



Chairman
Judge
Bob Hebert
Fort Bend County

Chair Elect
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Vice-Chairmen
Comm. Tim Brown
Bell County
Comm. Alex Dominguez
Cameron County
Judge Ed Emmett
Harris County
Judge Loyd Neal
Nueces County
Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County
Judge Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

Executive Director
John B. Dahill

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

Policy Committee Meeting
DoubleTree Suites
303 W. 15th Street | Austin, TX | 78701
December 13, 2018

AGENDA

9:30 AM Convene.

1. Welcome, Introductions.
2. Policy Committee Attendance Record 2018

		01/12/18	05/24/18	12/13/18
Policy Committee Members	County			
Judge Ed Emmett (Chair)	Harris County	V	V	
Commissioner Tim Brown	Bell County	V	V	
Commissioner Kevin Wolff	Bexar County	P	P	
Judge Matt Sebesta	Brazoria County	V	V	
Commissioner Alex Dominguez	Cameron County	V	V	
Commissioner Susan Fletcher	Collin County	V	P	
Commissioner Theresa Daniel	Dallas County	V	V	
Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell	Denton County	V	E	
Commissioner David Stout	El Paso County	V	E	
Judge Robert Hebert	Fort Bend County	P	V	
Commissioner Ken Clark	Galveston County	V	V	
Judge Bill Magers	Grayson County	E	V	
Commissioner Joe Palacios	Hidalgo County	X	P	
Commissioner Brent Weaver	Jefferson County	V	V	
Judge Bruce Wood	Kaufman County	X	P	
Commissioner Bill McCay	Lubbock County	E	P	
Judge Mike Bradford	Midland County	X	P	
Judge Craig Doyal	Montgomery County	E	V	
Judge Loyd Neal	Nueces County	V	E	
Judge Glen Whitley	Tarrant County	V	P	
Commissioner Margaret Gomez	Travis County	P	V	
Commissioner Valerie Covey	Williamson County	X	V	
Commissioner Kevin Burns	Wise County	V	V	
V - Present P - Present by Proxy X - Absent E - Excused Absence				

3. Consider the minutes from the May 24, 2018 meeting. [pg. 3]

4. Administrative items. [Veronikah Sanford]
 - a) Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9th at 9:30am at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol, Austin, TX
 - b) Discuss 2019 Policy Committee meeting dates. [pg. 6]
5. Policy Director's Report. [Adam Haynes]
6. Discuss proposed Policy Platform redesign. [Adam Haynes]. [pg. 9]
7. Discuss State Budget Update. [Windy Johnson] [pg. 16]
8. Discuss Policy Committee Elections in January. [Windy Johnson]. [pg. 26]
9. Share county priorities for upcoming legislative session.
10. New business.

11:30 AM Adjourn.

Policy Committee Meeting
Travis County | 700 Lavaca, Austin, TX 78701

May 24, 2018

Minutes

Members Present

Judge Ed Emmett (Chair), Harris County
Commissioner Tim Brown, Bell County
Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Bexar County (Proxy Melissa Shannon)
Judge Matt Sebesta, Brazoria County
Commissioner Alex Dominguez, Cameron County
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Collin County (Proxy Judge Bill Magers)
Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Dallas County
Judge Robert Hebert, Fort Bend County
Commissioner Ken Clark, Galveston County
Judge Bill Magers, Grayson County
Commissioner Joe Palacios, Hidalgo County (Proxy Jose Caso)
Commissioner Brent Weaver, Jefferson County
Judge Bruce Wood, Kaufman County (Proxy Commissioner Jakie Allen)
Commissioner Bill McCay, Lubbock County (Proxy Commissioner Mark Heinrich)
Judge Mike Bradford, Midland County (Proxy Craig Pardue)
Judge Craig Doyal, Montgomery County
Judge Glen Whitley, Tarrant County (Proxy G. K. Maenius)
Commissioner Margaret Gomez, Travis County
Commissioner Valerie Covey, Williamson County
Commissioner Kevin Burns, Wise County

Others Present

Charles Reed, Dallas County
Beth Wolf, Fort Bend County
Ann Werlein, Fort Bend County
Aimee Bertrand, Harris County
Joanye Henderson, Harris County
Donna Warndorf, Harris County
Mark Mendez, Tarrant County
Russell Schaffer, Tarrant County
Deece Eckstein, Travis County
Peter Einhorn, Travis County
Norma Guerra, Travis County
David Salazar, 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
Robin Morris, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Gabriela Villareal, Texas Conference of Urban Counties

Judge Emmett called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM

The Committee considered agenda **item 2. a)**, the minutes of the January 12, 2018 meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Burns and second by Commissioner Daniel, the minutes were approved as presented.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 2. b)** and **2. c)**, upcoming schedule of meetings.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 2.d)**, attendance record. On a motion by Commissioner Burns and a second by Commissioner Brown, the absence of Judge Magers from the previous meeting, and the absences of Commissioner Stout, Commissioner Mitchell, and Judge Neal from the current meeting were excused.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 3**, Supreme Court opinion on what constitutes “market value”.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 4**, state jail felony “reform”.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 5**, repeal of Texas Driver Responsibility Program.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 6**, update on HAVA funding.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 7**, Sunset Commission Review of DMV.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 8**, Open Meetings in emergency situations.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 9**, constitutional challenge regarding Open Meetings Act. On a motion by Commissioner Daniel, and a second by Commissioner Gomez, the Committee directed John Dahill to develop a brief in support of the constitutional challenge to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 10**, stakeholder meetings regarding property tax transparency and unfunded mandates.

The Committee considered agenda **item 11**, extending court records fee increases. On a motion by Judge Sebesta and a second by Commissioner Gomez, the following was approved as presented:

RESOLVED by the Texas Conference of Urban Counties Policy Committee that the Crime and Courts section of the Policy Platform is amended as follows:

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.

The Committee considered agenda **item 12**, allowing the judicial designation of uncollectible fees and costs for court collections. On a motion by Commissioner Gomez and a second by Commissioner Dominguez, the following was approved as presented:

RESOLVED by the Texas Conference of Urban Counties Policy Committee that the Crime and Courts section of the Policy Platform is amended as follows:

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

The Committee considered agenda **item 13**, new business; monitoring the Legislative Priorities Committee at the upcoming GOP convention in San Antonio.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Judge Ed Emmett
Vice Chairman of Policy

Date

January 2019

January 8, 2019 86th Legislature Convenes

January 9-11, 2019 Annual Education & Policy Conference Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol

January 9, 2019 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Policy Committee Meeting Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol

January 10, 2019 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Membership Luncheon Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol

February 2019

February 13, 2019 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Policy Committee Meeting 700 Lavaca, Austin

February 13, 2019 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Membership Luncheon 700 Lavaca, Austin

March 2019

March 8, 2019 60 Day Filing Deadline

March 13, 2019 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Policy Committee Meeting 700 Lavaca, Austin

March 13, 2019 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Membership Luncheon 700 Lavaca, Austin

April 2019

April 17, 2019 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Policy Committee Meeting 700 Lavaca, Austin

April 17, 2019 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Membership Luncheon 700 Lavaca, Austin

May 2019

May 8, 2019 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Policy Committee Meeting 700 Lavaca, Austin

May 8, 2019 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Membership Luncheon 700 Lavaca, Austin

May 27, 2019 Last Day of the 86th Legislature

June 2019

June 6, 2019 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Policy Committee Meeting 700 Lavaca, Austin

June 6, 2019 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Membership Luncheon 700 Lavaca, Austin

June 6, 2019 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Round Table 700 Lavaca, Austin

June 16, 2019 Veto Deadline

Urban Counties 2019 Event Schedule

August 2019

August 1, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
August 1, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin
August 1, 2019	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Round Table	700 Lavaca, Austin

October 2019

October 9-11, 2019	12:00 PM – 12:00 PM	TIHCA Annual Conference	Hotel Galvez & Spa Galveston
--------------------	---------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------

November 2019

November 7, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
November 7, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin
November 7, 2019	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Round Table	700 Lavaca, Austin

January 2020

January 15-17, 2020	Education & Policy Conference	Hotel Paso Del Norte, El Paso
----------------------------	--	--------------------------------------

**Urban Counties Commissioners Courts Schedules
December 2018**

County	Frequency	Day
Bell	Weekly	M
Bexar	2x/month	TU
Brazoria	2x/month	TU
Brazos	Weekly	TU
Cameron	2x/month	TU
Chambers	2x/month	TU
Collin	Weekly	M
Comal	Weekly	TH
Dallas	2x/month	TU
Denton	Weekly	TU
Ector	2x/month	M
El Paso	2x/month	M
Fort Bend	3x/month	TU
Galveston	2x/month	M
Grayson	Weekly	TU
Harris	2x/month	TU
Hays	Weekly	TU
Hidalgo	2x/month	TU
Jefferson	Weekly	M
Johnson	2x/month	M
Kaufman	Weekly	W
Lubbock	2x/month	M
McLennan	Weekly	TU
Midland	2x/month	M
Montgomery	Every other week	TU
Nueces	2x/month	W
Potter	2x/month	M
Randall	2x/month	TU
Rockwall	2x/month	TU
San Patricio	Weekly	M
Smith	Weekly	TU
Tarrant	Weekly	TU
Travis	Weekly	TU
Webb	2x/month	TU
Williamson	Every other week	TU
Wise	2x/month	M

MO	12
TU	21
W	2
TH	1



Chairman
Judge
Bob Hebert
Fort Bend County

December 13, 2018

Chair Elect
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

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

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **Urban Counties Policy Platform Redesign**

Traditionally, CUC revises the policy platform before the upcoming Legislative Session. We will finalize changes to the entire platform at the January 2019 meeting. In the meantime, we have revised the Principles section to better reflect the messaging CUC is using going forward. We have included a strikeout version as well as the policy platform, so you can compare the previous language to the proposed draft.

Vice-Chairmen
Comm. Tim Brown
Bell County
Comm. Alex Dominguez
Cameron County
Judge Ed Emmett
Harris County
Judge Loyd Neal
Nueces County
Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County
Judge Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

Executive Director
John B. Dahill

Member Counties
Bell · Bexar
Brazoria · Brazos
Cameron · Chambers
Collin · Comal
Dallas · Denton
Ector · El Paso
Fort Bend · Galveston
Grayson · Gregg
Harris · Hays
Hidalgo · Jefferson
Johnson · Kaufman
Lubbock · McLennan
Midland · Montgomery
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

Principles of the Urban Counties Policy Platform

1. ~~Urban Counties value responsive and accountable government.~~

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 that local government is more responsive and accountable to the citizens and communities and should be utilized for service delivery whenever practical.~~

Urban Counties believe permissive authority provides better policy options while unfunded-mandates, revenue restrictions, and one-size-fits-all directives undermine voter self-determination and local responsibility.

3. ~~Urban county citizens hold commissioners court responsible for all county business even though commissioners courts lack authority over many aspects and segments of county business. There is a disconnect between responsibility and authority. This weakens accountability.~~

Urban Counties believe the State increases local property taxes when it imposes obligations on local governments without providing adequate funding.

4. ~~Urban Counties need greater authority and tools to deal with the problems of contemporary urban society.~~

5. ~~Urban Counties believe that permissive authority is always good. Restrictions, prescriptions, and mandates are almost always harmful.~~

4. **Urban Counties believe that State funds collected for specific programs should be allocated to counties, regions, or other local areas 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 supports ending the reliance and utilization of 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 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 the repeal of the penalty when land that was previously appraised as agricultural 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 from SB 669 85(R), as passed by the House during the regular session, including:
 - 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; and
 - c. Renaming the “effective” tax rate as the “no-new-taxes” tax rate.
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 using a portion of the Economic Stabilization Fund to lower school tax rates;
13. 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; and
14. Support mandatory price disclosure of real property sales.

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.
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.
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 tolling options unless state funding for highways is increased sufficiently to replace lost toll revenue.
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 changes to the administrative fees retained by counties to register vehicles only if the new fees are reasonably expected to recoup county costs for providing those services.
5. Oppose the establishment of uniform limits on the fees charged by authorized private deputies for title services.

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. Not oppose the repeal of the Drivers Responsibility Program. If repealed, seek replacement funding for trauma care.
6. Support continued federal funding to local communities for refugee healthcare.

5 Environment

1. Support full funding for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan, LIRAP, and LIP programs and maintain the integrity of the TERP, LIRAP, and LIP programs.
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 EPA Ozone standards.

6 Development and Infrastructure

1. In the absence of market value transparency, oppose efforts to require local governments to pay 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 if the changes would require significant expenditures for development labor and materials to show actual progress.

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.

9 Governance and Finance

1. Confirm commissioners court authority over the county budget and contracting.
2. No unfunded mandates.
3. Oppose arbitrary limits on local government that are more restrictive than limits on state government, so long as:
 - a. Commissioners Courts remain limited in their ability to manage county business and control county budgets; and
 - b. There is no constitutional protection against unfunded mandates.
4. Support local control over compensation and benefits paid by the county.
5. 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.
6. Support full state funding for representation of indigent parties in child welfare cases.
7. 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 manners or formats.
8. Oppose mandates to produce financial reports that are duplicative of reports already required of counties.
9. Oppose collective bargaining for peace officers unless supported by the commissioners court of the counties affected by the legislation.
10. Support legislation that permits counties to post public notices electronically in lieu of print publication.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Oppose restrictions on the ability of local governments to effectively and efficiently communicate with the legislature and other state and federal entities.
15. 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.

Other Issues

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

10. Support legislation that permits counties to post public notices electronically in lieu of print publication.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Oppose restrictions on the ability of local governments to effectively and efficiently communicate with the legislature and other state and federal entities.
15. 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.

Other Issues

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



Chairman

Judge
Bob Hebert
Fort Bend County

December 13, 2018

Chair Elect

Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee

From: Windy Johnson, Program Manager

Immediate Past Chair

Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **State Budget Update**

The 2018-19 appropriations bill included \$107.5 billion in general revenue related spending.

Vice-Chairmen

Comm. Tim Brown
Bell County

Inevitably, there are unaddressed or unforeseen costs for the biennium that appropriations must be provided for after the budget is adopted. This is addressed in the following legislative session through a supplemental budget bill. When the Texas Legislature meets again in 2019, they will adopt a supplemental budget that covers outstanding expenditures from 2018-19.

Comm. Alex Dominguez
Cameron County

Judge Ed Emmett
Harris County

Judge Loyd Neal
Nueces County

Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County

Judge Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

In October, Comptroller Glen Hegar predicted in his Certification Revenue Estimate (CRE) that Texas would have \$94 million in unappropriated funds available from the 2018-19 budget. However, Comptroller Hegar updated his CRE and is now projecting there will be \$2.67 billion from 2018-19 revenues to address unmet needs from the 2018-19 biennium. This is due to the economic growth taking place in our state.

Executive Director

John B. Dahill

Member Counties

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

Again, while the revised CRE is positive news, there are major outstanding expenses waiting to be addressed in the 2018-19 supplemental bill. There is an expected Medicaid deficit of \$2.3 billion; \$563 million to pay for funds used to increase funding for TRS-Care and public education; and Harvey related expenses which are estimated to be between \$1 billion to \$3.6 billion, depending on which local costs the legislature decides to cover.

The "Rainy Day" fund is expected to have a balance of \$12.5 billion at the end of 2019, the largest ending balance in the fund's history. A joint committee of the legislature has voted to keep a minimum balance of \$7.5 in the fund, allowing more of the fund to be available for emergency spending.

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.476.6174

www.cuc.org

In January 2019, Comptroller Hegar will provide a Budget Revenue Estimate (BRE) that will indicate how much money will be available to spend during the session for the 2020-21 biennium.

State agencies have all submitted their appropriations request for the upcoming session with priority items for consideration. Some key items include:

1. Office of the Governor: \$100m for disaster funds.
2. Secretary of State: \$1.6m for county election security training. This fund will be the state match for the \$23m HAVA funds to increase election security.
3. Texas Education Agency: Increases recapture to \$3.8b from \$2.5 billion and assumes local % at 6.77% from 7.4%;
4. Office of Court Administration:
 - a. \$4.2m for new Child Protection Courts in Dallas, Bell, Wise and other counties.
 - b. \$350m for 2FTE's for court security;
 - c. \$29.5m for a uniform Court Management System for school and fire arm safety.
5. Department of Judiciary:
 - a. \$19.8m for 15% salary increase for district judges;
 - b. \$1.m for 15% salary increase for Constitutional Co. Judge Supplement;
 - c. \$6.1m for 15% salary increase for Statutory Co. Judge Supplement;
 - d. \$1.8m for 15% salary increase for County Attorney Supplement;
6. Texas Juvenile Justice Department:
 - a. Increase JJAEP to \$99/day
 - b. \$37.1m to increase regional grants
7. Department of Transportation
 - a. \$125m Texas Ports Capital Program
 - b. \$459m Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund

Attached is a full summary of those requests of interest to counties.

Article I - General

Rider #	\$	Detail
Commission on State Emergency Communications		
#1	\$8.2m	This exceptional item request would fully fund 9-1-1 equipment scheduled for replacement during the FY 2020-21 biennium. This exceptional item is consistent with the CSEC ten-year equipment replacement schedule provided to the Legislative Budget Board and Governor's Office of Budget, Planning, and Policy, and aligns the Regional Planning Commissions' equipment replacement schedules in accordance with industry standards.
Trusted Programs within the Office of the Governor		
#1	\$100m	(Funds from ESF) Chapter 418 Government Code. If the Governor finds the demands placed on funds regularly appropriated to state and local agencies are insufficient to respond to a particular disaster, the Governor may make funds available from disaster appropriations.
Historical Commission		
#2	\$35m	Courthouse Preservation Assistance Grants
#7		
Library and Archives Commission		
Secretary of State		
#5	\$1.4m	County Election Security Training - Four additional employees in elections with primary responsibility for traveling to counties and regions to gather information regarding current county election practices regarding, election equipment management, voter registration, cybersecurity, physical security measures, access to equipment and facilities etc. The purpose would be for these employees to identify issues and to train counties individually and in regional meetings regarding best practices in each of these areas. Travel would be 50% of these employee's time and there would need to be sufficient travel budget for them. The amount requested is 150,000 per employee (total cost) per year and 200,000 in travel expenses over the biennium. Total cost for this item is 1,400,000.
#6	\$1.6m	The federal government appropriated and distributed the last of the money allocated by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Texas' share of the federal money is \$23,252,604. The grant requires that the state provide a 5% matching amount within two years over the amount granted. That matching amount is \$1,162,630. The federal money and the matching funds will be used to improve elections in Texas. Specifically, the money will be used to improve the security of Texas elections at the state and local levels.

Article III - Education

Rider #	\$	Detail
Texas Education Association		
		Increases recapture to \$3.8b from \$2.5 billion and assumes local % at 6.77% from 7.4%

Article IV- Judiciary

Rider #	\$	Detail
Office of Court Administration		
#2	\$4.2m	fund 9 new CPCs (18.0 FTEs) to handle continually growing caseloads. The Regional Presiding Judges have identified needs for a new court in the following counties/courts: Dallas; Bell; Taylor; Grayson, Cook and Wise; Northeast Texas Child Protection Court No. 2; Southeast Texas Cluster Court; Brazos River Valley Cluster Court; Brazoria; Hood, Johnson, Somerville, Bosque and Hill.
#3	\$350K	The demand for the Court Security Director's services has been significant and resulted in an amount of work that exceeds the ability of one person to cover . As a result, additional resources are needed to address the significant and sometimes urgent security needs of the judiciary. Therefore, OCA seeks funding for two additional court security specialists? to assist the Court Security Director in providing consultation and technical assistance to the over 3,000 Texas judges and other county security personnel.
#4	\$29.5m	On May 30, 2018, the Governor of Texas issued the School and Firearm Safety Action Plan, the result of multiple roundtable discussions focused on making schools safer places, identifying threats in advance and resolving them and improving mental health assessments and services. One recommendation from the focus group was to create a statewide case management system to provide magistrates immediate access to critical information and to speed the timely reporting of court records for federal background checks. The report stated that the Office of Court Administration should contract with an outside entity to establish a uniform Court Management System (CMS) that can be accessed by counties, focusing primarily on counties with a population under 20,000, in which many are unable to collect data directly from an automated system. The inability to collect data weakens the state's ability to ensure accurate data, to share data with other state agencies such as DPS and to provide for interaction with other state-supported technology systems. The system will be fully integrated with the e-Filing system and other state reporting systems for seamless interaction with state agencies. The Texas Judicial Council has also recommended that OCA establish a statewide CMS for similar reasons. This exceptional item will provide one-time upfront and maintenance costs of a CMS, as well as 2.0 FTEs to serve as project manager and contract manager for this large project, an initiative that will have statewide impact.
Comptrollers Department of Judiciary Section		
#1	\$19.8m	The Judicial Compensation Commission has requested a 15% salary increase for district judges.
#7	\$1.6m	The 15% increase in District Judges salaries requested by the Judicial Compensation Commission, by statute, increases the Constitutional Co. Judge supplement by 15%.
#7	\$6.1m	The 15% increase District in Judges salaries requested by the Judicial Compensation Commission, by statute, increases the Statutory Co. Judge supplement by 15%.
#9	\$1.8m	The 15% increase in District Judges salaries requested by the Judicial Compensation Commission, by statute, increases the County Attorney Supplement by 15%.

Rider #	\$	Detail
Texas Department of Criminal Justice		
		Based on the projected stability in the incarcerated population over the next five years, the closures of the Ware Unit (state owned, state operated), Bartlett State Jail (state owned, privately operated), West Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility (privately owned, privately operated), and the Bridgeport Pre-Parole Transfer Facility (privately owned, privately operated).
Rider 59		Proposes an additional \$1.5m to fund county pretrial diversion programs for misdemeanor and felony offenses. From \$4.8m to \$6.3m
#3	\$32.2m	Additional appropriations totaling \$32.5 million are being requested for services needed for incarcerated offenders with special needs. A portion of this funding request would serve approximately 1,600 offenders in restrictive housing (administrative segregation) that are on an outpatient mental health caseload with an increased level of mental health care as a therapeutic diversion from the restrictive housing environment. In an effort to further contain health care costs, this funding request also provides approximately 350 sheltered housing beds on existing correctional facilities (Murray and Stiles units) for offenders who may not require an infirmary bed with constant care, but have medical needs that cannot be met in a general population environment.
#4	\$32.4m	We are requesting \$32.2 million in additional funding for CSCDs diversion programs for mental health caseloads, substance abuse treatment, domestic violent behavior caseloads, and cognitive behavioral programs, serving over 20,100 probationers annually. This funding will allow for enhancing and expanding the mental health caseloads in areas of the state with the highest need and to provide for additional mental health residential services in more rural jurisdictions. The substance abuse specialized caseloads will be used to maximize treatment and increase positive outcomes by enhancing the comprehensive treatment plan for probationers. Additionally, this request provides funding for domestic violence and other violent behavior caseloads and increases the availability of services throughout the state for cognitive behavioral therapy programs to assist offenders in improving their problem solving, critical and moral reasoning, and impulse management. These programs and services will allow CSCDs to enhance their progressive sanction models that support the the needs of offenders who are at risk of revocation and provide judges with more alternatives to incarceration , both as a sentencing option and as an alternative to revocation.
#5	\$8m	In the last several years, pretrial diversion supervision has risen to provide offenders with the opportunity to correct their criminal behavior and have it not reflected on their permanent record. This item includes funding to expand pretrial diversion programs offered by CSCDs, which provides alternatives to prosecution, with a focus on preventing future criminal activity among offenders by diverting them from traditional processing into community supervision and services , which saves prosecution and judicial resources for concentration on major cases. The program expansion would serve nearly 8,900 additional offenders annually.
#8	\$13m	Requested funding of \$13.0 million for the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) would expand jail diversion services in rural areas, providing offenders with special needs services designed to divert them from incarceration in prisons and state jails . This program expansion would serve an additional 1,250 offenders annually with serious mental illnesses. This additional funding would also expand caseloads that serve offenders with a high criminogenic risk and clinical care need, serving an additional 4,100 clients annually. The expansion of these services will enhance TCOOMMI's capability to provide intensive mental health case management, psychiatric assessments and diagnostics, and psychosocial rehabilitation.

#10	\$2m	Post-secondary programs give offenders an opportunity for rehabilitation by developing their mental skills and providing marketable job training skills so they can re-enter society as successful productive citizens. These programs are provided through contracts with colleges and universities serving the geographic areas where units are located. Offenders wishing to participate in these post-secondary programs must meet the criteria for admission of each college or university and any requirements by the agency. This additional funding is to expand the post-secondary programs presently offered and seek other colleges and universities that are willing to provide these services in areas currently not offered. This would expand vocational programs such as welding, automotive technology, HVAC, truck driving, construction carpentry, and culinary arts and serve an additional 2,500 offenders for the biennium.
#7	\$5.2m	HB 3130, 85th Legislature, allows a judge to place those convicted of a state jail felony who receives a sentence of confinement, under community supervision for a total of 270 days with the condition the individual submits to 90 days of confinement within a state jail facility and participates in a 180 day educational and vocational training program. This enacted legislation, which becomes effective September 1, 2019, requires the agency to establish a non-residential, education/vocational training pilot program in four regional locations throughout the state. Assuming an awarded contract rate at four locations with 45 participants at \$40 per day, the annual fiscal impact will be \$2.6 million.
#15	\$557k	Approval of this item will allow the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to continue to provide appointed attorneys to offenders located in county jails, Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Correctional Institutions Division, or Federal Correctional Institutions. The conditional limited right of an offender to an attorney in the parole revocation process, as set forth by the Supreme Court and Texas Government Code 508, requires representation for an offender if their mental health status, IQ, or inability to understand and participate in their own defense is impaired and they are unable to retain representation on their own behalf. Currently the state appointed attorneys under contract are paid \$75 per hour for the first two hours, and \$35 per hour for each additional hour. Reimbursement for appointed attorneys has remained unchanged for over a decade. As a result, the Board is challenged to find local attorneys willing to accept appointments in certain areas of the state. The proposed increase in funding is to \$100 per hour for the first two hours, and \$65 per hour. Funding this item is necessary for the overall mission for the Board of Pardons and Paroles.
Texas Juvenile Justice Department		
Rider 13 This rider has been updated to increase the maximum eligible reimbursement rate per student day to \$99. JJAEP		
#1	\$37.1m	It is necessary to continue reform efforts of the Juvenile Justice system that started in FY18. It will increase funds to local probation departments through state aid and regionalization grants to increase bed space and increase resources for needed treatment services around the state. It will also enhance safety and security in state facilities by funding increased supervision/youth staffing ratios, which is critical for compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Other safety and security funds will establish baseline funding for continuing the supervision staff body worn camera program, enhancing transparency and accountability in interactions b/w staff & youth. This item will also allow full implementation of the Texas Model, creating one juvenile justice system focused on trauma-informed care practices at both county and state operated facilities. Lastly, this item will provide greater alternative placement options for youth to receive their treatment in the proper setting based on their individualized risks and needs.

Article VI - Natural Resources

Rider #	\$	Detail
Parks and Wildlife Department		
#7	\$5m	<p>TPWD's Local Park grant programs provide matching grants to local governments and other qualified entities to acquire and renovate parkland , renovate existing public recreation centers, construct recreation centers/other facilities, create large recreation areas and regional systems of parks, and to develop/beautify parkland. Funds for these programs are also used in outreach programs to build relationships with non-traditional constituencies who have been underrepresented in Texas Parks & Wildlife Department activities and programs. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department acts as a technical and funding partner in hundreds of communities across the state through its grant , assistance, education, and outreach programs. From the largest metroplex to the smallest rural community these grant programs help to build new parks, conserve natural resources, preserve historical sites, provide access to water bodies, develop educational programs for youth, and much more.</p> <p>This exceptional item would provide \$5.0 million for the 2020-21 biennium to fund the Local Parks Grant program at 100% of 2018-19 levels, to be provided as competitive grants.</p>
Commission on Environmental Quality		
Rider 24		LIRAP/LIP Rider vetoed during the 85th Legislative Session
Rider 701		<p>General Revenue Appropriations for Disaster Response. In the event of a disaster proclamation by the Governor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, Chapter 418, Government Code, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is hereby appropriated funds, in increments of \$1,000,000, from the General Revenue Fund 0001 to directly respond to a disaster. Within 90 days of incurring expenses, the General Fund 0001 will be repaid in full by transfers from the agency's General Revenue-Dedicated fund accounts as it relates to work performed. The TCEQ shall notify the Legislative Budget Board and Governor of any decision to utilize General Revenue Fund 0001, including estimated cash transfers.</p> <p>The new rider would temporarily provide the agency wide General Revenue to support disaster response efforts without additional appropriations.</p>
#4	\$1.5m	The TCEQ seeks funding to enhance and expand its mobile air monitoring capabilities, optical gas imaging cameras (OGIC), and replace its Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM).
#5	\$2.5m	<p>This project will upgrade the STARS application from CA Gen to Java, moving from a client installed on individual PCs to a web-based application, which also improves the agency's business continuity and resiliency posture. Support options are extremely limited, declining, and less competitive for Gen than for other development frameworks. TCEQ relies on contractor support for CA Gen. Delaying modernization heightens the risk of critical application failure due to loss of support options and/or loss of institutional knowledge. Mission critical failure of STARS would compromise the agency's ability to bill and collect air program fees, develop the State Implementation Plan, and meet state and federal requirements under the Clean Air Act.</p>

Department of Public Safety

#3 \$49.50 Crime Labs. The backlog of forensic cases awaiting analysis will decrease because tum-around times will be faster. This will benefit the Criminal Justice community by reducing the amount of time suspects stay incarcerated., decreasing the amount of time that investigators and prosecutors have to wait for analysis reports, and speeding the removal of violent criminals from the streets. Further, retention will increase due to better pay opportunities, reduced stress from smaller backlogs, and the opportunity to spend more time performing scientific work rather than administrative duties and training. (Increased funding for crime labs that was originally going to be charged to local governments. \$11.6m and deleted rider that enforces policy)

Rider #	\$	Detail
Department of Motor Vehicles		
#5	\$13.1m	ABTPA requests \$6.6 million per year to expand the presence and impact of the automobile theft enforcement teams (taskforces) recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission. ABTPA will use grant funding to add up to 45 new law enforcement investigators, seven new motor vehicle crimes prosecutors, seven new criminal intelligence analysts and seven new motor vehicle crimes technologists. The Sunset Advisory Committee's Staff Report, Issue 2.6 recommended authorizing ABTPA grant recipients to use funds to combat a broader range of motor vehicle crimes, such as title fraud, beyond the current statutory requirement to investigate and prevent automobile burglary and theft. To effectively administer these added responsibilities, the ABTPA network would need to have greater geographic coverage and better skilled law enforcement professionals.
Department of Transportation		
#8	\$82m	For the next biennium, PTAC recommends a funding increase of \$41 million per year to provide 14-hour/day weekday service for Texans in all counties and cities covered by a transit district. This is a committee priority for lifeline service that TxDOT and the PTAC hope can be addressed in the upcoming session, with an eye toward achieving a longer-term goal of 8-hour Saturday service and 14-hour weekday service statewide.
#9	\$125m	Ports - TxDOT requests \$125 million in GR for FY 2020 and UB authority in FY 2021 for the Texas Ports Capital Program. The funds requested will allow Texas ports to make critical capital improvements that support port activity such as multi-modal connectivity enhancements, port expansions and replacement of outdated and failing port facilities. If funded, these projects will support improved logistics, increased capacity and enhanced safety to keep Texas ports competitive. a vital role in creating jobs for Texans.
#10	\$450m	TxDOT requests \$450 million in FY 2020 and UB authority in FY 2021 to capitalize the Ship Channel Improvement Revolving Fund. With the requested funding, the commission would make loans available to navigation districts with ship channel improvement projects authorized by Congress to deepen or widen channels. Navigation districts serve as the non-federal sponsor for ship channels and share a portion of the cost of improvement projects along with the United States Army Corps of Engineers .



Chairman

Judge
Bob Hebert
Fort Bend County

December 13, 2018

Chair Elect

Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee

From: Windy Johnson, Program Manager

Immediate Past Chair

Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **January Policy Committee Elections**

Vice-Chairmen

Comm. Tim Brown
Bell County

Comm. Alex Dominguez
Cameron County

Judge Ed Emmett
Harris County

Judge Loyd Neal
Nueces County

Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County

Judge Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

There will be an election held for the remainder of the Policy Committee's 2018-2019 term immediately following the Urban Counties Luncheon on January 10th, 2019. To be eligible for the election, a commissioner or judge must have a nomination from their commissioners court.

Policy Committee consists of members elected from two groups:

- Group A, which is composed of counties that have a population of 200,000 or more and less than 400,000. Group A elects up to 6 representatives with 2 up for election.
- Group B, which is composed of counties that have a population of less than 200,000. Group B elects up to 4 members with 2 up for election.

Executive Director

John B. Dahill

A new Board of Directors will be elected during the December 13th luncheon. Since each Director serves on the Policy Committee, some of the positions may be filled prior to the election.

Member Counties

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

Nominations may be made from the floor, but under the Urban Counties Bylaws, a person is eligible for election only if they have been nominated by their commissioners court.

Voting in the election is limited to members of commissioners court who attend the election meeting. A proxy may be sent, but no person may cast more than one vote.

Group A Counties (having a population of 200,000 or more and less than 400,000) are: Bell County; Brazoria County; Galveston County; Jefferson County; Lubbock County; McLennan County; Nueces County; Smith County; and Webb County.

Group B Counties (having a population of less than 200,000 according to the 2010 census) are: Brazos County; Chambers County; Comal County; Ector County; Grayson County; Hays County; Johnson County; Kaufman County; Midland County; Potter County; Randall County; Rockwall County; San Patricio County; and Wise County.

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.476.6174

www.cuc.org