

2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



CITY OF GEORGETOWN

87TH STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of Georgetown's Intergovernmental Affairs Program advocates, coordinates and advances the City's legislative agenda to enhance the City's ability to govern and provide essential municipal and community services. The purpose of the program is to ensure the City's interests are protected and enhanced through active involvement in the legislative process and strong intergovernmental relationships.

The City of Georgetown's 2021 State Legislative Program is formed and created by community leaders to advocate for the citizens of Georgetown.

LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

The City of Georgetown Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee is a Standing Subcommittee, a permanent Subcommittee of the City Council established to coordinate City policies related to state and federal legislation and local ordinances.

The Subcommittee oversees:

- development of state and federal legislative agendas
- position on local partner ordinances
- development of position papers
- policies and programs that promote interagency cooperation
- advocating activities

2020/21 Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee Members:

Mayor Dale Ross
Councilmember Steve Fought, District 4
Councilmember Rachel Jonrowe, District 6

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

The Legislative Task Force provided input to the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee on the issues relevant to the State Legislative Agenda in preparation for the 87th Texas State Legislative Session. The Task Force met from August 2020 through October 2020 to develop a draft Agenda for the Subcommittee's consideration.

The Legislative Task Force is a special ad hoc group comprised of active leaders in the community - the leadership of City Boards and Commissions. With the membership comprised of the Boards and Commissions leadership, the Legislative Task Force are knowledgeable members of the community, educated on City priorities, and representing a wide range of City interests.

2020/21 Legislative Task Force Members:

Levera Patton, ADA Advisory Board
Laura Klein Plunkett, Animal Shelter Advisory Board
Jane Estes, Arts and Culture Advisory Board
Bill Stump, Building Standards Commission
George Lourigan, Commission on Aging
Dawn Korman, Ethics Commission
Gordon Pierce, Firefighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission
Rick Woodruff, Georgetown Electric Utility Advisory Board
Robert Case, Georgetown Electric Utility Advisory Board
Councilmember Tommy Gonzalez, Georgetown Government and Finance Advisory Board
Larry Raper, Georgetown Housing Authority
Sheila Mills, Georgetown Transportation Advisory Board
Alfred Hajka, Georgetown Transportation Enhancement Corporation
Thomas Glab, Georgetown Water Utility Advisory Board
Amanda Parr, Historic and Architectural Review Commission
Bob Weimer, Housing Advisory Board
Michael Kelley, Library Advisory Board
Aaron Adams, Main Street Advisory Board
Katherine Kainer, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Aaron Albright, Planning and Zoning Commission: Appointed
Jaquita Wilson, Strategic Partnerships for Community Services
PJ Stevens, Unified Development Code Advisory Commission
John Marler, Zoning Board of Adjustment

PROTECT CITY OF GEORGETOWN INTERESTS

The City of Georgetown (City) supports legislation that benefits the City and opposes legislation detrimental to the City, including bills that:

- Limit the City's ability to abide by the principle of self-government;
- Mandate increased City costs;
- Mandate decreased City revenue;
- Limit the City's ability to advocate on behalf of the community through trade associations and consultants; and
- Diminish the City's authority to provide for the public's health, safety, and welfare.

PRESERVE MUNICIPAL-GOVERNMENT POLICY ENACTMENT

The City supports legislation that protects the rights of elected municipal officials to enact ordinances that address the policy priorities and needs of cities' residents, businesses, and visitors.

PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF WHILE PRESERVING CURRENT SALES TAX REVENUE

The City supports legislation that provides meaningful property tax relief to owners of property in the City's jurisdiction.

- The City supports transparency regarding property tax rates, property values, and property tax income.
- The City opposes expansion of revenue, tax, or appraisal caps which limit the City's ability to raise sufficient funds to pay for critical municipal public policy services.
- The City opposes shifting the tax burden from one taxpayer to another taxpayer.
- The City supports maintaining provisions for debt financing so it can issue financial debt to pay for such expenditures as infrastructure and equipment.

The City supports legislation allowing for the local sourcing of sales and use taxes for internet orders.



PROTECTING TAXPAYERS' INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ASSETS

The City supports legislation that ensures the City can continue to own and operate the City of Georgetown Utility Systems.

The City opposes legislation that negatively impacts the service level, stability, or return-on-investment for its residents.

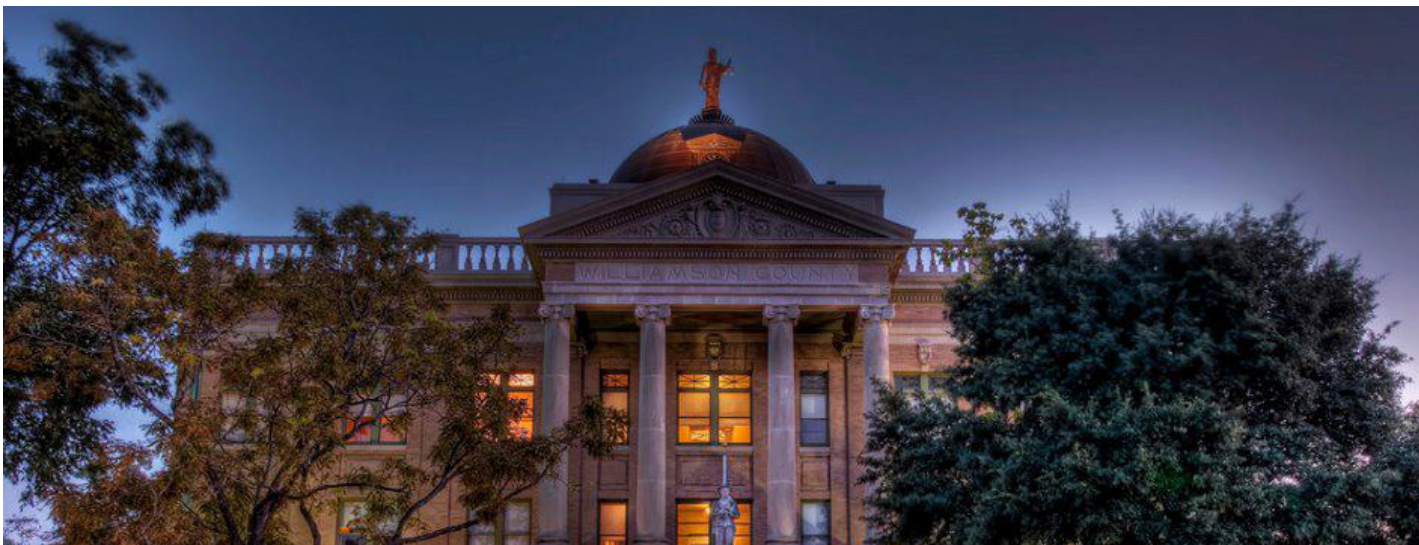
The City supports legislation that maintains state and regional water plans while preserving authority to continue the City of Georgetown Water Utility's current operational system within its current jurisdictional boundaries.

The City opposes legislation that would deny the City from being adequately compensated for the use of its rights-of-way, would erode municipal authority over the management and control of rights-of-way, or both.

KEEPING GEORGETOWN COMPETITIVE

The City supports legislation maintaining incentives that supplement local economic development strategies to fund employee recruitment and retention.

The City supports the continuation of Type A and Type B sales tax that can be used to pursue and retain primary employer jobs.



TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GROWTH

The City supports legislation that would allow municipal-elected officials, municipal voters, or both to approve city funding options to pay for construction, maintenance, and repair of streets, sidewalks, and transportation authorities.

The City supports efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of state funding and the continued full funding of Propositions 1 & 7, as well as the extension of the Proposition 1 sunset provision.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO MAINTAIN GEORGETOWN'S UNIQUE CHARACTER

The City supports legislation to maintain the municipal election officials' authority to regulate city growth and development through city land development ordinances.

Annexation:

- Primary Position: The City supports a position which would allow for pre-2017 annexation requirements.
- Secondary Position: The City supports retaining requirements established in 2019 while expanding opportunities for voluntary annexation by property owners that are not contiguous to the city limits and allowing for pre-2017 annexation requirements for areas surrounded by City limits for contiguous City boundaries.

Development Process:

- Primary Position: The City supports legislation that clarifies that House Bill 3167 (86th Regular Session) only applies to changes made to an application intake process or unified-development-code-approval process while improving the opportunity to collaborate with applicants to solve problems and challenges.
- Secondary Position: Support the retention of House Bill 3167 (86th Regular Session) for only the largest of Texas cities or else allow for local control on decision making regarding an applicant's request for a waiver relating to House Bill 3167 requirements.

Building Codes and Materials:

- The City supports legislation that repeals amendments to House Bill 2439 (86th Regular Session) which preempted cities from regulating building materials.

PARKS AND RECREATION INVESTMENT FOR A HEALTHY GEORGETOWN

The City supports legislation that enhances the investment in parks and open spaces and conserves open spaces that connect communities safely to the mental, social, and physical benefits of outdoor and recreational opportunities.

CONTINUATION OF A VIBRANT ARTS & CULTURE COMMUNITY

The City supports legislation that funds the arts and libraries to support a strong and vibrant City of Georgetown arts and cultural industry by:

- Preserving the use of Municipality Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to fund the arts; and
- Maintaining municipality autonomy in allocation of HOT revenue

