

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY MAYORS AND COUNCIL ASSOCIATION, DIRECTING THE BOARD TO ACT WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- WHEREAS,** legislative activities are ongoing in Congress and the Texas Legislature; and
- WHEREAS,** it is anticipated that many legislative issues affecting local government will be considered; and
- WHEREAS,** the Harris County Mayors' and Councils' Association's (HCMCA) 2019 Legislative Program attached hereto as Exhibit A has been reviewed by the membership of HCMCA; and
- WHEREAS,** HCMCA is of the opinion that this legislative program is in the best interest of the membership and the citizenry served by those members and should be adopted, and should be advanced for consideration by the Legislature; and
- WHEREAS,** further, HCMCA believes the Board be directed to take action with regard to the advocacy program as outlined below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HARRIS COUNTY MAYORS' AND COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

- Section 1.** The 2019 Legislative Program attached as Exhibit A is hereby adopted and approved as the Legislative Program for Harris County Mayors' and Councils' Association.
- Section 2.** The Board is directed to communicate the items included in the Legislative Program to members of HCMCA, the Texas Legislature (in general, and/or to the appropriate legislative committees), committee members, and others designated by the Board.
- Section 3.** For those items listed under the heading of *Support*, the Board is directed to actively pursue passage of the appropriate legislation if it is introduced by some other entity. The Board's efforts to obtain passage of the legislation may include drafting appropriate legislation, seeking a sponsor, and actively pursuing passage of such legislation by providing testimony and through other means.
- Section 4.** For those items listed under the heading of *Oppose*, the Board or its designee is directed to attempt to impede the passage of any such legislation.
- Section 5.** It is recognized this policy will often be implemented in the context of great numbers of legislative proposals being considered within short time periods. The Board shall be authorized to act on behalf of HCMCA consistent with the necessary broad policy concerns set forth in this program.
- Section 6.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED the _____ day of February 2019.

Michel J. Bechtel, President of HCMCA

ATTEST:

Secretary of HCMCA

EXHIBIT A

HARRIS COUNTY MAYOR'S & COUNCIL'S ASSOCIATION **2019 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

Support:

Municipal Powers:

- Legislation that supports or advances the principles of local control to allow for locally elected officials to make decisions that are beneficial to the interests of their residents or otherwise beneficial to their entity's interests

Fairness in Taxation:

- Legislation that allows Texas cities to retain local control over rollback rates and effective tax rates

Transportation:

- Expedited development of the Grand Parkway, particularly in Harris County, as a tolled or non-tolled roadway

Hurricane/Drainage Protection:

- Development of the Coastal Spine or similar hurricane protection system for Galveston Bay and the northeast Texas coast
- Funding for flood mitigation projects (i.e. bypass, detention, basins, etc.)

Oppose:

Municipal Control

- Legislation that would impose an unfunded duty, responsibility, or standard on local government
- State-mandated revenue caps on municipalities

ELEVATED PRIORITY

Support:

Water:

- Legislation that ensures the success of the 2017 State Water Plan which addresses our state's decreasing water supply and increasing demand caused by population growth
- Legislation that reduces regulatory constraints associated with wastewater effluent reuse projects

Utilities:

- Legislation to promote timely relocation action of franchise utility facilities
- Legislation endorsing a change in the use of video Public Educational and Government (PEG) fees to allow use for operational expenses associated with running a cable television channel
- Legislation requiring reimbursement to a municipality for utility relocation costs in cases of Eminent Domain

Finance:

- The tax-exempt status of municipal bonds
- Reduction of sales tax collection fees for municipalities to 1%
- Legislation that allows municipalities to reclaim as taxable assets previously condemned properties after appropriate remedial processes have been completed

Parks and Recreation:

- Legislation providing a fair and equitable distribution of the sporting good sales tax revenues for state and local parks
- Creating a constitutional dedication of sporting goods sales tax revenues for use in state and local parks that would directly benefit parks, recreation, open space, trails, and tourism
- The pass through of federal dollars used for parks, recreation, open space, trails, and tourism from any of the following, but not limited to, the United States Department of the Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Sport Fish Restoration Boat Access Program, and the United States Department of Transportation Recreation Trails Program
- Legislation directly benefiting parks, recreation, open space, trails, tourism, health, and wellness (i.e. utility corridors and mobility)

OF ONGOING CONCERN AND REVIEW

Support:

Legislative Programs of (except as they conflict with HCMCA):

- Texas Municipal League
- Texas Coalition for Affordable Power
- Texas Coalition of Cities for Utility Issues
- Texas Economic Development Council
- Texas Travel Industry Association
- Texas Hotel & Lodging Association
- Texas Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus
- Harris County
- Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government
- Texas Recreation and Park Society
- Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
- Economic Alliance Houston Port Region

Oppose:

Legislation that would erode or otherwise diminish local control over:

- Municipal finances and revenues
- Municipal authority to be adequately compensated for the use of its rights-of-ways and, management and control of its rights-of-way
- Appraisal and revenue caps
- Rollback limitations
- Limitation on tax increment financing
- Limitations on certificates of obligation
- Municipal ability to condemn property for public use
- Operations
- Employment and post-employment benefits
- Placement of billboards, including electronic billboards
- Expansion of collective bargaining rights
- Annexation limitations
- Expiration of legislation on September 1, 2019 allowing for new 312 agreements