

# City Administrator's Update

HIGHLAND HAVEN

April 11, 2025



## Preserving Local Decision-Making in the Face of State Legislation

An Update from the City Administrator on Two Senate Bills That Could Reshape Local Zoning Authority

Dear Highland Haven Residents,

I want to take a moment to update you on two recent pieces of legislation that have passed the Texas Senate during the 89th Legislative Session—bills that could significantly impact our city and others like us across the state.

**Senate Bill 673 (Sen. Hughes)** would allow accessory dwelling units (commonly referred to as “ADUs” or “granny flats”) in all single-family zoning districts and even in unzoned areas—by right. This means cities like Highland Haven would be prohibited from regulating the placement, size, or approval of these additional housing units in many ways. Whether our community wants this type of housing or not, the decision would no longer be ours to make locally.

**Senate Bill 785 (Sen. Flores)** would similarly require that all cities allow HUD-code manufactured homes in residentially zoned areas. This would override existing local zoning regulations designed to maintain the residential character and long-term planning of communities like ours and **allow HUD-code manufacture homes in our community**.

While each bill may be well-intentioned from a state-level policy perspective, they both present a troubling pattern: **removing the ability of cities—and their residents—to make decisions about the future of their neighborhoods.**

Highland Haven is a small, established, and fully built-out residential community with unique characteristics, thoughtful zoning, and residents who care deeply about preserving the quality of life here. Local control has long been a foundational principle in Texas governance. These bills represent a shift away from that principle by centralizing control in Austin and placing one-size-fits-all mandates on cities, regardless of size or circumstance.

The Texas Municipal League (TML) has submitted formal testimony in opposition to these bills, and we are monitoring them closely as they move through the legislative process.

If these issues concern you, I encourage you to reach out to our State Representative and State Senator to express your thoughts. Local voices matter—and right now, they're needed more than ever. You may find their contact information on the next page.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to City Hall if you have questions or want to learn more about these legislative efforts and how they could affect Highland Haven.

Stay informed, stay involved, and thank you for being an engaged part of our community!

City Administrator  
Highland Haven, TX  
cityadministrator@highlandhaventx.com

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## Legislative Issues

[www.highlandhaventx.com/legislative-issues/](http://www.highlandhaventx.com/legislative-issues/)

The City of Highland Haven's Legislative Issues page provides residents with up-to-date information on state legislation that may affect the community. It includes a list of relevant bills from the 89th Legislative Session, Resolution 366 opposing Senate Bill 19, and Resolution 364 outlining the city's legislative priorities during the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

The page also offers resources for contacting representatives, tips for effective advocacy, and links to the Texas Municipal League's legislative information. Residents are encouraged to stay informed and participate in local and state governance by utilizing these resources.

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### Next BOA Meeting

The next Board of Alderman meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday April 15 at the Community Center.

A copy of the agenda will be available online, as well as the packet.

### Next P&Z Meeting

The next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday May 8 at the Community Center.

A copy of the agenda will be available online, as well as the packet.

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## Contacting Your Local Representatives

*Contact Information for Senator Flores and Representative Troxclair*

It's worth noting that Senate Bill 785 (mentioned in the opening portion of this update) was authored and filed by our local State Senator, Pete Flores. While we respect the legislative process, this bill represents a significant shift in local authority—one that could directly impact the character of communities like Highland Haven.

If you would like to share your thoughts or concerns, we encourage you to reach out directly to our local legislators:

#### **Senator Pete Flores**

Texas State Senate, District 24

☎ (512) 463-0124

✉ [Pete.Flores@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Pete.Flores@senate.texas.gov)

#### **Representative Ellen Troxclair**

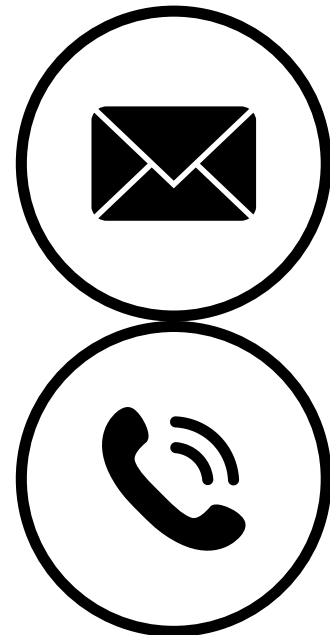
Texas House of Representatives, District 19

☎ (512) 463-0688

✉ [Ellen.Troxclair@house.texas.gov](mailto:Ellen.Troxclair@house.texas.gov)

Your voice matters—especially when it comes to protecting the values and character of our community.

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## Stay in the Loop & Reach Out!

We appreciate you taking the time to stay informed about what's happening in Highland Haven. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat about city matters, we're always happy to hear from you! Feel free to reach out, and we'll do our best to provide answers and keep you in the know.

☎ Phone: (830) 265-4366

✉ Email: [cityadministrator@highlandhaventx.com](mailto:cityadministrator@highlandhaventx.com)

🏢 City Hall Address: 510-A Highland Dr., Highland Haven, TX 78654

Stay engaged, stay involved, and thank you for being a part of what makes Highland Haven a great place to live!

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