



**DRIPPING SPRINGS**  
Texas

# **Legislative Communications Policy**

City Council  
September 15, 2026

# From monitoring to implementation

01



## CONSOLIDATE

One policy and incorporated priorities supersede the 2015 policy and 2025 priorities.

02



## IDENTIFY EARLIER

An annual/interim cycle monitors bills, agency activity, hearings, and deadlines.

03



## ASSESS CONSISTENTLY

A tracker records impacts, authority, owners, dates, sources, verification needs, and the recommended engagement level.

04



## IMPLEMENT DELIBERATELY

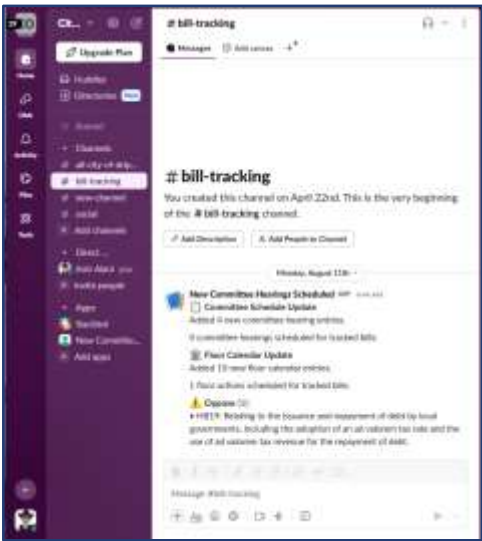
A post-session register assigns changes to ordinances, forms, contracts, training, and operations.

# Policy stays platform-neutral

|   | Bill Number | Bill Description                                                                       | COSIS Position | Has Amended Resolution Text | Priority Date | Bill Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Department | COSIS Response | Staff Assigned                         | Last Update | Last Update Date |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1 | HB1000      | Relating to the disposition of certain election records.                               | Watch          | Yes                         | 2024-11-11    | would, among other things, provide that: (1) an election record shall be preserved by the authority to whom they are distributed for at least 30 months after the election day; (2) for a period of at least 60 days after the date of the election, the election records shall be preserved securely in a locked vault in the locked ballot box in which they are delivered to the general tabulation of election                                                             |            | Watch          | Read that time                         | 2025-03-07  |                  |
| 2 | HB1000      | Relating to the process of reviewing hearings.                                         | Watch          | Yes                         | 2024-11-11    | would provide that for any court, on the following working of an opinion of this act, shall comprehensively government with the accompanying why not.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |            | Watch          | Read that time                         | 2025-03-07  |                  |
| 3 | HB1000      | Relating to the amendment of restrictive covenants applicable to certain subdivisions. | Watch          | Yes                         | 2024-11-12    | Unavailable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |            | Watch          | 1 for notice for reconsider 2025-04-03 |             |                  |
| 4 | HB1002      | Relating to the security of election systems.                                          | Watch          | Yes                         | 2024-11-12    | would, among other things, provide that: (1) an election system that is capable of being connected to the internet or any other computer network may not be used, except for the use of a vehicle (or) connected to an isolated local area network within the building; and (2) equipment used in the operation of a voting system must have a fire-resistant chassis and be stored in a locked facility with video surveillance monitoring the storage facility at all times. |            | Watch          | Read that time                         | 2025-03-07  |                  |
| 5 | HB1000      | Relating to the systems used in a central counting station.                            | Watch          | Yes                         | 2024-11-12    | would provide that an authority operating a central counting station may not purchase or use a tablet device unless the tablet owner can only use a data storage device on which information, data, content, is incapable of being recalled without rendering the device inoperable.                                                                                                                                                                                           |            | Watch          | Read that time                         | 2025-03-07  |                  |
|   |             |                                                                                        |                |                             |               | would, among other things, provide that: (1) an election system that is capable of being connected to the internet or any other computer network may not be used, except for the use of a vehicle (or) connected to an isolated local area network within the building; and (2) equipment used in the operation of a voting system must have a fire-resistant chassis and be stored in a locked facility with video surveillance monitoring the storage facility at all times. |            | Watch          | Read that time                         | 2025-03-07  |                  |

## CENTRAL TRACKER

Bills, summaries, Council priorities, departments, status, and follow-up in one shared view.



## AUTOMATED ALERTS

Hearing and floor activity pushed to staff.

## WHAT WORKED

A single source of truth plus selective automation improved timeliness and supported local-impact analysis.

## PLATFORM CHOICE

In-house or external software; approved tools may support tracking, alerts, analysis, reporting, and collaboration.

# Council sets policy; staff coordinates

## CITY COUNCIL

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Sets priorities and formal positions; directs advocacy and major policy choices.

## MAYOR

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Serves as legislative director; prioritizes positions and authorizes aligned time-sensitive responses.

## ADMIN + CITY ATTORNEY

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Monitor, analyze, draft, maintain trackers, advise on legal risk, and report.

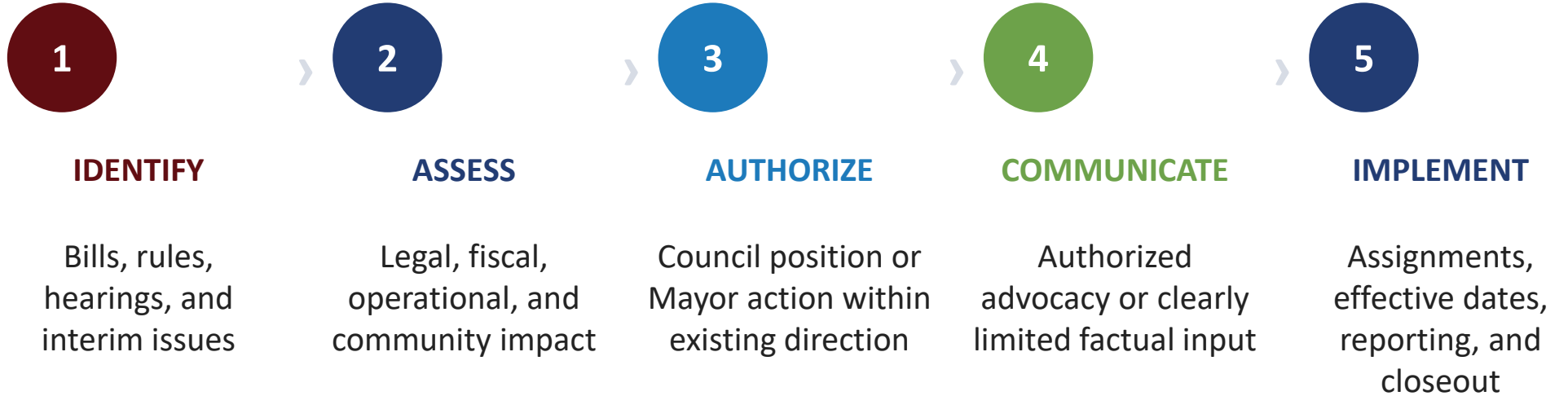
## DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

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Assess operational impact, identify required changes, own implementation tasks, and report barriers.

*Boards, commissions, and committees may recommend positions—but may not advocate for the City without authorization.*

# From issue to closeout



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**Council receives pre-session, in-session, and post-session reporting; the tracker and implementation register provide continuity between briefings.**

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# Three lanes prevent mixed messages

## OFFICIAL POSITION

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### AUTHORITY

Council-approved—or determined by the Mayor to align with existing Council policy or priorities.

### CONTROL

Only a representative authorized in writing may advocate, testify, or submit official comments.

## TIME-SENSITIVE RESPONSE

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### AUTHORITY

The Mayor may authorize action when waiting for Council is impracticable and the response aligns with existing direction.

### CONTROL

The basis is documented and reported to Council at the earliest practicable opportunity.

## FACTUAL / TECHNICAL INPUT

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### AUTHORITY

Officials and employees may provide ordinary-course facts, technical information, or resources.

### CONTROL

Material legislative or agency communications are promptly reported to the Mayor and Administration.

# Staff can use approved tools—with guardrails

## STAFF MAY

- Monitor legislation, rulemaking, hearings, and interim activity
- Maintain the tracker and implementation register
- Collect impact assessments and prepare drafts for review
- Use approved tools for tracking, alerts, analysis, reporting, and collaboration
- Implement ministerial, non-discretionary legal changes

## STAFF MAY NOT

- Establish or change an official City position
- Advocate or testify without required authorization
- Amend an ordinance, fee, budget, contract, policy, or service level
- Exceed budget or delegated purchasing authority
- Retain a lobbyist or government-relations consultant

**Technology-assisted work requires source, fact, and citation verification before official use.**

# Priorities target municipal impact

## SUPPORT

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|                                     |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Local authority + land use</b>   | Local control, zoning, subdivision, neighborhood compatibility         |
| <b>Water + responsible growth</b>   | Supply, conservation, reuse, availability, ETJ, drainage               |
| <b>Infrastructure + finance</b>     | Transportation, utilities, parks, funding, debt capacity               |
| <b>Open government + protection</b> | Transparency, confidentiality, employees, tourism, litigation fairness |

## OPPOSE

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|                                       |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Broad preemption</b>               | Erosion of municipal authority                  |
| <b>ETJ + land-use limits</b>          | Reduced growth-management tools                 |
| <b>Finance + environmental limits</b> | Barriers to infrastructure and water protection |
| <b>Legal erosion + mandates</b>       | Weaker protections or unfunded work             |

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|                               |                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ORDINARILY NO POSITION</b> | Matters without a material municipal impact—unless Council determines an official position serves a legitimate municipal purpose. |
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|                           |                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>ADVOCACY DIRECTION</b> | Prioritize City-specific impacts and advocacy gaps; coordinate with TML or aligned organizations when they adequately advance City interests. |
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# Adoption preserves safeguards

## DECISION REQUESTED

### Approve the resolution

and adopt the proposed Legislative Communications Policy with incorporated priorities.

## NO DIRECT FISCAL IMPACT

Future costs remain subject to budget and purchasing approvals.

## COUNCIL AUTHORITY PRESERVED

Positions, policy changes, contracts, fees, and service levels stay within existing approval paths.

## CLEAR COMPLIANCE GUARDRAILS

Public purpose, procurement, political-advertising, records, ethics, and lobbying rules apply.

## SUPERSEDES

**2015-03 and 2025-R03**

## APPLIES TO

**90th Session and covered special sessions through Dec. 31, 2027**

## EFFECTIVE

**Immediately upon adoption**