

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 -R03

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR THE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN TEXAS, AND AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN ADVOCATING CERTAIN POSITIONS.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Dripping Springs ("City Council") finds it to be in the public interest, and necessary for the public health, safety and welfare, that the city take positions on certain issues that may or have come before the 89th Texas Legislature in the Spring of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds legislative involvement to be a legitimate exercise of its elected duties as the governing body serving those who live, work, visit, and own property in the city limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the City Council understands that members of the Texas Senate and the Texas House of Representatives benefit from learning of the analysis performed and positions taken by locally-elected public officials; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified the following items as being worthy of voicing a position on behalf of the people of Dripping Springs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Dripping Springs City Council:

A. Support-

- 1. Wedding Capital of Texas:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that would re-designate the City as the "Wedding Capital of Texas". (The designation was made through House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 in the 84th Legislature, Regular Session in 2015.).
- 2. Local Control:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that upholds the principle of local government and reinforces the lawful statutory authority of the elected leaders of Dripping Springs to respect the priorities of their citizenry and respond to local challenges and opportunities.
- 3. Funding:** The City Council supports legislation that assists the City with additional tools for funding for transportation, parks, and other essential services.
- 4. Infrastructure:** The City Council supports legislation that assists the City with the acquisition of property, permitting, and construction of infrastructure to serve development within the city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City.
- 5. Land Use:** The City Council supports legislation that would make beneficial

amendments to allow greater authority for regulation of exterior design and building materials, and to allow greater flexibility and predictability in processing plat and site plan applications, and to assist the City adequately prepare for its future planning needs.

6. **Water:** The City Council supports legislation that would provide the City with additional authority to collaborate with water providers to ensure that future development has adequate access to water prior to being approved for entitlements.
7. **Lighting:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that would expand the City's authority to regulate lighting and Dark Sky requirements.
8. **Property Tax:** The City Council supports legislation that would increase transparency in the ad valorem (property) tax and budget adoption by coordinating state, county, and city timelines for review, notice, and approval of ad valorem tax. City Council supports legislation that would increase the accuracy of appraisals of all types of property.
9. **Sales Tax:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that would make beneficial amendments to district or other taxing district sales tax and areas to authorize cities to replace some or all sales taxes in an area with city sales taxes, provided a district or other taxing jurisdiction's existing sales tax debt is proportionately and reasonably provided for in some manner.
10. **Signs:** The City Council hereby supports legislation that would affirm State and City authority over off-premise and other commercial signs in the city limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction. The City Council supports legislation that supports Scenic Highways in the Hill Country.
11. **Transportation:** The City Council supports legislation that would provide direction and funding for future projects within the City Limits and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of the City of Dripping Springs. The City Council also supports any effort that increases communications with the Texas Department of Transportation and other regional partners related to projects within the City Limits and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of the City of Dripping Springs.
12. **Extraterritorial Jurisdiction:** The City Council supports legislation that would protect the extraterritorial jurisdiction and the city's authority to regulate development as it relates to water availability, wastewater availability, impervious cover, drainage, and other beneficial infrastructure.
13. **Planning and Zoning Commission:** The City Council supports legislation that would make beneficial amendments to clarify and simplify both the zoning and subdivision process for the City and applicants while still allowing for regulation of health and safety issues.
14. **Elections:** The City Council supports legislation that would make beneficial amendments to simplify the election and related processes for the city secretary's office.

B. Opposition –

1. **Local Control:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that erodes local control or weakens the ability of locally-elected leaders to respond to challenges or opportunities unique to the Dripping Springs community or Texas Hill Country region.
2. **Appraisal & Revenue Caps:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that expands appraisal caps or imposes revenue caps on *ad valorem* (property) taxes.
3. **Elections:** The City Council opposes legislation that would limit municipal elections.
4. **ETJ:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that lessens municipal authority to

regulate in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) or removes or abolishes the area of the City's ETJ.

5. **Impervious Cover:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that limits the authority of municipalities to provide for water quality protection and pollution prevention by regulating impervious cover, lot sizes, drainage infrastructure, and other aspects of development that impact stormwater controls and watersheds.
6. **Infrastructure:** The City Council opposes legislation that would erode municipal authority related to the provision of utility, parks, street, or other infrastructure.
7. **Land Use:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that lessens municipal authority to reasonably regulate land use including preemption of land use authority by other governmental entities. The City Council opposes legislation that limits the authority or the amount of time the City has to adequately review site plans and plats. The City Council opposes legislation that lessens the City's authority to engage in voluntary annexation.
8. **Lighting:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that lessens municipal authority to regulate lighting, including Dark Sky requirements, or preempts municipal lighting regulations.
9. **Municipal Courts:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that curtails the authority of a municipal court to enforce its judgments.
10. **Signs:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that lessens municipal authority to regulate signs or preempts municipal sign regulations.
11. **Trees:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that restricts the ability of municipalities to preserve their scenic landscapes and protect trees.
12. **Vesting:** The City Council hereby opposes legislation that amends Texas Local Government Code Chapter 245 to restrict the application of current municipal regulations, thus expanding entitlements under which stagnant or dormant land development projects can build or operate under old or outdated regulations.

C. Administration-

1. **Legislators:** The City Council directs City staff to provide a copy of this Resolution to the State Senator for District 25, and the State Representatives for District 45 and District 73.
2. **Texas Municipal League:** The City Council directs City staff to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Texas Municipal League.
3. **Hays County:** The City Council directs City staff to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Hays County Commissioners Court.
4. **Advocacy:** City officials are hereby authorized to advocate and otherwise convey positions expressed herein in accordance with the city's Legislative Policy.
5. **Open Meetings:** The meeting at which this Resolution was passed was open to the public, and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

PASSED & APPROVED this, the 7th day of January 2025, by a vote of 3 (ayes) to 0 (nays) to 1 (abstentions) of the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas.

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS:

by: Bill Foulds, Jr.
Bill Foulds, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Diana Boone
Diana Boone, City Secretary

