

RESOLUTION NO. R-2023-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR THE 88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN TEXAS, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO-TEM, CITY MANAGER, ASSISTANT 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 2021 Legislative Session more than 7,000 bills were introduced, with more than 2,000 of them affecting 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:

A. SUPPORT-

1. ***Interlocal Cooperation:*** The City Council hereby supports legislation that promotes and enhances federal, state, and local cooperation.
2. ***Local Democracy:*** The City Council hereby supports legislation that upholds the principle of local government, and reinforces the lawful statutory authority and responsibility of the locally-elected leaders in respect to the priorities of their citizenry 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.
5. ***Bastrop's Historic "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 Historic "Old Iron Bridge".
6. ***Police Digital Evidence Storage:*** The City Council hereby supports legislation that prioritizes funding support for the digital evidence storage needs of local police forces.
7. ***Hotel Occupancy Taxes for Construction of Improvements in Municipal Parks:*** The City Council hereby supports legislation that would allow for expenditure of hotel occupancy taxes for construction of improvements in municipal parks and trails/sidewalks that connect parks, lodging establishments, and other tourist attractions, and related public facilities; this item also includes pursuit of a "Quiet Zone" as related to lodging establishments.
8. ***Texas Municipal League Legislative Program:*** The City Council hereby supports the Texas Municipal League Legislative Program to the extent that it supports the City of Bastrop's legislative agenda.

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. ***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.
3. ***Intergovernmental Communications:*** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that prohibits the expenditure of municipal funds on professional communications and advocacy services, including trade association memberships that would help the City advocate, 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 Sarah Eckhardt and State Representative John Cyrier.
2. ***Media:*** The City Council directs staff to provide a copy of this Resolution to reporters of our local media outlets.

3. **Advocacy:** The Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, City Manager, Assistant 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.
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, TX, on this, the 10th day of January, 2023.

APPROVED:

Connie B. Schroeder, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ann Franklin, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alan Bojorquez, City Attorney