

CITY OF BASTROP

RESOLUTION NO. R-2024- ____

ADVOCACY BEFORE THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR THE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN TEXAS, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO-TEM, CITY MANAGER, AND CITY ATTORNEY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND TEXAS LEGISLATURE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS.

WHEREAS, during the 2023 Legislative Session more than 8,345 bills and joint resolutions were introduced, approximately 1,258 of them passed, of which 230 affected the governing of Texas municipalities in a substantial way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bastrop (“City Council”) is committed to good governance, intergovernmental cooperation, and the furtherance of democracy at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it to be in the public interest, and necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare of the Bastrop community to convey to the Office of the Governor and the Texas Legislature the opinions, views, and insights of those serving the City of Bastrop; and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges that the Governor and members of the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives can benefit from the ongoing exchange of information with locally-elected public officials; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified the following topics worth memorializing on behalf of the Bastrop Community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, that:

A. SUPPORT-

- 1. *Interlocal Cooperation:*** The City Council hereby supports legislation that enhances federal, state, and local cooperation.
- 2. *Local Democracy:*** The City Council hereby supports legislation that upholds the authority of local governments and reinforces the ability of locally-elected leaders to advance the priorities of their citizens and their ability to respond to community challenges and opportunities.

3. **Preserves Municipal Authority:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that maintains or expands the ability of locally elected legislative bodies to enact local laws and administer regulatory programs.
4. **Protect Municipal Revenue:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that protects the ability of locally elected legislative bodies to assess taxes and impose fees necessary to fund municipal programs, projects, and facilities consistent with the needs of local residents and local businesses.
5. **1923 Old Iron Bridge:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that prioritizes funding support for historic preservation, water quality protection from lead-based paint on structures that extend over the Colorado River, and supports multi-modal transportation through the creation of walking and biking trails across bridges including Bastrop's Old Iron Bridge.
6. **Texas Municipal League Legislative Program:** The City Council hereby supports those Texas Municipal League Legislative Program goals that are consistent with the City's priorities.

B. OPPOSITION-

1. **Preemption:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that erodes, weakens, or supersedes the ability of locally elected leaders to respond to local challenges or opportunities unique to the community.
2. **Annexation & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that results in the inability to expand the City Limits or decreases the size of the ETJ thus hindering the City's ability to engage in long-term strategic land use planning or the expansion of utility, street, and drainage infrastructure.
3. **Revenue Reduction:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that expands appraisal caps, imposes revenue caps on *ad valorem* (property) taxes, restricts sales taxes, limits administrative fees, caps right-of-way fees, commandeers municipal court fines or fees, or otherwise reduces local revenue sources.
4. **Intergovernmental Communications:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that prohibits the expenditure of municipal funds on professional communications and advocacy services, including lobbying and trade association memberships that would help the City track, understand, or influence legislation.

C. ADMINISTRATION-

1. **Delegation:** The City Council directs staff to provide a copy of this Resolution to the City's legislative delegation, that being State Senator Charles Schwertner, and State Representative Stan Gerdes.
2. **Media:** The City Council directs staff to provide a copy of this Resolution to reporters of our local media outlets.
3. **Advocacy:**

(a) The Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, City Manager, and City Attorney are hereby authorized to advocate on behalf of the City consistent with this Resolution and otherwise convey the positions expressed herein.

(b) Section 1, Subsection 7 of Resolution No. R-2024-049 (adopted April 29, 2024) is hereby repealed because it conflicts with this Resolution.

4. ***Texas Municipal League:*** The City Council directs City staff to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Texas Municipal League.

DULY RESOLVED & ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, on this, the 12th day of November, 2024.

APPROVED:

Lyle Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Victoria Psencik,
Assistant City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alan Bojorquez, City Attorney