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Collin County

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Cameron · Chambers

Collin · Comal

Dallas · Denton

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Galveston · Grayson

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Lubbock · McLennan

Midland · Nueces

Potter · Randall

Rockwall · San Patricio

Smith · Tarrant

Travis · Webb

Williamson · Wise

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Policy Committee Meeting

March 19, 2025 (10:00 – 11:00 A.M.)

Austin, TX 78701

700 Lavaca St (Travis County Building)

AGENDA

10:00 A.M. Convene

1. Welcome, Introductions

2. Policy Committee Attendance Record

Policy Committee Attendance Record 2024

		02/13/25	03/19/25	04/16/25	05/21/25	06/18/25	09/17/25	11/19/25
Policy Committee Members	County							
Judge David Blackburn	Bell County	V						
Commissioner Justin Rodriguez (Chair)	Bexar County	V						
Judge Matt Sebesta	Brazoria County	E						
Judge Eddie Treviño	Cameron County	V						
Commissioner Susan Fletcher	Collin County	V						
Commissioner Theresa Daniel	Dallas County	V						
Judge Andy Eads	Denton County	X						
Commissioner David Stout	El Paso County	V						
Commissioner Andy Meyers	Fort Bend County	V						
Judge Bruce Dawsey	Grayson County	V						
Commissioner Adrian Garcia	Harris County	V						
Judge Ruben Becerra	Hays County	V						
Judge Richard Cortez	Hidalgo County	X						
Commissioner Bo Alfred	Jefferson County	V						
Commissioner Rick Bailey	Johnson County	V						
Commissioner Will Jones	McLennan County	V						
Commissioner Dana Macalik	Rockwall County	V						
Commissioner Manny Ramirez	Tarrant County	P						
Commissioner Margaret Gomez	Travis County	X						
Judge Bill Gravell	Williamson County	X						
Commissioner Kevin Burns	Wise County	V						

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

3. Consider the minutes from the meeting on February 12, 2025.

4. Administrative Items

a. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 10 AM at 700 Lavaca St, Austin

5. Policy Director's Report [Adam Haynes]

6. New Business

11:00 A.M. Adjourn

CUC Policy Committee

February 12, 2025

Stephen F. Austin Hotel Austin, TX 78701

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bexar County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez (Chair)
Bell County Judge David Blackburn
Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino Jr.
Collin County Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel
El Paso County Commissioner David Stout
Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers
Grayson County Judge Bruce Dawsey
Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia
Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra
Jefferson County Commissioner Bo Alfred
Johnson County Commissioner Rick Bailey
McLennan County Commissioner Will Jones
Rockwall County Commissioner Dana Macalik
Tarrant County Commissioner Manny Ramirez (Proxy Dillon Maroney)
Wise County Commissioner Kevin Burns

OTHERS PRESENT

Commissioner Louie Minor, Bell County
Melissa Shannon, Bexar County
Anthony Lopez, Cameron County
Russell Schaffner, Collin County
Charles Reed, Dallas County
Josie Garcia, Dallas County
Jessica Mendoza, Dallas County
Commissioner Kevin Falconer, Denton County
Elisa Tamayo, El Paso County
Paulina Tamayo, El Paso County
Commissioner Dexter McCoy, Fort Bend County
Maya Valdez, Harris County
Micah Rodriguez, Harris Health

Tammy Narvaez, Harris County
Francis Nugent, Harris County
Tom Stallings, Tarrant County
Aaron Taliaferro, Tarrant County
Julie Wheeler, Travis County
Cicely Kay, Travis County
Commissioner Colby Shawn, Wise County
John Dahill, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Adam Haynes, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Windy Johnson, Texas Conference of Urban Counties

Commissioner Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

The Committee considered agenda **item 3**, the November 20, 2024, meeting minutes. On a motion by Commissioner Garcia and a second by Commissioner Fletcher, the minutes were approved as presented.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 4**, Administrative Items.

The Committee discussed agenda **item 5**, Policy Director's Report

The committee considered a support item. On a motion by Chairman Rodriguez and a second by Judge Becerra, the following item was added to the Support Section of the Platform.

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

Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Authority

Support establishing a non-regulatory entity to coordinate Texas' strategic nuclear vision, implement advanced nuclear reactor (ANR) policy recommendations, and manage funds and oversight of state nuclear incentive programs.

Texas Nuclear Permitting Officer

Support designating a single point of contact for advanced nuclear reactor developers and associated businesses to navigate the permitting process efficiently.

Workforce Development Program for Community Colleges and Universities

Support coordinating workforce, education, and industry to develop a homegrown nuclear workforce capable of meeting the demands of advanced nuclear power development in Texas.

Texas Advanced Manufacturing Institute

Support creating an institute to develop and foster a nuclear manufacturing and supply chain ecosystem in Texas.

Texas Nuclear Public Outreach Program

Support implementing a communications and public engagement plan to inform and educate Texans about the benefits of advanced nuclear power and reactor development.

Texas Nuclear Energy and Supply Chain Fund

Support establishing a direct grant cost-sharing program to incentivize early development, siting, and supply chain and manufacturing capacity readiness for nuclear energy projects.

Texas Nuclear Energy Fund

Support creating and appropriating funds to a dedicated Texas Nuclear Energy Fund to overcome financial barriers for advanced nuclear power project development.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Commissioner Justin Rodriguez
Vice-Chairperson of Policy

Date



Chairperson

Judge Eddie Treviño Jr.
Cameron County

March 19, 2025

Chairperson-Elect

Judge David Blackburn
Bell County

Immediate Past Chair

Comm. Theresa Daniel
Dallas County

To: CUC Policy Committee
From: Windy Johnson, Program Manager
Re: **Consideration of Support Items**

Vice-Chairpersons

Comm. Justin Rodriguez
Bexar County

Comm. David Stout
El Paso County

Comm. Bo Alfred
Jefferson County

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Kaufman · Lubbock
McLennan · Midland
Nueces · Potter
Randall · Rockwall
Smith · Tarrant
Travis · Webb
Williamson · Wise*

Background

Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPFs) are a critical tool for counties and hospital districts to secure federal Medicaid funding without burdening local taxpayers. LPPFs allow hospitals to contribute funds that are used as the non-federal share of Medicaid, bringing in billions of federal matching dollars that support hospital operations, uncompensated care, and indigent health programs.

Currently, 31 counties and hospital districts in Texas rely on LPPFs to sustain healthcare access, particularly in urban and rural areas where hospitals operate on tight margins. Without LPPFs, these communities face reduced Medicaid reimbursements, hospital closures, and increased pressure on local healthcare systems.

The House Budget Committee is proposing a phase-down of provider assessments, including LPPFs, from 6% to 3% by 2028. This restriction is estimated to cut federal Medicaid spending by \$175 billion over ten years and could eliminate billions in healthcare funding for Texas hospitals.

If enacted, these changes would:

- Reduce Medicaid funding for Texas hospitals and safety-net providers.
- Jeopardize essential healthcare services, especially in high-need areas.
- Destabilize rural and urban hospitals, leading to potential closures.
- Shift financial burdens away from the federal government and onto states and local communities, without a viable replacement funding mechanism.

Recommended Resolution

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

LPPF: Support federal efforts to improve Medicaid efficiency, provided they do not shift costs to state or local taxpayers by restricting LPPFs from generating the non-federal share of Medicaid funding.

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.476.6174

www.cuc.org

Principles of the Urban Counties Policy Platform

1. Urban Counties believe local government is more responsive and accountable to the citizens, advocates for the best interests of our constituents and communities and should be utilized for service delivery whenever practical.
2. Urban Counties believe permissive authority provides better policy options while state mandates, revenue restrictions, and one-size-fits-all directives undermine voter self-determination and local responsibility.
3. Urban Counties believe the State forces property tax increases on local citizens when it imposes obligations on local governments without providing adequate funding.
4. Urban Counties believe State funds collected and appropriated for specific programs should be used for that purpose; allocated based upon population, number of clients, or other measurement of need and utilized for the benefit of Texans rather than being held to balance the State budget. Any diversion of funds should result in counties receiving the necessary monies to cover the state's responsibilities.
5. Urban Counties believe promoting the best interests of our communities involves advocating for legislation important to our local interests and limiting our ability to efficiently participate in the deliberative process is detrimental to the benefits of our constituents.

1. Taxation

1. Advocate for fair and transparent property tax policies that reduce the burden on local taxpayers through government cost efficiency, full state funding for state-ordered programs, and alternative revenue sources.
2. Support reforms such as homestead exemptions and sales price disclosure while opposing unnecessary tax exemptions and penalties that weaken the tax base. Protect local authority over resource management and tax rate decisions to ensure fiscal responsibility.
3. Support equity appeals for homeowners similar to the system used by commercial and industrial property owners.
4. Oppose reducing property recapture when land that was previously appraised as agricultural or other open space property is converted to another use.
5. Support a significant increase in the flat-dollar, school homestead exemption and ensure adjustments are made in state funding to schools to account for the exemption and allow counties to offer a flat-dollar homestead exemption equal to that of the one offer by schools.
6. 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.
7. Oppose arbitrary limits on local governments to undermine fiscal resources that enable officials to meet their obligations and local priorities.
8. Support clarifying the calculation of the no new revenue rate to provide transparency and continue the no-new-revenue-tax rate calculation worksheet process.

9. Support limiting Housing Finance Corporation projects to their jurisdictional boundaries unless a project outside its jurisdiction is approved by the Commissioners Court in both the jurisdictional county and the target county by a supermajority vote.

2. Governance and Finance

1. Ensure local control over local budgeting, employment, and contracting decisions.
2. Support protecting local taxpayers from state mandated property tax increases, which increase local property taxes, result in reductions in critical services, or infringe local control.
3. 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 and duplicative manner.
4. 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.
5. Support increased federal and state funding for local communities to help cover operational costs for holding undocumented persons in the criminal justice system and the costs to house them.
6. Oppose restrictions on the ability of local governments to effectively and efficiently communicate with the legislature and other state and federal entities.
7. 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.
8. Support using federal and state funds for financing disaster and emergency mitigation, prevention, recovery, and resilience projects, provided local decision makers direct funds to meet community priorities.
9. Support expanding authority for governments to hold public meetings and briefings remotely.
10. Oppose granting whistleblower status to employees unless they report illegal conduct to a person designated by the employing governmental entity to receive such reports, the attorney general, or an appropriate law enforcement authority.

3. Crime and Courts

1. Support full state funding of juvenile justice, indigent defense, child and indigent representation in child protection matters, local detention costs for parole violators, and local costs resulting from delayed placements in state systems.
2. Support reforms in pre-trial release, protective orders, and court fees, while addressing shortages in court reporters and ensuring adequate legal representation for vulnerable families while reducing financial burdens on local taxpayers.
3. Oppose changes in criminal court costs that will have a negative fiscal impact to counties.
4. Support reallocating court fees between the state and counties to ensure local jurisdictions have sufficient resources to administer justice effectively without raising property taxes.

5. Support increasing the threshold for counties to require competitive bidding on procurements and contracts.

4. Transportation

1. Support local control over transportation by supporting tolling options, increased authority for the local enforcement of weights and measurements, and local option fees for road improvements.
2. Support the exemption of state-imposed fuel taxes for all county fleets.
3. Support enhanced funding for freight transportation infrastructure and multi-modal projects, including rail, ports, and highways, to address economic growth and the needs of an ever-increasing population.

5. Health and Human Services

1. Support state funding for behavioral health services, increasing capacity for state hospital beds, expanding funding for community-based healthcare, and addressing indigent healthcare costs, including managing the remains of indigent individuals while ensuring federal funds are maximized.
2. Support reimbursement of local taxpayers for funds spent to house, medicate, and monitor individuals awaiting placement in state hospital facilities.
3. Support state funding for Child Protective Services (CPS), including birth certificates, foster care, community-based programs, and regional initiatives like the Community-Based Care (CBC) model to meet local needs.

6. Environment/Disaster Relief, Recovery, and Resilience

1. Support the use of state funds for disaster mitigation and resilience projects, as well as the use of emissions reduction funds for clean air initiatives, while opposing measures that erode local control over environmental accountability.
2. Support the return of locally collected Local Initiatives Projects (LIP)/Low-Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Retirement (LIRAP) funds held in the Clean Air Account to the county in which they were collected to be used for clean air initiatives.

7. Development and Infrastructure

1. Oppose restrictive eminent domain measures that penalize local governments.
2. Support limited county land use authority to protect public and private investments for life, health, safety, and compatibility grounds.

8. Public Safety and Emergency Management

1. Affirm county authority in public safety, including the adoption of fire codes, discretion over fireworks sales, emergency response efforts, and firearm prohibitions in court buildings.
2. Support additional funding for Department of Public Safety crime labs while protecting local crime lab funding.
3. Reaffirm the county judge's role in directing disaster response and recovery.

9. Election

1. Support state reimbursement for election-related costs and advocate for expanded online voter registration, countywide polling place programs, and retaining uniform election dates.
2. Maintain local decision-making authority over administering elections, including registrations, election locations, reporting, and operations.

10. Economic Development

1. Support retaining the ability of governmental bodies to utilize economic development tools to foster economic growth and local prosperity.

11. Support

1. **Access to Childcare** - Support improving access to affordable, high-quality childcare to support working families, promote early childhood development, and increase workforce availability for economic growth.
2. **Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Authority** - Support establishing a non-regulatory entity to coordinate Texas' strategic nuclear vision, implement advanced nuclear reactor (ANR) policy recommendations, and manage funds and oversight of state nuclear incentive programs.
3. **Texas Nuclear Permitting Officer** - Support designating a single point of contact for advanced nuclear reactor developers and associated businesses to navigate the permitting process efficiently.
4. **Workforce Development Program for Community Colleges and Universities** - Support coordinating workforce, education, and industry to develop a homegrown nuclear workforce capable of meeting the demands of advanced nuclear power development in Texas.
5. **Texas Advanced Manufacturing Institute** - Support creating an institute to develop and foster a nuclear manufacturing and supply chain ecosystem in Texas.
6. **Texas Nuclear Public Outreach Program** - Support implementing a communications and public engagement plan to inform and educate Texans about the benefits of advanced nuclear power and reactor development.

7. **Texas Nuclear Energy and Supply Chain Fund** - Support establishing a direct grant cost-sharing program to incentivize early development, siting, and supply chain and manufacturing capacity readiness for nuclear energy projects.
8. **Texas Nuclear Energy Fund** - Support creating and appropriating funds to a dedicated Texas Nuclear Energy Fund to overcome financial barriers for advanced nuclear power project development.
9. **LPPF**: Support federal efforts to improve Medicaid efficiency, provided they do not shift costs to state or local taxpayers by restricting LPPFs from generating the non-federal share of Medicaid funding.