



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

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

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

Policy Committee Meeting

Travis County Building | 700 Lavaca Street Austin, Texas 78701

April 17, 2019

9:30 AM Convene.

1. Welcome, Introductions.

2. Consider the minutes from the March 13, 2019 meeting.

[pg. 3]

a. Administrative items. Next meeting: At 9:30a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 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						
Judge David Blackburn	Bell County	V	V	E						
Commissioner Kevin Wolff	Bexar County	P	V	V						
Judge Eddie Treviño	Cameron County	E	V	V						
Commissioner Susan Fletcher	Collin County	V	V	P						
Commissioner Theresa Daniel	Dallas County	V	V	P						
Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell	Denton County	X	V	P						
Commissioner David Stout	El Paso County	V	V	V						
Commissioner Andy Meyers	Fort Bend County	X	V	V						
Commissioner Ken Clark	Galveston County	V	V	V						
Judge Bill Magers	Grayson County	V	V	P						
Judge Lina Hidalgo	Harris County		V	P						
Judge Richard Cortez	Hidalgo County			X						
Commissioner Brent Weaver	Jefferson County	V	V	V						
Judge Hal Richards	Kaufman County		X	V						
Commissioner Bill McCay	Lubbock County	E	E	V						
Commissioner Robin Donnelly	Midland County	V	E	V						
Judge Barbara Canales	Nueces County		V	X						
Judge Glen Whitley	Tarrant County	V	V	V						
Judge Sarah Eckhardt	Travis County	V	V	V						
Judge Bill Gravell	Williamson County	V	V	X						
Commissioner Kevin Burns	Wise County	V	V	P						

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

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

a. Review bills of interest to date

[pg. 6]

b. Discussion of Property Tax Reform Legislation

4. Discuss Transportation Infrastructure Fund [Windy Johnson] [pg. 29]
5. Appropriations Update [Windy Johnson] [pg. 31]
6. Consider changes to the Policy Platform
 - a. Contingent Fee Bills [John Dahill] [pg. 33]

Recommended Resolution

RESOLVED by the Texas Conference of Urban Counties Policy Committee that the Environment / Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Resilience section of the Policy Platform is amended as follows:

Oppose any further erosion in the ability of local governments to hold violators of environmental laws and regulations accountable.

Recommended Resolution

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

Oppose any measure that interferes with the authority of a county to select legal counsel and establish the terms of representation.

7. New business.

11:30 AM Adjourn.

Policy Committee Meeting

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

March 13, 2019

Minutes

Members Present

Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Bexar County
Judge Matt Sebesta, Brazoria County
Judge Eddie Treviño, Cameron County
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Collin County (Proxy Judge Chris Hill)
Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Dallas County (Proxy Charles Reed)
Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Denton County (Proxy Shannon Joski)
Commissioner David Stout, El Paso County
Commissioner Andy Meyers, Fort Bend County
Commissioner Ken Clark, Galveston County
Judge Bill Magers, Grayson County (Proxy Commissioner Jeff Whitmire)
Judge Lina Hidalgo, Harris County (Proxy Donna Warndorf)
Commissioner Brent Weaver, Jefferson County
Judge Glen Whitley, Tarrant County
Judge Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County
Commissioner Kevin Burns, Wise County (Proxy Judge J.D. Clark)

Others Present

Melissa Shannon, Bexar County
David Garcia, Cameron County
Charles Reed, Dallas County
Claudia Russell, El Paso County
Anna Apodaca, El Paso County
Ender Reed, Harris County
Donna Warndorf, Harris County
G.K. Maenius, Tarrant County
Chandler Merritt, Tarrant County
Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County
Deece Eckstein, Travis County
Peter Einhorn, Travis County
Arryn James, 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, Urban Counties Consultant

Judge Sebesta called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM

The Committee considered agenda item 2, Consider the minutes from the March 13, 2019 meeting. On a motion by Judge Glen Whitley and a second by Commissioner Andy Meyers the Minutes were approved as presented.

The Committee discussed agenda item 2a. the next meeting date of 9:30am on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at the Travis County Building 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, TX 78701.

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

The Committee discussed agenda item 4, Review bills of interest to date.

The Committee discussed agenda item 5, Consider changes to the Policy Platform.

- a. The Committee discussed agenda item 6a, Discussion of Property Tax Reform Legislation.
- b. The Committee considered agenda item 6b, Consideration of Flood Infrastructure. On a motion by Commissioner Ken Clark and second by Commissioner Brent Weaver, the recommended Resolution was approved as presented.

Recommended Resolution

RESOLVED by the Texas Conference of Urban Counties Policy Committee that the Environment / Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Resilience Section of the Policy Platform is amended as follows:

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

- c. The Committee considered agenda item 6c, Proposed Elimination of the May Election Date. On a motion by Judge Hal Richards and second by Commissioner Robin Donnelly, the recommended Resolution was approved as presented.

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED by the Texas Conference of Urban Counties Policy Committee that the Elections Section of the Policy Platform is amended as follows:

Retain the option to hold elections on uniform election dates.

The Committee considered excusing the absences of all delayed Policy Committee Members under New Business. On a motion by Judge Glen Whitley and a second by Commissioner Brent Weaver the absences of the delayed members were excused.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12PM.

Judge Matt Sebesta
Vice Chairman of Policy

Date



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

April 17, 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**

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

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.

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*

HB 2, by Burrows – Expands 2.5% revenue cap to most counties, cities. Includes certificates of obligation in the rollback tax rate calculation; Maintains the 8% rollback rate for hospital districts, emergency service districts, and community college districts; allows counties, cities that adopt rates below the rollback rate to “bank” the unused increment for future use. ***Set on H. calendar***

HB 3, by Huberty – The bill allocates the bulk of its new funding through an increase in the basic allotment from \$5,140 to \$6,030 and creates a new early childhood allotment to fund full-day prekindergarten for eligible students. HB 3 also reduces recapture by almost 40 percent by reducing district payments from \$7.7 billion to \$4.7 billion. In an effort to dedicate a portion of the funds to teacher pay raises, the House amended the bill to require 25 percent of any basic allotment increase going forward to be spent on equal pay raises for full-time, non-administrative staff. — ***Referred to S. Education***

HB 470, by Paul – Creates a small taxing unit for all counties, cities, and special districts with populations under 40,000. Sets a rollback rate of 4% for all other taxing entities and keeps small taxing units rollback rate at 8%. Makes the election to ratify any rollback as automatic. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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. ***Reported as subbed H. Ways and Means***

HB 2915, by Springer – Comprehensive tax plan compressing property tax rates for schools and increasing homestead exemptions by replacing sales tax increases on services and additional products. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.476.6174
www.cuc.org

HB 1841, by Thompson/SB 836, by Miles – 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. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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.

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.

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

HB 716, by Leach – Creates a new exemption for 'Severely Disable Veteran' (SDV) or the surviving spouse of a SDV. The exemption is equal to the SDV disability rating of at least 80% up to 100%. The exemption continues for the surviving spouse at the same level after death if the spouse is not remarried and remains in the house. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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. Adds a provision that limits the numbers of exemptions a filer can claim to one per property, including over 65. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 164, by Raymond – Exempts the value of improvements for ADA compliance from market value of any real property. Similar to Prop 2 pollution control equipment exemption. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 275, by Miller – Expands property tax exemption for surviving spouse of armed services member by replacing "action" with "line of duty."—***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 322, by Geren/HB 1032, by Bohac – A true property tax freeze. Expands exemptions for property taxes from just school districts to all taxing entities for 65 and older. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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. —***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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.—***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 639, by Springer/SB 135, by Nichols – 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.—***Voted favorably as subbed. H. Ways and Means/Pending S. Property Tax***

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.—***Pending H. Ways and Means***

HB 905, by Bernal – Exempts 100% of the value of a qualified caregiver's homestead from local taxes.—***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 945, by Metcalf – The 10% growth cap on homesteads would apply to all real property and would continue upon death of owner if ownership transfers to surviving spouse.—***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 948, by Metcalf – Changes the property tax exemption for land of a religious organization from 6 years to 10 years.—***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 1102, by Bernal/SB 484, by Menendez – Creates a 'lifetime' exemption for property qualified as a homestead for at least 15 consecutive years. The lifetime exemption would be equal to the lesser of 120% of the tax due during the first tax year or the lowest amount during those years. The exemption would transfer to a surviving spouse as long as it is owned and occupied. Tax would exclude new additions or improvements. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means/Referred to S. Property Tax***

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

HB 1596, by Lambert – Veterans property tax exemption. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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%. — ***Voted favorably H. Ways and Means***

HB 1816, by Beckley –Provides for an appraisal district to establish a ratio for the basis of satisfying equal and uniform. The appraisal of a property could be equal to a median value of a number of similar properties and still be equal. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 2395, by Lozano –For purposes of appraising a property, improving the exterior of a replacement structure with higher quality construction and composition than the replaced structure is not considered to be an improvement for a structure that was rendered uninhabitable or unusable by a casualty or by wind or water damage. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 2455, by Goldman –Adds over 65 and disabled exemptions to county, municipality, junior college, regional water district, and hospital district levies. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 2456, by Kacal –Creates a local option for up to a \$15,000 exemption on a homestead of a person serving as on a volunteer first responder. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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. — ***Pending S. Property Tax***

SB 443, by Hancock/SB 540, by Kolkhorst – Specifies that the owner, to continue to receive the exemption, is required to begin active construction of replacement residence not later than first year or fifth year if owner ceases to occupy as principal residence. — ***Passed on local calendar***

SB 547, by Watson – Increases the maximum time a property tax exemption may apply to a charity that acquires a property for providing low-income housing from five years to 10. The charity must own the property for sole purpose of building housing on the property w/ volunteer labor to sell w/o profit to low-income individual. Exemption applies only while the charity owns the property. — ***Referred to S. Property Tax***

HB 2958, by VanDeaver – Adds property owned by a nonprofit corporation performing functions of a public purpose are exempt from ad valorem taxes. — ***Pending H. Ways and Means***

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.**

HB 54, by Zerwas –Comprehensive changes for the method of property tax appraisals. Broadens the powers of the Comptroller to manage training and review of individual appraisers and central system for equalizing appraisal system. —***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 305, by Paul – **FA:** added population exemptions for counties under 10K, cities under 5K and School ISDs with less than 5K if located in counties of less than 25K. **CS:** added posting requirements for election dates and filing deadlines to the website. **As Filed:** Requires political subdivisions to post a tax information website containing info for taxpayers to obtain meetings, rates, and elections for officers. —***Referred to S. Business and Commerce***

HB 490, by Shine –Reforms property tax appraisal system to allow Comptroller to appoint an advisory board to review boards. Sets a 'no new revenue' rate calculation. Reforms the tax calculation date and notice procedures and establishes a new database requirement for tax information to be listed to be easier tracked by tax payers. —***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 1484, by Metcalf –Provides that appraisal district directors are to be elected in each commissioner’s precinct, with one director elected at large from the county. If the county tax assessor-collector collects taxes, he or she will remain a non-voting director. The candidate must be a resident of the county precinct from which elected or from the county if at-large. The candidate must have resided in the appraisal district for at least two years prior to taking office. The director will serve a two-year term, beginning on January 1 of odd numbered years. A vacancy

is filled for the unexpired term by the commissioners court. The filing fee is \$1,250 for a county with a population of 200,000 or more and \$750 for a county with a population less than 200,000. Elections will begin with the primary and general elections conducted in 2020. Directors take office January 1, 2021. —**Referred to H. Ways and Means**

HB 1485, by Metcalf —Provides that the chief appraiser is elected at the general election for state and county officers by county voters. The chief appraiser serves a two-year term beginning January 1 of odd-numbered years. The chief appraiser must be a resident of the county and have resided in the county for at least four years preceding taking office. The requirement for a person to hold certain designation(s), such as the Registered Professional Appraiser (RPA), is removed. The filing fee is \$1,250 for a county with a population of 200,000 or more and \$750 for a county with a population less than 200,000. The commissioners court fills a vacancy in this position. The newly elected chief appraiser must complete the chief appraiser training course required by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The chief appraiser may be removed for “incompetency” for failing to complete the required training within one year of election. Election will begin with the primary and general elections conducted in 2020. Prior to the bill’s effective date, the CAD board appoints the chief appraiser to serve until the elected person takes office for the term that begins January 1, 2021. The CAD board of directors may contract with another CAD to perform the duties of the appraisal office but not with a taxing unit. —**Referred to H. Ways and Means**

HB 1486, by Metcalf —Provides that county voters shall elect five Appraisal Review Board members at the general election for state and county officers. One member is elected from each of the four commissioners precincts, and one member is elected at large from the county. —**Referred to H. Ways and Means**

HB 1551, by Hefner —Provides that the chief appraiser is elected at the general election for state and county officers by county voters. The chief appraiser serves a two-year term beginning January 1 of odd-numbered years. The chief appraiser must be a resident of the county and have resided in the county for at least four years preceding taking office. The requirement for a person to hold certain designation(s), such as the Registered Professional Appraiser (RPA), is removed. The filing fee is \$1,250 for a county with a population of 200,000 or more and \$750 for a county with a population less than 200,000. The commissioners court fills a vacancy in this position. The newly-elected chief appraiser must complete the chief appraiser training course required by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The chief appraiser may be removed for “incompetency” for failing to complete the required training within one year of election. Election will begin with the primary and general elections conducted in 2020. Prior to the bill’s effective date, the CAD board appoints the chief appraiser to serve until the elected person takes office for the term that begins January 1, 2021. The CAD board of directors may contract with another CAD to perform the duties of the appraisal office but not with a taxing unit. Adds the ballot procedures for the office of chief appraiser.—**Referred to H. Ways and Means**

HB 1703, by Shaheen —A person who has served for all or part of three consecutive terms as a board member on the appraisal review board of an appraisal district established in a county with a population of 550,000 or more is ineligible to serve on the appraisal review board during the two-year period that begins on the next January 1 following the third of those consecutive terms.—**Pending H. Ways and Means**

HB 2574, by Burrows/SB 67, by Nelson —Comprehensive changes for the method of property tax appraisals. Broadens the powers of the Comptroller to manage training and review of

individual appraisers and central system for equalizing appraisal system. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means/Pending S. Property Tax***

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.— ***Voted favorably H. Ways and Means***

HB 913, by Shaheen —Adjusts the rollback rate from 8% to 4%. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

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

HB 2, by Burrows/SB 2, by Bettencourt – Caps the revenues of counties and other local governments at 2.5%, reforms the appraisal review board system, and increases information to taxpayers. — ***Set on H. Calendar/Placed on S. Calendar***

Other Bills of Interest in Taxation:

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. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 3086, by Cole – Companion for SB 1966 limits sales tax exemption from all audio and video recording equipment used in motion pictures to just the equipment used for master recording. — ***Received in the S.***

HB 3098, by Toth– Comprehensive tax appraisal reform bill with changes to the way ARB's are set, puts tax assessor-collector in charge of appraisals, and gives state senators and representatives the ability to appoint members to the appraisal Board. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 3127, by Middleton – Increases the percentage amount of homestead exemption a taking unit can adopt from 20% to 100%. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 3143, by Murphy – Companion for SB 1838 Extension of Chapter 312 for economic development agreements. Adds reporting requirements and notice disclosures and extend the Act to 2029. — ***Referred to H. Ways and Means***

HB 3723, by Swanson – Requires all bond and tax increase elections to occur on November uniform election date. Election has no effect unless more than 25% of registered voters show up and vote. Requires election for refunding bonds (currently exempt from election requirement). ***Referred to H. Pensions***

SB 1520, by Campbell – 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. **Referred to S. Property Tax**

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. **Removed from S. Property Tax**

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. **Reported from S. Property Tax**

SB 1791, by Zaffirini – Allows governing body of a taxing unit to provide that an appraisal office may increase the appraised value of a residence homestead to an amount not to exceed lesser of market value or sum of % specified by governing body multiplied by appraised value for preceding tax year or avg percent increase in unadjusted media value of sales price. Applies to homestead in qualifying census tract in county in which rate of increase in unadjusted median value of sales prices is more than 2.5 x the average increase in every county for same period. **Referred to S. Property Tax**

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. **Pending S. Property Tax**

CRIME AND COURTS

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.

HB 1812, by Murr – As Filed: Permits TIDC to issue indigent defense grants directly to an entity that assists counties in improving indigent defense.—**Voted favorably as subbed. H. Criminal Jurisprudence**

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.—**Reported from committee as subbed H. Juvenile Justice and Family Issues**

HB 658, by Dutton –Ages for application of juvenile justice laws raised from 10 to 12 and from 17 to 18. Juvenile courts would retain jurisdiction over delinquents up to age 20. Effective 9/1/2020—**Referred to H. Juvenile Justice and Family Issues**

HB 1364, by Wu –10 and up still 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. Raises minimum age for juvenile court jurisdiction from 10 to 12 and raises maximum age for jurisdiction from 18 to 19.—***Set on H. Calendar***

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 1314, by King –Mandatory personal bond for technical parole violators held in jail 30 days or more if the parolee does not have violent record. Requires reimbursement to counties for holding technical violators beginning on day 11.—***Referred to H. Criminal Jurisprudence***

SB 174, by Perry –Requires the state to reimburse counties for parolees held on administrative holds for (1) actual medical/special needs costs and (2) confinement costs beginning on day 16 of confinement. For new-offense parolee holds, state to reimburse same, but only after new charge is dismissed or disposed.—***Referred to S. Criminal Justice***

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.—***Voted favorably as subbed H. Corrections***

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

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/SB 628, by Whitmire –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.—***Pending H. Criminal Jurisprudence/Referred to S. Criminal Justice***

HB 1955, by Dutton – As Filed: Mandates personal bond in all misdemeanors unless there is a finding of extenuating circumstances justifying no bond.—***Referred to H. Criminal Jurisprudence***

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.

HB 686, by Clardy/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.—***Reported favorably from committee on H. Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence/Passed on local calendar***

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

HB 435, by Shaheen – Original required debt be 20 years old. Reduced to 10 years — ***Passed H.***

HB 2259, by Smith –Removes the bracket to allow all counties to find criminal cases fees and costs uncollectible.—***Voted favorably as subbed H. Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence***

Other Bills of Interest in Crime and Courts:

HB 2427, by Reynolds –Permits attorneys for witnesses in grand jury room. Will require appointment of counsel if witness is indigent.—***Pending H. Criminal Jurisprudence***

HB 2580, by Wu –Requires county jails to provide free domestic calls to inmates awaiting trial. May not limit calls to less than an average of 10-minute calls per month.—***Voted favorably as subbed H. County Affairs***

HB 2467, by Zedler –Bill reduces the time a jailer must complete basic training from one year to 90 days.—***Pending H. County Affairs***

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 1653 by White –No reporting to OCA. Instead, 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. Authorizes state grants to probation departments for pretrial intervention programs.—***Reported as subbed H. Corrections***

HB 2020, by Kacal/SB 2241, by Whitmire – 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. — ***Referred to H. Criminal Jurisprudence / Referred to S. Criminal Justice***

HB 3515, by Fierro – Allows the VCSO to report to the County Administrator instead of directly to the Commissioners Court. — ***Referred to H. Defense and Veteran's Affairs***

HB 3775, by Davis, Y – Prohibits a county jailer from working unless mandatory training is completed. ***Pending H. County Affairs***

SB 1633, by Kolkhorst – Requires OCA to establish a grant program to reimburse counties for providing legal representation for CPS cases. ***Set on S. Calendar***

SB 1649, by Kolkhorst – Requires Indigent Defense Commission to offer assistance to counties under 50,000 in establishment and oversight of public defender offices. Assistance cannot be given to larger counties unless PD office exists in all counties under 50,000. 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. ***Referred to S. Criminal Justice***

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. ***Referred to H. Criminal Jurisprudence***

SB 2216, by Perry – Allows for reimbursement to a county for holding a prisoner for a warrant issued in another county. – ***Referred to S. Criminal Justice***

TRANSPORTATION

Oppose eliminating local tolling options.

HB 436/HB 1282, by Shaheen –Mandates a toll road to become a part of the state system once the cost of acquisition and construction of the project is paid. Costs include all bonds and interest on the bonds. Prohibits amending financing agreements if they extend the life of the bond project.—***Sent to H. Transportation/Sent to H. Redistricting***

HB 505, by Metcalf –Ties the end of a toll project to the retirement of bonds and interest on the project. Project owner can only continue the tolls on the project if it asks for an election and voters approve the continuation for five years.—***Sent to H. Transportation***

SB 382, by Hall –Prohibits toll operators from adding fees to bill collected by means other than at the toll entrance and prohibits the DMV from refusing registration for outstanding toll accounts for the vehicle.—***Referred to S. Transportation***

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.—***Sent to H. Transportation***

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

HB 44, by Romero – Requires TxDOT to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of using municipal impact fees to pay for roadway facilities that are necessary due to municipal development.—***Pending H. Transportation***

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.—***Referred to H. Transportation***

HB 1840, by Springer – Extends the over-weight standards for milk trucks to all trucks hauling agriculture products.—***Referred to H. Transportation***

HB 1831, by Springer – Would reduce the criminal penalty by 50% for the operation of overweight vehicles transporting agricultural products within five or more miles of the border.—***Referred to H. Transportation***

HB 1778, by Martinez – Allows vehicles to exceed weight limits if they are transporting agriculture products during harvest season.—***Referred to H. Transportation***

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.—***Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar***

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.—***Pending H. County Affairs***

HB 1646, by Martinez – Extends previously authorized CDA projects until 2029.—***Referred to H. Transportation***

Other Bills of Interest in Transportation:

HB 1046, by Martinez – Increases the amount credited to the State highway fund from the sale, use or rental of motor vehicles that exceeds the first \$5b coming into the treasury per FY from 35% to 75%. — **Referred to H. Appropriations**

HB 2513, by Martinez – Adds a \$200 fee for all electric vehicles and a \$300 fee for gross weight vehicles above 10,000 lbs. Fees would go to the credit of the state highway fund.—**Referred to H. Transportation**

HB 1541, by Paddie – Requires study of electric vehicles and per mile fee. Continuing legislation for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for an additional 12 years. Requires mandatory rebidding process for counties that contract for title and registration services by December 1, 2019; mandatory access to Webdealer for all dealers; and a requirement to adopt rules in conjunction with DMV for the suspension or denial of access to the registration and titling system (RTS) for county employees.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

SB 1, by Nelson/HB 1, by Zerwas – State Appropriations Act.—**Replaced with HB 1**

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. **Reported as subbed H. Public Health**

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

SB 10, by Nelson/HB 1448, by Zerwas – Requires parental consent. 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.—**Referred to H. Public Health/Referred to H. Public Health**

HB 2707, by Price – Adds substance abuse services to qualified programs for state grant funding based on HB 13 *85th session*.

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

The House and Senate's first drafts of the state budget propose enough funding to cover caseload growth for Medicaid, but do not sufficiently account for the increase in health care costs. This is a recurring approach to funding Texas Medicaid, which will mean that lawmakers would have to once again pass a substantial supplemental budget for health care costs in 2021 to finish out the two-year budget cycle.—**Referred to H. Public Health**

HB 25, by Gonzalez/HB 606, by Thierry/HB 1111, by Davis/ HB 1114, by Davis/ SB 189, by Morris – Women's Medicaid coverage for 12 months after giving birth.—**Reported from as subbed H. Human Services/Referred to H. Public Health/Voted favorably as subbed H. Public Health**

HB 342, by Cortez/HB 829, by Rose/SB 637, by Zaffirini – Allows children to remain covered for a year once they are deemed Medicaid eligible.—**Pending H. Human Services/Referred to H. Human Services/Referred to S. Health and Human Services**

HB 565, by Coleman – Expands Medicaid and codifies ACA protections. Restricts health insurance plan from including a deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing provision for preventative services and immunizations. Prohibits annual and lifetime limits. Prohibits gender discrimination. Requires preexisting conditions are covered. Requires a plan include mental health parity. Requires a plan cover all essential health benefits. Requires coverage for a child up to age 26.—***Pending H. Insurance***

HB 590, by Israel/HB 841 by Bucy – Expands Medicaid eligibility to all persons who apply and for whom federal matching funds are available.—***Referred to H. Appropriation***

HB 816, by Bernal/SB 327, by Alvarado – Upon a request from a county, requires the executive commissioner of HHS to apply for Medicaid expansion for residents of the county.—***Referred to H. Human Services/Referred to S. Health and Human Services***

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.—***Voted favorably as subbed H. Public Health***

HB 1210, by Beckley – Requires HHSC to apply for an 1115 waiver to expand Medicaid in a county upon request of the commissioners court.—***Referred to H. Human Services***

HB 1395, by Reynolds – Allows for a block grant for Medicaid for Texas.—***Referred to H. Human Services***

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

SB 500, by Nelson – State supplemental appropriations bill. ***Set on S. Items Eligible Calendar***

HB 4, by Zerwas – Provides for \$2m for State mental Health Hospital construction and preplanning. — ***Meeting set H. Appropriations***

Support the continuation of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver.

HB 767, by Davis – Requires every entity that receives funding for a federal waiver project (like 1115 waiver) to submit a final evaluation report within 30 days of a projects scheduled termination date, to HHSC regardless if the waiver is extended. — ***Pending H. Human Services***

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 550, by Canales – Requires DPS to reduce the drivers responsibility charge by 50% by 2021. Repeals the drivers responsibility program by 9/1/2027. Allows drivers education courses for motor vehicle violations as long as three or more violations haven't occurred within the 3 previous years and the violation didn't result in an accident. Does not apply to DWI or negligent homicide. Repeals the drivers responsibility charge point exemption. — ***Referred to H. Homeland Security and Public Safety***

HB 683, by White – Eliminates the Drivers Responsibility Program and repeals the program surcharges. Provides for all funds to be transferred to the trauma fund account. — ***Referred to H. Homeland Security and Public Safety***

HB 1145, by Krause – Amends who can take traffic school to reduce a ticket cost. Repeals the drivers responsibility program. Requires DWI convictions pay \$1,000 for 3 years for a first one, \$1,500/3 years for a second and 2,000 for a BAC of .16 or more. Creates a fine for driving without

insurance of \$250/3 years. County/City submits the funds to the Comptroller on a quarterly basis, allowing the county/city to retain 2.5% and any interest earned. Comptroller deposits the money to the trauma fund. — **Pending H. Homeland Security and Public Safety**

HB 1487, by Wilson/HB 1458, by Anderson – Repeals the Drivers Responsibility Program. Increases fines for traffic violations by \$20, decreases the amount the city/county may retain from 5% to 4%. Creates an additional tiered fine for DWI offenses and driving without insurance, with 50% allocated to trauma fund, 50% to state GR, allows county to retain 4%. — **Referred to H. Homeland Security and Public Safety**

HB 2048, by Zerwas/SB 918 by Huffman – 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.— **Voted favorably as subbed H. Homeland Security and Public Safety**

HB 2622, by Phelan – Amends fines to the driver's responsibility program: \$50 for accumulating 3 points during a 3-month period; \$60 for four points; \$70 for 5 points. Repeals DRP surcharges for driving with license suspended, and without insurance. Reduces the penalty for driving without license/insurance from \$250 to \$50. — **Referred to H. Homeland Security and Public Safety**

SB 87 by Hall – Repeals DRP for certain vehicles and replaces it with a fee tacked onto annual vehicle registration. \$9.25 for newly purchased vehicles that have not been previously registered in this or any other state, \$7.50 for trailers/mobile homes, and \$12.50 for every other vehicle. The \$9.25 fee goes into the mobility fund. The \$7.50 gets split up into the mobility fund, GR, and clean air account. The \$12.50 fee goes to the trauma facility and emergency medical services account. — **Referred to S. Transportation**

SB 191 by Miles – Repeals the Drivers Responsibility Program. Increases the state traffic fine from \$30 to \$50, with 50% deposited to GR and 50% to trauma fund). On 9/1/2022 the state fine is lowered to \$40 and 100% deposited to trauma fund.— **Referred to S. Transportation**

SB 577, by Hall – Repeals Drivers Responsibility Program. Increases state traffic fines to be deposited 50/50 to GR/Trauma until 2022 when 100% goes to trauma. Voids any collections on the DRP fees regardless of date imposed on the effective date of the legislation. — **Referred to S. Transportation**

Other Bills of Interest in Health and Human Services:

HB 3518, by Gutierrez – Allows a county to require a permit for food service establishments, food stores, mobile food units and roadside food vendors if they are located on county property or in an unincorporated area of the county. – **Pending House Public Health**

ENVIRONMENT/DISASTER RELIEF, RECOVERY, AND RESILIENCE

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

HB 1043 by Blanco/HB 1345 by Thompson/SB 531 by Birdwell/HB 1746 by Lozano – Extends TERP fees until the last day of the fiscal biennium which TCEQ publishes in the register that the state is in attainment. — ***Referred to H. Environmental Regulation***

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

HB 889 by Murphy – Repeals the light-duty motor vehicle program including removing eligibility under the TERP program. — ***Referred to H. Environmental Regulation***

HB 1043 by Blanco/HB 1345 by Thompson/SB 531 by Birdwell – Extends TERP fees until the last day of the fiscal biennium which TCEQ publishes in the register that the state is in attainment. — ***Referred to H. Environmental Regulation***

HB 1344 by Thompson – Diverts the TERP Surcharge into a separate non-road diesel subaccount for a grant program for non-road diesel and extends the fee expiration to the last day of the biennium that TCEQ posts in the register that Texas reached attainment. — ***Referred to H. Environmental Regulation***

HB 1507, by Minjarez – Adds as a qualifying expense for TERP funds, projects that reduce emissions through supercritical carbon dioxide. — ***Pending H. Environmental Regulation***

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

HB 813 by Huberty – Authorizes LIRAP funds for Harris County to continue the program with fees collected and held by TCEQ in prior years. Authorizes 90% of the past fees assessed in Harris to be credited to Harris County. — ***Referred to H. Environmental Regulation***

HB 2253, by Israel/SB 1070 by Watson – Converts the LIRAP program to emphasize the LIP options. — ***Referred to H. Environmental Regulation/Referred to S. Health and Human Services***

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.

HB 13, by Phelan – Appropriates \$3.26B from ESF 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.. — ***Received in the S.***

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.— ***Referred to H. Appropriations***

SB 1521, Hinojosa – Appropriates \$3.26 billion from ESF to the flood infrastructure fund for loans, grants for flood projects to be administered by TX Water Development Board. Adds to current eligibility criteria for flood control planning money that gives greater importance to a county that has a median household income that is not greater than 85% of the median state household income. Allows funds only to be used for loans at or below market interest rates for a flood project; to make grant or loan for a flood project to serve an area outside of

a MSA or a flood projects to serve an economically distressed area; to make loan for planning and design costs; make grants to provide matching funds; source of revenue for payment of bonds issued by TWDB; and to pay for administering the fund. — ***Referred to S. Water and Rural Affairs***

Other Bills of Interest in Environment:

HB 1309, by Dutton – Requires for new construction or modification to an existing concrete facility they follow the same procedures as oil and gas facilities - getting a regulatory analysis, air quality monitoring data, and limits emissions. — ***Referred to H. Environmental Regulation***

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.

HB 991, by Burns / SB 421, by Kolkhorst – Applies only to private entities with eminent domain authority. Requires offers to be based on appraisals (which counties already do). Requires public hearings regarding projects before offers can be made. Creates a penalty if the amount awarded by special commissioners exceeds the initial offer by a certain percent, with penalty increasing as that delta increases. — ***Referred to H. Land and Resource Management***

HB 1157, by Bell – Imposes ongoing obligation to provide new or updated appraisals to property owners after initial offer. Permits courts to dismiss condemnation proceedings, and award costs to property owners, if condemner fails to meet current statutory requirements. Repeals the ability of a court to abate proceedings (rather than dismiss) if no bona fide offer was made. Permits courts to dismiss proceedings in whole or in part. — ***Referred to H. Land and Resource Management***

HB 1245, by Ashby/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.—***Referred to H. Land and Resource Management***

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.—***Referred to H. Land and Resource Management***

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.—***Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar***

HB 1999, by Leach – Requires governmental entity alleging a construction defect to get an inspection of the project by an engineer and give the alleged responsible contractor, architect, or engineer the opportunity to correct the defect before being eligible to bring a lawsuit. All responsible parties must be notified of the inspection.—***Voted favorably as subbed H. Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence***

HB 2135, by Shine – Restricts public entities from retaining more than 5% of a contract for a public works project to secure the contract and requires release of retainage if government has "beneficial use" of the project even though the project is not complete.—***Voted favorably as subbed H. State Affairs***

SB 208, by Campbell – Expands from 440 yards to 880 yards that a concrete or crushing plant can be built near a residence, school or church. Doubles the yardage where homeowners can request a TCEQ hearing.—***Referred to S. Natural Resources and Economic Development***

SB 2370, by Hughes – Amends timely approval of plats section by changing to approval or disapproval of a plat application to no later than the 60th day after a completed application is filed with (currently, received by) the commissioners court or designee. Adds that a plat is considered approved unless it is disapproved within that 60 day period. If plat is rejected, increases notification requirements from giving applicant a complete list of reasons for disapproval to a written statement of disapproval and list each reason for disapproval related to applicable requirements; not be arbitrary or intended to delay approval. Allows applicant to submit a written response that remedies each reason for disapproval. Reduces the extension time from a reasonable period to 30 days. Requires commissioners court to make determination no later than 30 days from receipt of applicant's response. Establishes development permit application approval procedures for political subdivisions. ***Pending S. Business and Commerce***

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 581, by White – Allows the sale of fireworks five days before and up to Labor Day if permitted by commissioners court.—***Reported favorably from H. County Affairs***

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.—***Reported favorably from H. County Affairs***

HB 915, by Shaheen – Allows fireworks on Diwali Day. Typically, in October/September. No commissioners court approval required.—***Reported favorably from H. County Affairs***

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

Support the creation of an online voter registration system.

HB 79, by Johnson – Allows for online voter registration. — *Referred to H. Elections*

HB 192, by Reynolds – Secretary of State to create online voter registration. — *Referred to H. Elections*

HB 361, by Israel – Requires the secretary of state to permit a voter to fill out a voter registration online, print it out, and mail it to the county registrar. — *Referred to H. Elections*

HB 657/HB 1897, by Dutton – Requires a voter registrar to adopt procedures to allow completion of a voter registration application online. — *Referred to H. Elections/Pending H. Insurance*

Expand the Countywide Polling Place Program for all counties.

HB 177, by Bernal – Repeals the restriction on the number of counties that the secretary of state may approve each year for the countywide polling place program. — *Meeting set H. Elections*

HB 2142, by Meza – Repeals the restriction on the number of counties that the secretary of state may approve each year for the countywide polling place program. — *Meeting set H. Elections*

SB 101, by Menendez – Repeals the restriction on the number of counties that the secretary of state may approve each year for the countywide polling place program. — *Referred to S. State Affairs*

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. — *Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar*

SB 2017, by Bettencourt – 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. *Referred to S. State Affairs*

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

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.

HB 3667, by Toth – Removes the May election date. *Pending H. Elections*

Other Bills of Interest in Elections:

HB 2045, by Thompson – Would create a voting hardship class that would enable the person to vote by mail: to include offshore workers, long range truckers; oversees workers; and caretaker of a person with a disability. — *Referred to H. Elections*

HB 3576, by Klick – Requires the registrar to investigate whether each registered voter is eligible for registration in the county. — *Pending H. Elections*

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. — ***Pending H. Elections***

SB 1609, by Hall – In an election contest for which the district court has jurisdiction, the election contest shall have precedence in the court, and the court shall, to the extent reasonably possible, ensure that the contest is brought to final disposition before the expiration of the term of the contested office. ***Referred to S. State Affairs***

SB 1611, by Hall – Requires the SOS to quarterly monitor each registrar for compliance with rules implementing the statewide computerized voter registration list. State jail felony for a registrar that fails to correct a violation within 30 days. ***Pending S. State Affairs***

SB 1613, by Hall – Void a bond election if 25% or less registered voters of the political subdivision vote. ***Referred to S. Property Tax***

SB 1614, by Hall – Requires all political subdivisions receiving state funds to annually report to Ethics Commission and post on website amount spent to influence legislation and names of all lobbyists paid during the year. Special votes required before spending money. Misdemeanor offense if person designated by governing body fails to make required reports. ***Referred to S. State Affairs***

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. ***Pending S. Property Tax***

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.

SB 62, by Zaffirini – Creates an unfunded mandates interagency working group consisting of the state auditor, LBB director, TXCPA, a senator appointed by Lt Gov, a house rep appointed by Speaker to publish, every biennium after regular session, an advisory list of mandates for which the legislature has not provided reimbursement. — ***Referred to S. Finance***

HJR 30, by Burns/SJR 10, by Buckingham – Constitutional Amendment, no unfunded mandates to a county or city. — ***Referred to H. State Affairs / Referred to S. Business and Commerce***

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

HB 1861, by Martinez – Changes the compensation for police and fire fighters to say compensation must be substantially equal to comparable police and fire depts. — ***Referred to H. Urban Affairs***

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.

HB 2938, by Hinojosa/SB 1293, by Zaffirini – Authorizes counties to create public defender positions to represent persons in commitment proceedings in lieu of private appointed counsel. — ***Referred to H. Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence***

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.

HB 104, by Johnson – Requires state and local incarceration facilities, including mental health institutions, to report demographics, including person's last address, to comptroller. Allows address to be used for redistricting purposes. — ***Pending H. Redistricting***

HB 230, by Krause – Requires a political subdivision to report both the receipt and the use, or proposed use, of federal funds to the LBB, comptroller, and governor not later than the 90th day of the subdivision's fiscal year. — ***Pending H. Appropriations***

HB 433, by Shaheen – Changes the requirement to disclose the total amount spent to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of legislation and each person required to register as a lobbyist who was compensated for such purposes to a requirement to disclose the total amount spent to compensate such registrants to influence the outcome of legislation. ***Reported as subbed H. State Affairs***

HB 767, by Davis – Requires every entity that receives funding for a federal waiver project (like 1115 waiver) to submit a final evaluation report within 30 days of a projects scheduled termination date, to HHSC regardless if the waiver is extended. — ***Pending H. Human Services***

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. — ***Pending S. Health and Human Services***

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

HB 1229 by Shaheen – Permits internet posting - including on social media site controlled by governmental entity - in lieu of any required publication in newspaper. — ***Referred to H. County Affairs***

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 430, by Shaheen – For both state and local elections authorizing issuance of debt, ballot would be required to include information on amount of outstanding debt and cost of new debt. — ***Referred to H. Pensions/Investments/Financial Services***

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. — ***Referred to S. Property Tax***

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 –
Passed

SB 462, by Campbell – New requirement to express current debt tax rate as percentage of the adopted tax rate at beginning of fiscal year in which election is held. – ***First placement on S. Intent Calendar***

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.

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. — ***Reported as subbed H. State Affairs***

HB 433, by Shaheen – Substitute changes the requirement to disclose the total amount spent to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of legislation and each person required to register as a lobbyist who was compensated for such purposes to a requirement to disclose the total amount spent to compensate such registrants to influence the outcome of legislation. — ***Reported as subbed H. State Affairs***

SB 82, by Hall – Prohibits local governments from hiring lobbyists. — ***Referred to S. State Affairs***

HB 3680, by Middleton – Permits a political subdivision or entity 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 an interest part to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent further activity in violation. Applicable to political subdivisions, regional mobility authority, transit authority, regional tollway authority, special purpose district, public institution of higher ed, community college district, publicly owned utility, and river authority. – ***Referred to H. State Affairs***

HJR 86, by Toth – Constitutional amendment to prohibit expenditure of public money to influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation before the legislature. I read this to mean local governments cannot put legislation on their meeting agendas for discussion, as that would be expenditure of staff time. Would also prohibit county-paid trips to Austin to discuss legislation. – ***Referred to H. State Affairs***

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. – ***Set on S. Calendar***

SB 702, by Bettencourt – 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. Permits a political subdivision or entity 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 an interest part to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent further activity in violation. Applicable to political subdivisions, regional mobility authority, transit authority, regional tollway authority, special purpose district, public institution of higher ed, community college district, publicly owned utility, and river authority. – ***Referred to H. State Affairs***

SB 703, by Bettencourt – Requires governing body of a local entity (county, city, school district, or hospital district) to file with Texas Ethics Commission a statement of expenditures for lobbying activities each odd-numbered year. Requires posting each statement on entity's website. Creates \$500 civil penalty for late filing of statement based on any available evidence. If statement is more than 30 days late, requires Commission to issue a warning of liability and if penalty is not paid before the 10th day after date warning is received, creates liability for entity for a civil penalty to be determined by commission, but not exceed \$10,000. – ***Referred to S. State Affairs***

SB 906, by Hughes – Amends the current statute authorizing membership in TAC to prohibit all political subdivisions and toll authorities from spending public funds to influence legislation that may expand elective abortions. Exempts elected officers, and employees so long as employees not otherwise required to register as lobbyists. – ***Referred to S. State Affairs***

SB 1614, by Hall – Requires all political subdivisions receiving state funds to annually report to Ethics Commission and post on website amount spent to influence legislation and names of all lobbyists paid during the year. Special votes required before spending money. Misdemeanor offense if person designated by governing body fails to make required reports. – ***Referred to S. State Affairs***

SB 2329, by Creighton – Prohibits political subdivisions and all special districts from spending public funds to influence legislation unless the expenditure is approved by vote of governing body as a stand-alone item. – ***Referred to S. State Affairs***

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.

HB 1700, by Hunter – Addresses public information on a personal device. — ***Voted favorably H. State Affairs***

HB 2191, by Capriglione/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. — ***Referred to H. Calendars / Referred to H. State Affairs***

Other Bills of Interest in Governance & Finance:

HB 159, by Canales – Waives governmental immunity of a county or sheriff's department for a writ of mandamus to compel the county to award back pay or other monetary benefit as awarded by a civil service commission. — ***Referred to H. County Affairs***

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. — ***Passed***

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. — ***Pending H. County Affairs***

HB 1492, by Wray – Adds peace officers to those who qualify for benefits due to contact with a contagious disease in the line of work. Covers smallpox, tuberculosis, heart attack or stroke. — ***Pending H. Homeland Security and Public Safety***

HB 1521, by Burrows/SB 858 – A political subdivision that self-insures either individually or collectively waives sovereign immunity and is liable for sanctions, administrative penalties, and attorney's fees in a workers' compensation dispute. — ***Pending H. Business and Industry/Referred to S. Business and Commerce***

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

HB 2575, by Martinez – Counties are not required to refund amounts of \$5 or less if owner is notified and fails to make claim within 90 days. — ***Referred to H. County Affairs***

HB 2533, by Meyer – Subjects all "organizations" to pay attorney fees in certain types of lawsuits, including breach of contract. — ***Referred to H. Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence***

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. — ***Pending H. Business and Industry***

HB 1927, by Herrero – Requires a county judge to fill a county commissioner vacancy by the 30th day after the date of vacancy. — ***Referred to H. County Affairs***

HB 1929, by Noble – Prohibits contracts of any kind between governmental entities and abortion providers. — ***Voted favorably as subbed H. State Affairs***

HB 1972, by Collier – Allows a county to enter into an interlocal agreement with a city to regulate game rooms. — ***Referred to H. Licensing and Administrative Procedures***

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 10 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). — ***Voted Favorably from S. Property Tax***

SB 1640 by Watson/HB 2965 by Toth/HB 3402 by Phelan – "Deliberation" amended to include exchange of writings. Addresses walking quorum. — ***Received in House / Pending in H. State Affairs / Voted favorably from H. State Affairs***

SB 22, by Campbell – Governmental entities may not contract with abortion provider or affiliate for any goods or services. ***Voted favorably from H. State Affairs***

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. – ***Pending H. County Affairs***

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. — ***Pending H. Homeland Security and Public Safety***

HB 3167, by Oliverson – Amends timely approval of plats section by changing to approval or disapproval of a plat application to no later than the 60th day after a completed application is filed with (currently, received by) the commissioners court or designee. Adds that a plat is considered approved unless it is disapproved within that 60-day period. If plat is rejected, increases notification requirements from giving applicant a complete list of reasons for disapproval to a written statement of disapproval and list each reason for disapproval related to applicable requirements; not be arbitrary or intended to delay approval. Allows applicant to submit a written response that remedies each reason for disapproval. Reduces the extension time from a reasonable period to 30 days. Requires commissioners court to make determination no later than 30 days from receipt of applicant's response. Establishes development permit application approval procedures for political subdivisions. — ***Referred to H. Land and Resource Management***

HB 3215, by Darby – Adds requirement that the county auditor oversee the expenses for each budgeted item in the budget to ensure it doesn't exceed the appropriations. — ***Referred to H. County Affairs***

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. ***Recommended for S. Local and Uncontested Calendar***



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

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

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
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

April 17, 2019

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

Re: **Discuss Transportation Infrastructure Fund**

Background:

In 2013, SB 1747 established the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund grant program and directed TxDOT to make grants to counties for transportation infrastructure projects located in areas affected by oil and gas exploration and production. HB 1025 appropriated \$225 million to the grant program over the biennium. The original formulas was established as:

- 50% based on well completions;
- 20% based on weight tolerance permits;
- 20% based on oil and gas production taxes; and
- 10% based on oil and gas waste injection.

At that time, the program required creation of a tax increment reinvestment zone. A total of 191 counties applied for and received grants, including 25 members:

Brazoria – \$1,025,828	Johnson – \$1,184,679
Brazos – \$573,625	Kaufman – \$235,883
Cameron – \$208,344	Lubbock – \$342,190
Chambers – \$771,491	McLennan – \$194,440
Comal – \$192,727	Midland – \$5,527,928
Dallas – \$277,663	Nueces – \$565,047
Denton – \$1,076,298	Rockwall – \$174,947
Ector – \$7,174,311	San Patricio – \$650,875
Grayson – \$439,497	Smith – \$438,300
Gregg – \$1,024,358	Tarrant – \$2,445,810
Guadalupe – \$1,458,275	Webb – \$5,152,306
Hidalgo – \$796,051	Wise – \$2,177,665
Jefferson – \$1,013,521	

This session, HB 3196, by Landgraf, and SB 2260, by Flores, have been filed to amend the Texas Infrastructure Fund grant program. As filed the bills do very little. However, there is a substitute being proposed that

would limit eligibility to only counties where a minimum of \$10m in oil and gas production taxes were collected in the previous fiscal year; adjust the grant formula to include vertical wells; and adds in a competitive bidding requirement. There is currently \$250m in the House version of the supplemental budget for this grant program.



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

April 17, 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: **Appropriations Update**

Background:

Last week, the Senate passed its version of HB 1, the General Appropriations Act, that will fund state government for the next biennium.

The Senate substitute contains \$248 billion in spending for the biennium, a 14 percent increase. The House contains \$251 billion in spending for the biennium, a 16% increase.

The Senate version of the bill then was sent back to the House, where the House rejected the Senate changes to HB 1 and appointed a conference committee who will work out the differences in the two versions of the bill behind closed doors.

The House conferees are; Zerwas, G. Bonnen, S. Davis, Longoria, and Walle.

The Senate is expected to appoint their conferees any day.

- 2020-21 BRE: \$265.6b
- 86th Session HB 1: \$251.1b
- 85th Session SB 1: \$216.6b

Recommended Resolution

No recommendation.

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

Percentage Change from current biennium funding

Article I General	85th GOA	HB 1	% Change	Senate HB 1	% Change
◆ Lateral Roads	14,600,000	14,600,000	-	14,600,000	
Local Continuing Education Grants	12,000,000	12,000,000	-	12,000,000	
Veterans Exemptions Assistance to Counties	6,500,000	20,000,000	208%	20,000,000	208%
Gross Weight Axle Reimb	33,905,550	34,000,000		34,000,000	
911 Operations and Equip. Reimb	111,143,815	125,822,281	13%	125,822,281	13%
Disaster Funds	126,828,288	100,000,000	-21%	-	-100%
◆ Criminal Justice Grants	699,872,187	618,346,466	-12%	590,346,466	-16%
◆ County Essential Services Grants	4,644,964	2,340,666	-50%	2,340,666	-50%
Economic Development and Tourism	429,041,476	425,045,673	-1%	473,966,498	10%
◆ Courthouse Grants	21,531,921	37,160,126	73%	1,160,126	-95%
Historic Development Assistance Grants	3,533,218	3,512,718	-1%	3,512,718	-1%
◆ Aid to Local Libraries	7,221,409	6,240,039	-14%	6,240,039	-14%
◆ Elections Process	39,806,791	55,256,659	39%	55,156,659	39%
◆ Voter Registration Postage Reimb.	15,911,666	19,147,600	20%	19,147,600	20%
HAVA Election Equipment Funds / Security	8,379,954	17,243,859	106%	17,243,859	106%
Voter Registration	5,777,500	5,777,500	-	5,777,500	

Article II Health & Human Services

CPS Prevention Delivery Staff	1,445,087,834	1,550,845,245	7%	1,631,154,590	13%
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention	209,944,506	215,066,320	2%	211,424,985	1%
Mental Health Svc. Adults	714,901,392	745,753,416	4%	764,100,202	7%
Mental Health Svc. Children	166,081,934	187,763,371	13%	184,000,722	11%
Mental Health Crisis Svc.	321,413,746	343,488,746	7%	343,263,746	7%
Behavioral Health Waivers	103,351,235	104,599,388	1%	104,599,388	1%
Mental Health State Hospitals	875,536,372	912,796,287	4%	886,613,465	1%
Mental Health Community Hospitals	243,830,476	284,426,338	17%	255,168,638	5%
Substance Abuse and Prevention	517,618,303	485,728,450	-6%	435,728,450	-6%
EMS and Trauma Care	253,743,171	251,845,351	-1%	251,844,989	-1%
◆ Indigent Health Care	1,758,251	1,758,251	-	1,758,251	

Article IV Judiciary

Judicial and Court Personnel Training	23,878,485	28,196,899	18%	27,383,764	15%
◆ Indigent Defense	66,435,712	104,435,712	57%	84,435,712	27%

Article V Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Jail Standards	1,885,207	2,092,306	11%	2,105,086	12%
Total Adult Probation Funding	624,115,128	638,527,232	2%	638,527,232	2%
Community Corrections	86,360,909	86,360,909		86,360,909	0%
Alternatives to Incarceration	21,547,951	21,547,951		21,547,951	0%
Court Diversion Program	246,569,016	250,569,016	2%	250,569,016	2%
Total Community Juvenile Justice	317,973,423	318,195,849		318,195,849	0%
Prevention and Intervention	6,024,354	6,024,354		6,024,354	0%
Basic Probation Supervision	71,693,924	75,093,756	5%	73,603,421	3%
Community Programs	88,859,791	88,859,791		88,859,791	0%
Pre and Post Adjudication Facilities	49,564,314	49,564,314		49,564,314	0%
Regional Diversion Alternatives *	18,585,963	24,085,963	30%	18,585,963	0%
Probation System Support	5,898,993	5,775,234	-2%	5,775,234	-2%

Article VI Natural Resources

◆ Local Park Grants	37,356,848	24,487,822	-34%	25,132,685	-33%
◆ Boating Access and Recreational Trails Grants	35,024,624	17,063,118	-51%	17,174,686	-51%
LIRAP (Governor Vetoed in 85th)	-	96,595,456		-	
LIP (Governor Vetoed in 85th)	-	9,659,346		-	
TERP	154,739,737	154,739,737		154,739,737	
Solid Waste Management Planning Grants	19,355,380	19,074,442		19,074,442	

Article VII Business & Economic Development

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

1 - LIRAP/LIP funds were vetoed by the Governor in the 85th. HB 1 restores the funding, SB 1 does not

◆ Budget strategies with direct impact on county budgets	Current Budget	House:	Senate:
	2,473,085,974	1,857,755,803 -25%	1,774,412,234 -28%



Chairman
Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

April 17, 2019

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

To: Urban Counties Policy Committee
From: John Dahill, Executive Director

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Re: **Contingent Fee Bills**

Background:

Several bills limit the authority of local governments to retain legal counsel under contingency fee arrangements by requiring AG approval.

Recommended Resolution

RESOLVED by the Texas Conference of Urban Counties Policy Committee that the Environment / Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Resilience section of the Policy Platform is amended as follows:

Oppose any further erosion in the ability of local governments to hold violators of environmental laws and regulations accountable.

Recommended Resolution

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

Oppose any measure that interferes with the authority of a county to select its legal counsel and establish the terms of representation.

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