

Texas 9-1-1: A System at Risk Without Sustainable Funding

The Problem

- Outdated funding model: The statewide 9-1-1 wireless fee has remained \$0.50 per device/month since 1997—almost 30 years without adjustment.
- Unsustainable shortfalls: Texas reported a \$75.9 million deficit in 2022, projected to grow to \$112.9 million by 2027 (a 48% gap).
- Rising costs: NG9-1-1 technology upgrades, IT talent shortages, utilities, and inflation continue to drive costs higher.
- No local tax authority: 9-1-1 districts cannot levy property taxes; they rely solely on state-set service fees.

Why It Matters

- Public safety at risk: Underfunding jeopardizes reliable emergency response for millions of Texans.
- Unfunded mandate: The Legislature mandated NG9-1-1 by 2025 but has not provided ongoing funding to support it.
- Falling behind: Only 7 states charge \$0.50 or less; most have raised fees (e.g., West Virginia \$3.64, Illinois up to \$5.00 in Chicago).

Public Support

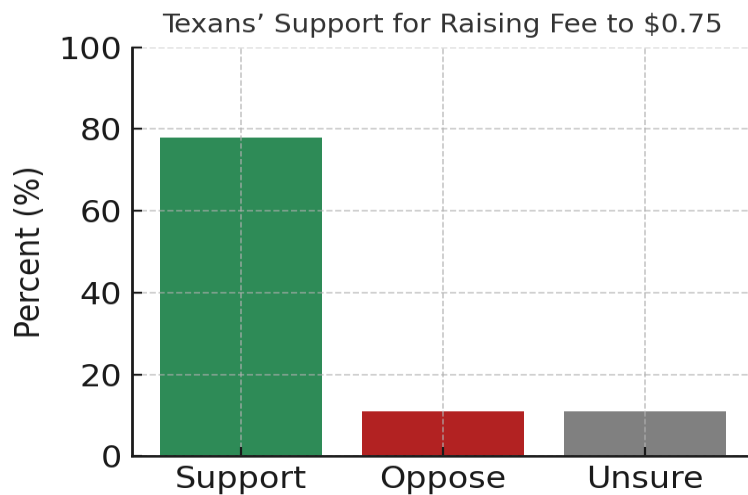
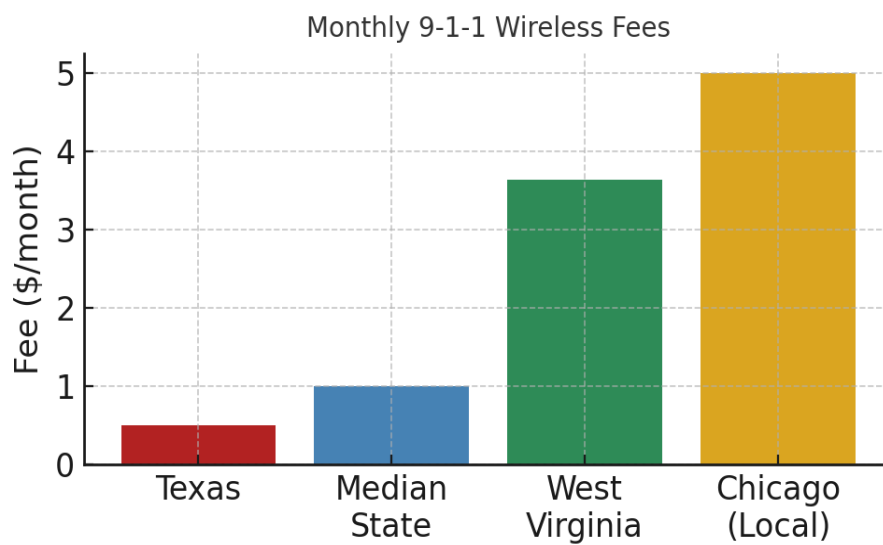
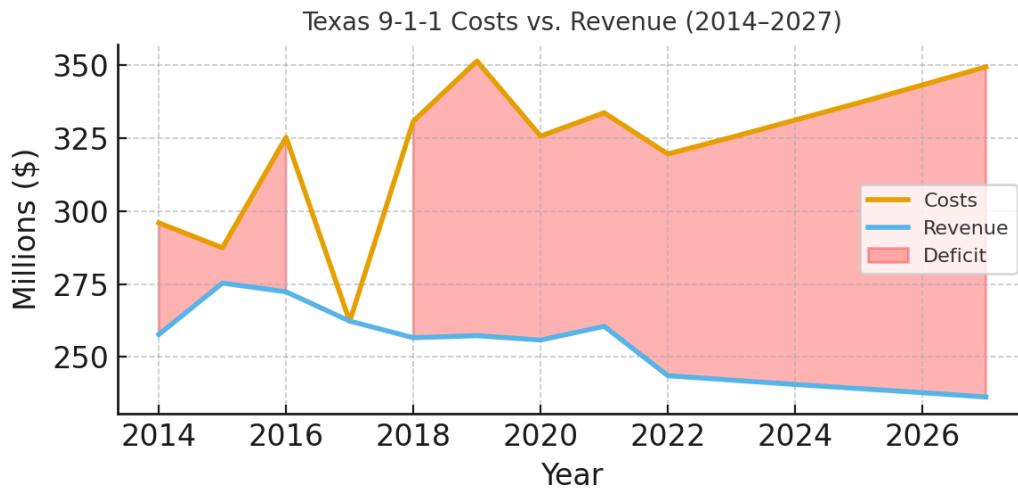
- Texans agree: In a 2024 survey, 78% supported raising the fee to \$0.75; only 11% opposed. *Although this survey reflects 2024 data, ongoing work may result in adjustments to the requested fee amount for the upcoming legislative session.*
- Shared priorities: Residents value upgrades that improve response times, prevent delays, and allow texting and multimedia reporting.

Legislative History

- HB 2911 (2023): Mandated NG9-1-1; House passed with overwhelming support (>130 votes). Senate appropriated \$150M ARPA funds temporarily.
- Prop 8 (2023): \$150M appropriated, but no structural funding fix.
- Problem remains: Stopgap funding is not a substitute for long-term sustainability.

The Ask

- Support for an adjustment to the statewide wireless fee and model for sustainability.
- Protect Texans: Ensure 9-1-1 systems remain reliable, modern, and capable of handling emergencies for all communities.
- Act now: Delay increases costs, worsens deficits, and risks public safety.



Key Message for Legislators: Texas 9-1-1 is a lifeline. Without legislative action to update funding, we risk degraded service, delayed response times, and lives lost. Texans overwhelmingly support a modest fee adjustment—now it's time for lawmakers to act.