

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



CITY OF GEORGETOWN

88TH 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 2023 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

2022/23 Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee Members:

Mayor Josh Schroeder
Councilmember Kevin Pitts, District 5
Councilmember Jake French, 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 88th Texas State Legislative Session. The Task Force met from July 2022 through September 2022 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.

2022/23 Legislative Task Force Members:

Laura Klein Plunkett, Animal Shelter Advisory Board

David Valdez, Arts and Culture Advisory Board

Michael Price, Building Standards Commission

Dawn Korman, Ethics Commission

Gordon Pierce, Firefighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission

Robert Case, Georgetown Electric Utility Advisory Board

Larry Raper, Georgetown Housing Authority

Scott Macmurdo, Georgetown Water Utility Advisory Board

Lawrence Romero, Historic and Architectural Review Commission

Wendy Cash, Housing Advisory Board

Nosa Asowata, Library Advisory Board

Christine Tomaszewski, Main Street Advisory Board

Chad Holz, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Chere Heintzman, Planning and Zoning Commission: Appointed

Paul Secord, Strategic Partnerships for Community Services

PJ Stevens, Unified Development Code Advisory Commission

PROTECT CITY OF GEORGETOWN INTERESTS

The City of Georgetown (City) supports legislation that promotes local decision making such as decisions regarding city services and financial authority.

The City of Georgetown 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
- Limit the City's ability to advocate on behalf of the community through trade associations and consultants
- 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 supports maintaining provisions for debt financing so it can issue financial debt to pay for such expenditures as infrastructure and equipment.
- 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 services.

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 supports legislation regarding ERCOT market redesign that is constructed through open, collaborative efforts with stakeholders, and does not adversely affect Georgetown Electric ratepayers.

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

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.

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

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.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO MAINTAIN GEORGETOWN'S UNIQUE CHARACTER

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

Annexation:

- The City supports expanding opportunities for voluntary annexation by property owners that are not contiguous to the city limits.

Development Process:

- 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.
- The City supports local control on decision making regarding an applicant's request for a waiver relating to House Bill 3167 requirements.
- The City supports the retention of House Bill 3167 (86th Regular Session) for cities with a population of greater than 500,000.

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



CITY OF GEORGETOWN

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE'S REGULAR SESSION IN 2023

PROTECT CITY OF GEORGETOWN INTERESTS

The City of Georgetown (City) supports legislation that promotes local decision making such as decisions regarding city services and financial authority.

The City of Georgetown 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
- Limit the City's ability to advocate on behalf of the community through trade associations and consultants
- 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 supports maintaining provisions for debt financing so it can issue financial debt to pay for such expenditures as infrastructure and equipment.
- 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 services.

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 supports legislation regarding ERCOT market redesign that is constructed through open, collaborative efforts with stakeholders, and does not adversely affect Georgetown Electric ratepayers.
- The City supports legislation that maintains state and regional water plans while preserving the authority to continue the City of Georgetown Water Utility's current operational system within its current jurisdictional boundaries using tools necessary to provide a consistent water supply.
- 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.

CITY OF GEORGETOWN

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE'S REGULAR SESSION IN 2023

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

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.

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:

- The City supports expanding opportunities for voluntary annexation by property owners that are not contiguous to the city limits.

Development Process:

- 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.
- The City supports local control on decision making regarding an applicant's request for a waiver relating to House Bill 3167 requirements.
- The City supports the retention of House Bill 3167 (86th Regular Session) for cities with a population of greater than 500,000.

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.



CITY OF GEORGETOWN

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE'S REGULAR SESSION IN 2023

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

