

RESOLUTION NO. 1652-18-10-09-0552

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA & PRIORITIES
FOR THE 86TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

WHEREAS, beginning November 12, 2018, state legislators may begin filing legislation that could impact City operations, finances and our citizens, and

WHEREAS, beginning January 8, 2019, the legislature will convene for a 140-day session to consider legislation, and

WHEREAS, many significant decisions affecting Texas cities are made by the Texas Legislature, and

WHEREAS, during the 2017 session, more than 2,000 bills would have affected Texas cities in some substantial way, and

WHEREAS, it is a challenge for the City of Pflugerville, given its limited resources, to effectively monitor legislation drafted and debated in Austin and to prevent encroachments on local authority, and

WHEREAS, it is important to establish priorities, positions and to communicate them to the legislature.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

SECTION 1: The City seeks to **preserve** its current authority to govern the City and its citizens in accordance with the City's strategic goals and interests.

The City **opposes** legislation that:

- is detrimental to our strategic goals,
- erodes municipal authority,
- preempts municipal ordinances or authority,
- has a negative impact on municipal operations,
- is contrary to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens,
- results in a loss of revenues, or
- would otherwise diminish the fundamental authority of the City or the elected City Council that has been elected by the citizens to govern.

The City **supports** legislation that:

- is viewed as advancing the City's strategic goals and interests,
- improves the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens,
- improves public services, or
- advances the City's authority to conduct the public's business.

I. PRESERVE BASIC HOME RULE AUTHORITY

The City supports legislation that promotes the:

- a. principles of local control,
- b. City's existing charter or local ordinances,
- c. authority of the City to regulate in order to protect the public's health, safety and well-being, or
- d. ability of the City to communicate or advocate with the legislature.

II. PRESERVE PUBLIC FINANCES

- a. The City supports legislation that either creates local-options to finance or increases state funding for:
 - i. transportation projects,
 - ii. water projects,
 - iii. flood control projects,
 - iv. public parks, recreation, open space, trails, or
 - v. generally, improves the City's ability to provide desired public services.
- b. The City supports meaningful property tax relief through a combination of more state funding for public education and additional tools at the local level to provide property tax relief.
- c. The City supports eliminating the State's diversion of local school district property tax dollars to fund other (non-education) services.
- d. The City supports transparency and legislation that simplifies the property tax adoption process or accurately notifies taxpayers of the property tax rate.
- e. The City opposes legislation that:
 - i. reduces the property or sales tax collections,
 - ii. impairs the City's ability to issue debt,
 - iii. creates unfunded mandates,
 - iv. requires the City to generate revenues on behalf of the State,

- v. causes property to be appraised for less than market value or creates a tax exemption that shifts the tax burden to other taxpayers.
- f. The City opposes legislation that lowers the rollback rate or otherwise caps the City's revenue because a lower rollback cap will not reduce property taxes but will prevent the City from delivering public safety and community services.
- g. The City opposes legislation that requires a mandatory election to ratify the tax rate.

III. PROTECT ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS, PRESERVE REGULATION OF DEVELOPMENT & UTILITIES

The City supports legislation that promotes the City's ability to:

- a. utilize economic development tools including tourism programs,
- b. attract business, recruit or retain employers, or compete for new business that grows the local and state economy,
- c. manage the development of land including the City's authority over any special purpose districts formed inside the City or the ETJ,
- d. finance infrastructure,
- e. manage public rights-of-way including receiving fair market compensation for the use of the public's rights-of-way,
- f. franchise agreements,
- g. participate in utility rate cases, or
- h. require utilities to pay for relocating facilities in the right-of-way.

IV. PRESERVE TMRS & WORKFORCE ISSUES

- a. The City supports legislation that promotes the Texas Municipal Retirement System.
- b. The City opposes legislation that expands:
 - i. collective bargaining rights,
 - ii. meet and confer laws, or
 - iii. the scope of the disease presumption law.

SECTION 2: The City will **monitor** legislation that:

- impacts the following:
 - LCRA and water supplies (including groundwater issues),
 - Emergency Service Districts (ESD),

- Investor-owned utilities (IOU),
 - Water Supply Corporations (WSC),
 - Sales tax allocation in the ETJ,
 - Special purpose districts (such as MMD or MUD) created within the City's limits or ETJ, and
 - Regional mobility efforts associated with the MoKan Corridor.
- impacts the following voter-approved municipal sales tax uses utilized by the City:
 - Sales Tax for Economic Development, or the
 - Emergency Service District Tax.

SECTION 3: This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and it is accordingly so resolved and that the City's authorized agents may act on it accordingly.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS, ON THIS THE 9TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2018.

CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS

By: 

OMAR PENA, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


KAREN THOMPSON, City Secretary