



2017 LEGISLATIVE PLAN

During the 2015 Legislation Session, more than 6,000 bills were filed and 1,600 of them would have affected Texas cities. In the end, over 1,300 bills or resolutions passed and were signed into law and 220 of them impacted cities in some way.

The City of Boerne has decided that, due to the large number of bills being filed that will affect Texas cities, to formulate this its 2017 Legislative Plan. This plan will be presented to the City Council and, if passed, will be closely followed by the City during the 2017 Legislative Session.

This document sets forth the issues that the City will either oppose or support. Additional legislation that is not contemplated with this plan may be filed during the session and the City will consider such legislation on an ad hoc basis.

The City Attorney for the City of Boerne will provide updates to the City Council on a quarterly basis until the end of the 2017 Legislative Session. The City Attorney's office will closely monitor all legislation that affects the topics set forth in this Plan.

The City of Boerne will actively *oppose* any bill that would affect the following:

- Eroding the authority of Texas cities to govern their own local affairs;
- Erosion of municipal authority in any way;
- The imposition of any unfunded mandates;
- The imposition of a revenue cap of any type, including a reduced rollback rate, any mandatory tax rate ratification elections, lowered rollback petition requirements, limitations on overall city expenditures, exclusion of the new property adjustment in effective rate and rollback rate calculations, or legislation that lowers the rollback rate and gives a city council the option to re-raise the rollback rate;
- The erosion of municipal annexation authority;
- Expansion of election requirements for issuance of any city debt, imposition of a petition/election procedure where none currently exists, or that would otherwise erode the ability of a city to issue debt in any way;
- Allowing special districts to form in a city or within its ETJ without the city's permission, or that would impose additional requirements on cities relating to special districts;
- Erosion of municipal authority to regulate billboards in its limits;
- Enact detrimental limits to the civil service law and/or ease its implementation within the city; and/or
- The erosion of municipal authority over the management and control of rights-of-way.

- Any legislation that would repeal the authority for a governing body to conduct economic development negotiations in an executive session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

The City of Boerne *supports* legislation that would affect the following:

- A combined ballot proposition for reallocation of dedicated or special purpose sales tax revenues to the general revenue sales and use tax fund and a local election to increase or decrease the Type B sales and use tax rate within the jurisdiction;
- Allowing charter amendment elections to occur in compliance with the two-year requirement of the Texas Constitution by construction of the uniform election dates in the Texas Election Code;
- Simplify the effective tax rate calculation for notice purposes only, provided the legislation would have no effect on the underlying effective tax rate and rollback tax rate calculations themselves, nor upon the hold harmless exemptions to those rates;
- Require mandatory disclosure of real estate sales prices;
- Provide additional funding to the Texas Department of Transportation for transportation projects that would benefit cities, so long as existing funding formulas are followed;
- Provide additional funding for transportation mobility projects and increased local control over those projects;
- Include additional appropriations for affordable and workforce housing that allows for the expansion and preservation of diverse, affordable homes in cities;
- Amend Chapter 327 of the Texas Tax Code to authorize the collection of municipal sales and use taxes for street maintenance for an indefinite, or at least extended, term instead of the four years provided by current law;
- The exemption of a candidate forum from the definition of an Open Meeting;
- Allowing municipalities the option of using the website for publication of official notices by law;
- Allow land to be used, transferred or conveyed in Chapter 380 Agreements;
- Allow a more equitable distribution of court fines resulting in a higher percentage of fines being kept local to better support local law enforcement and municipal courts;
- and/or
- Authority of Texas cities to utilize electric easements for the installation and operation of hike and bike trails.