

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOMBALL,
TEXAS, ADOPTING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 88TH
SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO INCLUDE ANY SPECIAL
CALLED SESSIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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WHEREAS, local government is the most direct and frequent point of contact with its residents; and

WHEREAS, the process for local government is a public and participatory process whereby the actions of local governments are subject to public scrutiny of the residents; and

WHEREAS, local government is responsible for providing basic and emergency services, in a broad array of operational areas, throughout a community; and

WHEREAS, the ability of local governments to respond to community needs and provide needed services is dependent on having the authority and necessary resources to carry out its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, local government officials are democratically elected by the residents they represent to provide services and respond to local concerns; and

WHEREAS, state representatives and senators are charged with working in the best interest of the citizens they represent; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the state of Texas expect their elected officials to be informed on the needs of constituents and residents of cities expect their local elected representatives to fulfill the needs of the citizens they represent;

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

Section 1. The findings set forth in the preamble of this Ordinance are found to be true and correct.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Council Members may meet with area state representatives and senators to discuss the City's legislative priorities and provide information and assistance on any proposed legislation that may come before the Texas Legislature and will have an impact on the Tomball community.

Section 3. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to draft letters of support or opposition to proposed legislation that is associated with the City's adopted Legislative Priorities attached hereto as "Exhibit A". The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign those support and opposition letters on behalf of the City Council, with a copy of the executed letter provided to all City Council Members. The City Council or City staff, under the direction of the City Manager, provide information or testimony to the Texas Legislature.

Section 4. This resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND RESOLVED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Lori Klein Quinn, Mayor

John Ford, Mayor Pro Tem/Councilman, Position 1

Mark Stoll, Councilman, Position 2

Dane Dunagin, Councilman, Position 3

Derek Townsend, Councilman, Position 4

Randy Parr, Councilman, Position 5

ATTEST:

Tracylynn Garcia, City Secretary

City of Tomball
Legislative Priorities
88th Legislative Session

Local Authority

- Support legislation that ensures local decisions are made at the local level, by city councils and governing bodies elected by, and responsible to, their communities and constituencies.
- Oppose legislation that preempts or erodes the authority of city governments or is detrimental to a city's ability to pursue citizen priorities, respond to local citizen concerns or local disasters, or provide reasonable regulations to ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Community Censorship

- Support a city's ability to communicate with legislators, participate in the legislative process, and advocate on behalf of their community through membership in municipal associations.
- Oppose legislation that limits a city's ability to participate in the legislative process.

Community Development

- Oppose legislation that would diminish a city's authority to regulate growth and development through land use and zoning regulations, building codes, comprehensive planning, annexation, or eminent domain, or that would erode a city's authority to assess inspection fees for new, existing, or re-development.
- Support legislation that returns control of regulating building materials to local communities.
- Oppose legislation that would diminish a city's authority to regulate short-term rentals.
- Oppose legislation that would erode a city's authority in its extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Finance

- Support legislation that allows cities to properly fund community resources, infrastructure, and services, including legislation that:

- Eliminates unfunded mandates on cities;
- Protects or enhances municipal revenues, such as property taxes, sales taxes, right-of-way revenues, service fees, and court fines; and
- Accurately notifies and explains to taxpayers the actual impacts of the no-new revenue tax rate, simplifies its calculation for notice purposes, and deletes parts of the notification and adoption process that causes confusion and is inconsistent with the goal of providing a transparent budget and tax rate setting process.
- Oppose legislation that would detrimentally impact a city's financial position and limit local budgeting authority by reducing revenue streams that fund services and programs that citizens depend on or negatively impact potential revenue growth for critical infrastructure or services, such as public safety, for a growing community, including legislation that:
 - Imposes a revenue cap on cities;
 - Lowers the appraisal cap or otherwise creates property tax exemptions that would unfairly shift the tax burden to other taxpayers; and
 - Restricts the ability to issue debt to fund public improvements either through General Obligation debt or Certificates of Obligation or causes unnecessarily complex public notification requirements that are confusing to voters.
- Imposes unfunded mandates.

Public Safety

- Support legislation that provides additional funding opportunities to law enforcement agencies for training, equipment, and additional resources.
- Support legislation that strengthens current law as it relates to catalytic converter theft and prevention, including increasing penalties for auto repair facilities and individual sellers who resell or are in possession of stolen catalytic converters.
- Support the ability of local governing bodies to determine the appropriate use of technology in public safety.
- Support legislation that strengthens criminal statutes for possession, distribution, sales, and manufacture of fentanyl.
- Support legislation that strengthens school policing initiatives including but not limited to provisions for more police officers, better inter and intra campus communications systems, training and equipment for first responders, and hardening of school campuses (safety film on glass windows and doors, fencing, cameras, signage, etc.).
- Support legislation that increases penalties and broadens reach of existing human trafficking laws including making it serious felony to traffic disabled individuals and the requirement to register as a human trafficking offender upon conviction.
- Oppose legislation that would weaken or remove qualified immunity for peace officers while acting in the course and scope of their duties.

- Oppose legislation that would lessen the authority of a home rule municipality from regulating fireworks within their jurisdiction.
- Support legislation that would protect privacy of home address information of law enforcement and fire protection personnel.
- Oppose legislation that would lessen the authority of a home rule municipality to require and enforce the use of certain key boxes.
- Support legislation that would support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of first responders.