

City Administrator's Update

HIGHLAND HAVEN



February 14, 2025



Welcome to the new City Administrator's Update

Dear Highland Haven Residents,

The 89th Texas Legislative Session is underway, and decisions made in Austin could have a direct impact on our city. At our recent Board of Aldermen meeting on February 4, the Board passed Resolution No. 364, outlining Highland Haven's legislative priorities—what we support and what we oppose—to ensure our ability to govern effectively and protect the unique character of our community.

This newsletter will serve as your go-to source for legislative updates that matter to Highland Haven, as well as keep you updated on city news. Our goal is to keep you informed on key issues and to encourage you to make your voice heard. Lawmakers listen when they hear from their constituents, and your engagement can make a difference!

In this issue, we'll break down the key topics in our legislative platform and provide guidance on how you can contact your representatives to advocate for our city. Let's work together to ensure Highland Haven remains a great place to live.

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

City Administrator
Highland Haven, TX
cityadministrator@highlandhaventx.com

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Summary of
Resolution #364

Link to our
legislative issues
webpage

Ways to Contact
your
Representatives

Updates on the
City Survey

Dates for the
next BOA
Meeting

Dates for the
next P&Z
Meeting

Resolution #364: Establishing a Legislative Platform and Priorities for the 89th Texas Legislative Session

To view the full resolution as well as other information about the current legislative session, please visit our website at www.highlandhaventx.com/legislative-issues/

The City of Highland Haven

SUPPORTS: 

- **Local Control** – Protecting the local elected representative's ability to make decisions for our community.
- **Water Conservation** – Prioritizing public water systems in groundwater management and funding sustainable water initiatives.
- **Infrastructure Funding** – Securing resources for infrastructure projects like roads and water.
- **Revenue Tools** – Expanding funding options for city projects and maintenance.
- **Pay-As-You-Go Financing** – Allowing a dedicated property tax rate for capital projects.
- **Competitive Bidding Updates** – Raising contract thresholds to reflect rising costs.
- **Managing Public Rights-of-Way** – Ensuring fair compensation and local control.
- **Small City Considerations** – Advocating for laws that recognize the unique challenges of smaller municipalities.

The City of Highland Haven

OPPOSES: 

- **Erosion of Local Authority** – Any law that limits local elected representative's decision-making, imposes unfunded mandates, or restricts local development rules (zoning, building codes, impact fees, etc.).
- **Preemption of Local Regulation** – State interference in density, permitting, and stormwater controls currently managed by local elected representatives.
- **Forced Partisan Elections** – Requiring municipal elections to be partisan.
- **Revenue Restrictions** – Expanding appraisal or revenue caps without alternatives.
- **Limits on Legislative Advocacy** – Restricting local elected representatives from communicating with legislators through organizations like TML.

The resolution also directs City Staff to send a copy of the resolution to our local representatives, relevant legislative committee chairs, the Governor's Office, and the Texas Municipal League.

If you have questions about any of the above issues, please feel free to email the City Administrator at: cityadministrator@highlandhaventx.com

Next Steps: What You Can Do To Help

Your voice matters! Our state representatives and senators have told us directly that they prioritize the issues they hear about most from their constituents. That means your input can make a real impact on the decisions being made in Austin.

Here's how you can help:

- ✓ Send an Email or Letter – A personal message to our state representatives is one of the most effective ways to get their attention. Let them know how these legislative issues affect Highland Haven and why local control, water access, the ability for cities to communicate with them, and infrastructure funding matter to you.
- ✓ Make a Call – A quick phone call to their offices is another great way to ensure our concerns are heard. Staff members take note of every call, and the more they receive on a topic, the more focus it gets.
- ✓ Stay Informed & Spread the Word – Encourage your neighbors to get involved. The more residents who reach out, the stronger our message becomes.

Contact information and sample messages are available on our website to make it easy for you to take action. Together, we can ensure Highland Haven's needs are heard loud and clear in this legislative session!



Comprehensive Plan/Community Survey Update

The Planning and Zoning commission is updating Highland Haven's Comprehensive Plan, the document that helps guide how we manage and grow our city.

The first step? Hearing from you!

On January 13, we sent out a community survey, and we're thrilled to have already received over 100 responses—thank you to everyone who has participated! The survey is open until February 28, so if you haven't filled it out yet, there's still time.

Next steps:

- ✦ February 13 – Initial survey results reviewed at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting.
- ✦ March 13 – Full survey results presented at the P&Z meeting and later published online.
- ✦ Presentation to BOA of survey results and findings from the P&Z Commission.
- ✦ Town Halls & Focus Groups – Coming soon to dive deeper into community ideas and ensure our plan reflects your priorities.

Your feedback is essential to shaping Highland Haven's future—stay tuned for more ways to get involved!

Next BOA Meeting

The next Board of Alderman meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday February 18 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 March 13 at the Community Center.

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

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

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