



Town of Addison Draft 2019 Legislative Priorities

The Town of Addison supports public policies that grow our economy, attract investment, and allow local governments to govern their affairs in accordance with the desires and priorities of local communities as represented by the duly elected members of their respective governing bodies. The Town of Addison recommends the following:

Generally

- Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority in any way, would impose an unfunded mandate, or would otherwise be detrimental to cities.
- Oppose legislation that would provide for state preemption of municipal authority in general.
- Oppose legislation that would require candidates for city office to declare party affiliation to run for office.

Revenue, Finance, and Budget

- Support local responsibility for property taxation decisions and appraisals.
- Oppose legislation that would impose a revenue and/or tax cap of any type, including a reduced rollback rate, 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.
- Oppose legislation that would negatively expand appraisal caps.
- Oppose legislation that would erode the ability of a city to issue debt.
- Oppose any legislation that would limit local governments from adopting budgets that they deem appropriate for their respective communities or that would require voter approval for increases in expenditures.
- Support a bill that provides Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) relief options to cities for the Texas Municipal Retirement System.
- Oppose state or federal legislation that would erode the authority of a city to be adequately compensated for the use of its rights-of-way and/or erode municipal authority over the management and controls of rights-of-way.

Economic Development

- Support the continuation of economic tools such as Tax Code Chapters 311 (Tax Increment Financing) 312 (Property Tax Abatement) and Local Government Code Chapters 380 and 381 (Economic Development Incentives) 313 tax abatements and other economic development incentives to promote job creation and capital-intensive investment.
- Oppose the elimination or reduction of economic development tools currently available to local governments to promote job creation and capital-intensive investment.

Education & Workforce

- Support legislation that would improve the public education finance system so that local independent school districts are not required to raise tax revenue to compensate for decreases in state funding.
- Support continued local control independent school districts.
- Oppose efforts to tie improvements to the public education finance system to revenue/tax/appraisal caps on local governments (i.e. cities, counties, independent school districts, etc.).

Regulation of Development

- Oppose legislation that would erode municipal authority related to development matters, including with respect to the following issues: (1) annexation, (2) eminent domain, (3) zoning, (4) regulatory takings; (5) building codes, (6) tree preservation, and (7) short-term rentals.

Transportation

- Support legislation that would: (1) allow for greater flexibility by cities to fund local transportation projects; (2) amend or otherwise modify state law to help cities fund transportation projects; or (3) provide cities with additional funding options and resources to address transportation needs that the state and federal governments are unable or unwilling to address.
- Support legislation that would: (1) provide additional funding to the Texas Department of Transportation for transportation projects that would benefit cities; and (2) provide local, state, and federal transportation funding for rail as one component of transportation infrastructure.
- Support increased funding to foster airport development for public use and general aviation airports to meet future demands.
- Support TxDOT aviation funding increase.