and local facility resources to juvenile probation departments for the placement of juvenile offenders in secure and non-secure settings who have been assigned by a county juvenile court order. Strategy	\$38,985,000	\$38,985,000		0%
	Mental Health Services Grants: This strategy provides funding to local juvenile probation departments to increase and to supplement existing mental health services, programs, and placements to juveniles under their jurisdiction, including juveniles in pre- or post- adjudication facilities and in community	\$28,356,704	\$28,356,704		0%
	Regional Diversion Alternatives: Regionalization is a new initiative from the 84th Legislature that seeks to avoid youth commitment to TJJD by improving access to and State support of local probation programs and services, while enhancing collaboration and cooperation across probation departments in the development and delivery of those programs and services. Strategy A.1.8	\$18,585,963	\$21,585,963		16%
	Harris County Leadership Academy: The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department provides a highly structured environment utilizing appropriate methodologies to instill juvenile discipline, enhance academic performance, build self-esteem and reduce recidivism. Rider 35 [Strategy A.1.4, Pre and Post Adjudication Facilities]	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000		0%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
Department of Public Safety	Emergency Management (TDEM): One of the missions of TD EM is to administer a comprehensive emergency management program. Goal D (includes FEMA funds)	\$6,719,363,169	\$3,503,535,449	\$ 3,130,000,000	-1%
	Crime Laboratory Services: The Crime Laboratory Service, including the Breath Alcohol Test Program and the state Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), provides forensic laboratory services available for all law enforcement agencies in the state at no cost to the submitter. Strategy E.1.1	\$71,266,865	\$123,686,052	\$ 5,770,426	82%
	Drivers License Services: Public safety is promoted by issuing driver licenses (DLs) and ID cards (IDs) and verifying identity, lawful presence and residency at Driver License Offices. A Customer Service Center (CSC) provides services by informing customers about DL and ID issuance, driver records and suspension/reinstatement of driving privileges. Strategy F.1.1	\$243,628,824	\$455,758,014		87%
Art. VI - Natural Resources					
Parks & Wildlife Department	Local Park Grants: Funds provide 50% matching grants to local governments and other entities authorized by provisions in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 24. Strategy B.2.1	\$37,356,848	\$36,132,685		-3%
	Boating Access and Other Grants: Funding for Recreational Trails, Community Outdoor Outreach, Boating Access and other grants. Recreational Trails Grants provide 80% matching funds (maximum \$200,000) to build trails in local communities. This program receives federal funding from the National Recreational Trail Fund. Strategy B.2.2	\$35,024,624	\$17,674,686		-50%
	Enforcement Programs: Wildlife, Fisheries and Water Safety Enforcement. Funding for Game Wardens. Strategy C.1.1	\$134,643,991	\$120,894,583		-10%
Railroad Commission	Oil and Gas Well Plugging and Remediation: Strategy C.2.1	\$106,357,760	\$109,291,152		3%
Commission on Environmental Quality	Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP): TERP was established in 2001 by the 77th Legislature, to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) and other emissions from heavy-duty on-road vehicles and non-road equipment by providing grants and rebates for voluntary upgrades and replacements, including school buses. Strategy A.1.1. Rider 20	\$154,739,737	\$154,739,737		0%
	Local initiatives projects (LIP): Counties that participate in vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance programs are eligible to use these funds to establish a Local Initiative Project (LIP). The amount of LIP funding awarded is based upon the county's participation in the inspection and maintenance programs of each county. Strategy A.1.1. Rider 23	VETOED			
	Low-Income Vehicle Repair Assist. Program (LIRAP): This program offers financial assistance to low-income vehicle owners whose vehicles fail the emissions inspection test. Qualified participants receive a voucher for repairs or assistance towards the cost of a replacement vehicle that meets emissions standards if they retire their old vehicle. Strategy A.1.1. Rider 23	VETOED			
	Waste Management: Section 361.014(b) of the Health and Safety Code requires TCEQ to provide grants to COGs for local and regional municipal solid waste planning and management activities. Strategy	\$19,355,380	\$19,550,442		1%

86th Legislature State Budget - Items of Interest to Counties

Article/Agency	Program Name/Strategy	85th GAA (2018-19 Base)	Adopted HB 1 2020-2021	SB 500 (House) 2020-2021	
Article VII - Business & Economic Development					
Department of Motor Vehicles	Automobile Burglary & Theft Grants: Provides grants to law enforcement jurisdictions to support motor vehicle theft and burglary enforcement teams and non-profit organizations designed to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and burglary. Strategy B.2.1	\$25,671,702	\$25,671,702		0%
	Capital Budget Item: Technology Replacement & Upgrades - Regional support for county tax assessor-collector offices.		U/B		
Department of Transportation	Contracted Planning & Design: Provides funding for all aspects of structural planning, design, review, construction and inspection of bridges. Strategy A.1.2	\$1,528,921,601	\$956,919,344		-37%
	Right of Way Acquisition: Provides funding to build, widen and enhance roads. Strategy A.1.3	\$1,698,665,034	\$1,713,687,748		1%
	Transportation Infrastructure Fund: Grants for transportation infrastructure projects for oil and gas impacted roads. Rider 47		\$125,000,000		



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

June 6, 2019

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: Windy Johnson, Program Manager

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **SB 500 - State Supplemental Funding**

Background:

SB 500, the State Supplemental Appropriations legislation included \$9.8b in all funds; \$1.6b in GR, \$2.1 in Federal Funds, and \$6b in ESF.

Key items include:

- \$4.1b for Medicaid Shortfall;
- \$445m for State Hospital Improvements;
 - \$90M for construction of 100 bed facility at Rusk State Hospital;
 - \$165m to begin construction of a 240 bed campus of Austin State Hospital; and
 - \$190m to begin construction for a 300 bed replacement facility at San Antonio State Hospital.
- \$110m for School Hardening and Safety; and
- \$100m for the Governors Disaster Grant Program;
- \$150m Transportation Infrastructure Grants
- More than \$3b for Harvey Related Expenses including:
 - \$840m to Water Development Board, flood infrastructure
 - \$365m for FEMA Grants Matching Funds; and
 - \$273m FEMA Mitigation Grants;
 - \$200m US Army Corps of Engineers; and
 - \$150m Soil and Water Board: Dams Infrastructure.

Vice-Chairmen
Comm. Kevin Wolff
Bexar County
Judge Matt Sebesta
Brazoria County
Judge Eddie Treviño
Cameron County
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Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County

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John B. Dahill

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Wise

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SB 500

Fiscal Note		GR	GR-D Coastal Protection Acct.	Federal Funds	ESF
2019	\$	1,685,898,982	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,146,518,960	\$ 4,967,741,593
2020	\$	(210,981,159)			\$ 899,000,000
2021					\$ 261,000,000
3YR Totals	\$	1,474,917,823	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,146,518,960	\$ 6,127,741,593
SB 500 - Conference Committee Report			Increase	Decrease	MOF
Sec. 1	Texas Tomorrow Fund (ESF)		\$ 210,981,159		ESF
Sec. 2	Facilities Commission			\$ (22,589,128)	GR
Sec. 3	Public Finance Authority			\$ (35,078,954)	GR
Sec. 4	Office of the AG			\$ (21,799,752)	GR
Sec. 5	Disaster Grants	\$ 100,000,000			ESF
Sec. 7	Library & Archives: Renovating Promontory Point	\$ 4,400,000			GR
Sec. 8	National Museum of Pacific War	\$ 2,149,600			ESF
Sec. 9	Courthouse Preservation Grants	\$ 25,000,000			ESF
Sec. 10	Historical Comm. Deferred Maintenance	\$ 2,886,250			ESF
Sec. 11	Levi Jordan Plantation	\$ 2,000,000			ESF
Sec. 12	DFPS: Foster Care	\$ 88,585,541			GR
Sec. 13	DFPS: Relative Caregiver Payments	\$ 6,833,593			GR
Sec. 13(b)	TANF			\$ (8,481,040)	Fed
Sec. 14	DFPS: Day Care	\$ 5,000,000			Fed
Sec. 15	DFPS: Purchased Client Services	\$ 21,251,844			GR
Sec. 16	DSHS: Newborn Screening	\$ 7,927,458			GR
Sec. 17	DSHS: Emergency Generator	\$ 12,000,000			ESF
Sec. 18	DSHS: Trauma Capacity and Infrastructure	\$ 17,000,000			ESF
Sec. 19	HHSC: Medicaid Shortfall	\$ 4,150,000,000			GR/Fed
Sec. 20	HHSC: Children's Hospital Rate Increase	\$ 50,000,000			GR
Sec. 21	HHSC: Replace Harvey Funds	\$ 110,000,000			ESF
Sec. 22	HHSC: State Hospital Construction	\$ 445,354,363			ESF
Sec. 23	HHSC: Reduction			\$ (2,000,000)	ESF
Sec. 24	HHSC: Transfers				
Sec. 25	HHSC: Healthy Women Program	\$ 10,300,000			GR
Sec. 26	HHSC: Mental Health State Hospitals	\$ 31,700,000			GR
Sec. 27	HHSC: ECI	\$ 1,500,000			GR
Sec. 28	HHSC: SSLC	\$ 10,100,000			GR
Sec. 29	HHSC: Repurpose of expenditures				
Sec. 30 (a)	TEA: FSP Equalized Operations			\$ (903,300,000)	GR
Sec. 30 (b)	TEA: FSP (informational only)	\$ 21,495,735,602			
Sec. 31	TEA: Special Ed	\$ 219,554,812			ESF
Sec. 32	TEA: Post disaster school safety	\$ 10,930,000			ESF
Sec. 33	TEA: School Safety	\$ 100,000,000			ESF
Sec. 34	TEA: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 1,442,500,000			ESF
Sec. 35	TEA: High School Diploma	\$ 37,657			GR
Sec. 36	UT: Marine Science Institute	\$ 10,200,000			ESF
Sec. 37	UH: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 20,288,883			ESF
Sec. 38	UH: Clearlake Harvey	\$ 83,668			ESF
Sec. 39	UH: Downtown Harvey	\$ 4,000,000			ESF
Sec. 40	UH: Victoria Harvey	\$ 1,703,828			ESF
Sec. 41	TSU: Steam Tunnel Maintenance	\$ 16,000,000			ESF
Sec. 42	Lamar U: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 1,418,585			ESF
Sec. 43	Lamar IT: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 1,312,657			ESF
Sec. 44	Lamar State: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 406,112			ESF
Sec. 45	Lamar State: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 6,319,458			ESF
Sec. 46	Texas State: Demolition	\$ 29,644,640			GR
Sec. 47	Texas A&M Forest Service - Harvey	\$ 2,458,240			ESF
Sec. 48	Texas A&M Forest Service - Wildfires	\$ 54,909,580			ESF
Sec. 49	Kilgore College: Higher Ed Group Insurance	\$ 1,238,238			GR
Sec. 50	Lone Star College: Harvey	\$ 13,100,000			ESF
Sec. 51	Judiciary: Visiting Judges Program	\$ 400,000			GR
Sec. 52	Judiciary: Longevity Pay	\$ 523,295			GR
Sec. 53	TDCJ: Surveillance Cameras	\$ 26,000,000			ESF
Sec. 54	TDCJ: IT System	\$ 24,164,000			ESF
Sec. 55	TCCJ: Facilities	\$ 54,000,000			ESF
Sec. 56	TDCJ: Managed Healthcare	\$ 190,000,000			GR
Sec. 57	TDCJ: Replace Harvey Funds	\$ 38,600,000			ESF
Sec. 58	TDCJ: Overtime Pay	\$ 30,000,000			GR
Sec. 59	TJJD: Surveillance Cameras	\$ 7,547,000			ESF
Sec. 60	DPS: Helicopter	\$ 6,229,489			ESF
Sec. 61	DPS: Crime Laboratories	\$ 5,770,426			GR
Sec. 62	DPS: Harvey	\$ 96,954,409			ESF
Sec. 63	TCEQ: Expedited Permits (all fee revenue)				
Sec. 64	TCEQ: Litigation expenses	\$ 1,400,000			GR
Sec. 65	TCEQ: Capital Expenditures	\$ -			GR/GRD
Sec. 66	GLO: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 25,742,927			ESF

SB 500

	SB 500 - Conference Committee Report	Increase	Decrease	MOF
Sec. 67	GLO: Vessel Removal	\$ 2,000,000		GRD
Sec. 68	GLO: Rebuild Housing		\$ (48,600,000)	GR
Sec. 69	GLO: Army Corps	\$ 200,000,000		ESF
Sec. 70	Parks: Battleship Texas	\$ 35,500,000		GR
Sec. 71	Parks: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 8,000,000		ESF
Sec. 72	Parks: Inoperable Radios	\$ 5,000,000		ESF
Sec. 73	Parks: Wyler Aerial tramway	\$ 5,000,000		ESF
Sec. 74	Soil & Water Conservation Board: Dam Infrastructure	\$ 150,000,000		ESF
Sec. 75	WDB: FEMA (Or SB 7 TIRF Funds)	\$ 273,000,000		ESF
Sec. 76	WDB: FEMA (Or SB 7 TIRF Funds)	\$ 365,000,000		ESF
Sec. 77	WDB: Flood Maps (Or SB 7 TIRF Funds)	\$ 47,000,000		ESF
Sec. 78	WDB: Flood Infrastructure Projects (Or SB 7 TIRF Funds)	\$ 793,000,000		ESF
Sec. 79	TXDOT: TIF Grant Funds	\$ 125,000,000		ESF
Sec. 80	TXDOT: First Responder Airport Facilities	\$ 5,000,000		ESF
Sec. 81	DHCA: Affordable Rental Housing for Disaster areas	\$ 4,000,000		ESF
Sec. 82	TWC: Hurricane Harvey	\$ 8,931,385		ESF
Sec. 83	Board of Pharmacy: RX Monitoring	\$ 6,099,312		GR
Sec. 84	TRS: Additional Payment	\$ 589,000,000		ESF
Sec. 85	TRS: State Contribution	\$ 524,000,000		ESF



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

June 6, 2019

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: Gabriela Villareal, Program Manager

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **Discussion of Flood Control and Resilience Legislation**

SB 7 by Sen. Creighton and sponsored by Rep. Phelan would draw over \$1b from the Economic Stabilization Fund. SB 7 will create two funds to provide grants and loans for flood control and mitigation projects:

- The Flood Infrastructure Fund may be used to make loans or grants to eligible political subdivisions for flood projects; and
- The Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund would allow political subdivisions to apply for grants and loans for projects through the TX Water Development Board. The fund would be divided into four accounts: Hurricane Harvey (provides grants or loans to provide nonfederal matching funds for flood projects related to Hurricane Harvey); Federal Matching Account (uses state money to help with required matching funds for projects eligible for partial federal funding); and the Statewide Flood Plan (finances projects in plan). The Floodplain Management Account (provides financing for flood planning) would receive \$6m from an existing fund and over \$3m is expected to be deposited in subsequent fiscal years from insurance maintenance taxes.

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SB 8 by Sen. Perry and sponsored by Rep. Larson would create the state's first flood plan. The plan gives representatives from state flood planning regions the ability to develop a regional plan for developing flood projects and submit it to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for consideration in the statewide plan. The bill requires TWDB to adopt a plan by 2024 and before the end of each five-year period after that date.

Both bills were sent to Governor Abbott.

Recommended Resolution:
None.

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Principles of the Urban Counties Policy Platform

1. Urban Counties believe local government is more responsive and accountable to the citizens and communities and should be utilized for service delivery whenever practical.
2. Urban Counties believe permissive authority provides better policy options while state mandates, revenue restrictions, and one-size-fits-all directives undermine voter self-determination and local responsibility.
3. Urban Counties believe the State increases local property taxes when it imposes obligations on local governments without providing adequate funding.
4. Urban Counties believe State funds collected for specific programs should be allocated based upon population, number of clients, or some other appropriate measure of the need for that program or service.
5. Urban Counties believes that funds collected for a purpose should be used for that purpose and support ending the reliance on dedicated revenues to balance the State budget.

1 Taxation

1. Support the significant reduction of property tax rates by measures to reduce the cost of government and by replacing property tax revenue with revenue from other sources.
2. Require sales price disclosure on sale or transfer of real property.
3. Oppose any expansion of the pollution control property tax exemption that would include property used to produce goods or services.
4. Oppose expansion of tax exemptions for property owned by a taxpayer to include leased property other than property leased to a charter school for one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 12.
5. Support allowing local taxing units to set a residence homestead exemption as a percentage, a flat-dollar level, or a percentage with a minimum or maximum individual value.
6. Support reforms to process for equity appeals of appraisals.
7. Oppose reducing the penalty when land that was previously appraised as agricultural or other open space property is converted to another use.
8. Oppose all new property tax exemptions, expansion of existing exemptions, or any other narrowing of tax base unless approved by the Urban Counties.
9. Support a significant increase in the school homestead exemption and ensure adjustments are made in state funding to schools to account for the exemption.
10. Support property tax transparency and information proposals, including but not limited to:
 - a. Removing projected tax assessment information from the central appraisal district (CAD) notice of assessed value;

- b. Requiring proposed tax rates and hearing information be provided to the CAD where they would be made available to taxpayers online;
 - c. Renaming the “effective” tax rate as the “no-new-revenue” tax rate;
 - d. Improving training and education requirements for appraisal review board members;
 - e. Establishing a property tax administration advisory board to help with uniformity of appraisal forms, systems, and reports across districts; and
 - f. Streamlining notice procedures for taxpayers, including separation of individual taxing entities’ rates and respective tax amounts.
11. Support allowing school districts to increase their tax rate to a previously approved level after a decrease rather than having to hold a second increase ratification election;
 12. Support protections for innocent and unwitting taxpayers that acquire property subject to governmental errors in previous tax years from having to pay back taxes due to those errors.
 13. Oppose arbitrary limits on local governments to undermine fiscal resources that enable officials to meet their obligations and local priorities.

2 Crime and Courts

1. Support full state funding for all mandatory JJAEP placements in an amount adequate for year-round programs.
2. Support an increase in state funding for indigent defense purposes to cover increased costs incurred by local county taxpayers since the passage of the Fair Defense Act in 2001.
3. Support additional state funding for juvenile probation departments if the age of criminal responsibility is raised to 18.
4. Support sufficient State funding for local juvenile probation departments to pay for the full costs of keeping in local programs, or in regional detention facilities, all children diverted from State facilities through a restructuring of the State Juvenile Justice Department.
5. Support state payment to counties for costs of detaining in county jails technical parole violators and new-offense violators held solely for parole revocation purposes to end the practice of the state pushing costs associated with state prisoners onto local county taxpayers.
6. Oppose changes in court costs in criminal cases that are expected to have a negative fiscal impact to counties.
7. Support changes to pre-trial release to require the use of locally verified evaluation tools to determine a criminal defendant’s risk of flight or danger to the community. Promote: (1) establishing pretrial risk assessments; (2) the elimination of bond schedules; (3) greater discretion for magistrates regarding pre-trial release; and (4) rebuttable presumptions in favor of personal bond.
8. Maintain current fee structure for the district court records and archives fee, the county court records management and preservation fee, and the records archive fee through 2029.

9. Support granting counties authority to judicially designate as uncollectible certain fees and costs of court.

3 Transportation

1. Oppose eliminating local tolling options.
2. Support enhanced funding for freight transportation infrastructure projects to address economic growth and an ever-increasing population.
3. Support current weight requirements for vehicles operating on county roads, except for localized proposals supported by the local commissioners court.
4. Support local option fees for road improvements/additions if the fees are approved by the county's commissioners court.

4 Health and Human Services

1. Support increased funding for mental health and substance abuse services state-wide.
2. Expand capacity of both forensic and civil beds in the state hospital system.
3. Support the continuation of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver.
4. Support state action related to state participation in the funding of indigent health care to maximize access to available federal funds.
5. Support the repeal of the Drivers Responsibility Program and the replacement of state funding for trauma care.

5 Environment/Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Resilience

1. Support full funding for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) and maintain the integrity of the TERP program.
2. Support local administration of the LIRAP and LIP programs to ensure funds collected in the county are used in the county.
3. Use the TERP funds only for programs that will assist nonattainment and near nonattainment areas in meeting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ozone standards.
4. Support using state funds for financing disaster mitigation, disaster prevention, disaster recovery, and resilience projects as long as local decision making is preserved to ensure local priorities are met.
5. Oppose any further erosion in the ability of local governments to hold violators of environmental laws and regulations accountable.

6 Development and Infrastructure

1. Oppose efforts to require local governments to pay penalties, including an opposing party's attorney fees and court costs in eminent domain proceedings.

2. Oppose changes to the criteria governments must meet to show “actual progress” on projects to prevent real property acquired through eminent domain to be subject to repurchase.

7 Public Safety and Emergency Management

1. Support giving all counties the option to adopt a fire code and rules necessary to administer and enforce the fire code.
2. Oppose creation of a new fireworks season unless commissioners courts are granted discretion over the sale of fireworks in that county for the new season.
3. Protect county authority to restrict or ban the sale and use of fireworks during drought conditions and when included in a local disaster declaration.
4. Support the current role of local emergency management authorities and the county judge in responding to potential and actual emergencies and disasters.
5. Support efforts to maintain the long-established prohibition of guns in any portion of a building used by court participants.
6. Support additional funding for DPS crime labs provided it does not negatively impact existing local crime labs.

8 Elections

1. Support the creation of an online voter registration system.
2. Expand the Countywide Polling Place Program for all counties.
3. Support state funding to counties for the purchase of new election equipment, including reimbursement for purchases made within the last 3 years.
4. Support grandfather provisions for all counties that purchased election equipment, in the last five years, that does not produce a paper audit trail.
5. Retain the current option to hold elections on uniform election dates.

9 Governance and Finance

1. Ensure commissioners court authority over county budgeting and contracting decisions.
2. Protect local taxpayers from unfunded state mandates, which drive local property tax increases, result in reductions in critical services, and infringe local control.
3. Support local control over compensation and benefits paid by the county.
4. Establish that any increase in the fees to be paid to attorneys appointed to represent indigent criminal defendants may not take effect until the adoption of the next county budget and require at least 90-day notice of the proposed increase to be provided to the commissioners court.
5. Support full state funding for representation of indigent parties in child welfare cases.
6. Support financial transparency requirements that permit the use of existing reports and other documents and that minimize the need to express the same information in different manner or reports that are duplicative of reports already required.

7. Support legislation that permits counties to post public notices electronically in lieu of print publication.
8. Oppose requirements to include on bond propositions information other than the total amount of bonds to be issued if approved and the proposed uses of the bonds.
9. Establish that the earliest effective date for any increase in salary budgets outside the control of commissioners court shall be the first day of the next county fiscal year following 90 days notice of the proposed increase to be provided to the commissioners court.
10. Support continued federal funding for local communities to help cover operational costs for holding undocumented criminal aliens in the criminal justice system and the costs to house them.
11. Oppose restrictions on the ability of local governments to effectively and efficiently communicate with the legislature and other state and federal entities.
12. Support proposals to permit public access to public information on the personal devices of public officers and employees that include reasonable provisions to guard against frivolous and abusive lawsuits against public officers and employees.
13. Oppose any measure that interferes with the authority of a county to select its legal counsel and establish the terms of representation.

Other Issues

Items in this list are legislative positions regarding initiatives of member counties or other groups or organizations.

1. VSCO Reports – Support granting commissioners courts discretion regarding oversight of veterans county service officers.
2. Sheriff and Constable Fees – Support the ability for a fee for sheriff or constable services that was previously approved by a county's commissioners court to remain unchanged from the prior fiscal year unless changed by the court.